

Activities for National Reconciliation Week



**Reconciliation
AUSTRALIA**

National Reconciliation Week
Let's walk the talk!
27 May – 3 June

During National Reconciliation Week, Reconciliation Australia invites you to join a national conversation about the value of recognition. This list of activity ideas ranges from basic, through to more challenging concepts.

Thoughts on recognition

Think about someone important in your life, and why that person is important to you. If relevant, maybe write the reasons down and tell that person.

Recognition wall

Using the words "Recognition means..." as a starting point, create a display depicting students or colleagues' written or visual interpretations of recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culture and customs. It could be a drawing, a poem or a story about someone they admire.

Invite a local representative to speak at your school, university or organisation

Invite a local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander elder/person to speak at your organisation, university or school on the topic of recognition and the history of the First Australians in your local area (contact your local Aboriginal council or reconciliation group).

Encourage a discussion about recognition in the context of the 1967 referendum and the *Mabo* decision.

Hold a Welcome to Country ceremony at your school, university or organisation

A Welcome to Country is a ceremony performed by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples to welcome visitors to their traditional land. To find out more, visit the [Reconciliation Australia website](#).

Reconciliation timeline

Choose events from the timeline included in this resource kit to use as the basis of discussion. Your workmates, family, friends or classmates could discuss these events and what's next for the future.

Create a Reconciliation Action Plan

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a tool to help, businesses, organisations and schools build positive relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. Visit the RAP page on the [Reconciliation Australia website](#) to find out what's involved in creating a Reconciliation Action Plan.

Discussion topics

Have a conversation focussing on both the positive and negative aspects of these topics:

1. Positive discrimination is necessary in a fair society.
2. Symbolic gestures of recognition are not as important as actions.
3. We have already achieved reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians.

1967 referendum discussion

Many people saw the 1967 referendum as a significant achievement in the recognition of citizenship rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Many others believe it was just a symbolic gesture that did little to achieve real equality. Discuss with your colleagues, classmates, friends or family.

Host a BBQ

Try making damper or using native plants to cook, such as lemon myrtle or bush tomato. Check out other ideas on www.reconciliation.org.au/hrw and don't forget to register your event.

Play Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander music

Listen to some of the talented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers at your work, home or school/university. Some examples would be: Christine Anu, Dan Sultan, Gurumul Yunupingu, The Mills Sisters, Tjupi Band.

Commission an artwork for your office, school/ university or home

Support your local or other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists by purchasing an artwork.

Volunteer for the community

Volunteer at a local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander group/ organisation or for Indigenous Community Volunteers: <http://www.icv.com.au/>

Write to local politician/ PM or newspaper

Write a letter about the importance of reconciliation, advocating an issue in your local area, or celebrating a success story. Send it to your local MP, newspaper or post it online.

Watch a film

Get knowledgeable in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cinema. Organise a movie session to watch films such as: *Beneath Clouds*, *Yolgnu Boy*, *Ten Canoes*, *Mad Bastards*, *Toomelah*, *Radiance*, *Bran Nue Day* and *One Night the Moon*.

Go to your local events

Find out about a local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander event, art exhibition, festival (through local government or local Aboriginal councils/groups) and get involved.

Go on a cultural walking tour

Check out the internet for some local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural walking tours, or presentations to learn more about local knowledge.



Further resources

- Information on RAPs and Welcome to Country ceremonies can be found at the Reconciliation Australia website: www.reconciliation.org.au.
- For more information on the High Court, the Australian Constitution and the Australian Parliament, visit the Parliament Education Office: www.peo.gov.au/kidsview/menu.html.
- For more information on Eddie Mabo and native title visit the Screen Australia website: www.mabonativetitle.com.
- More detailed information on the 1967 referendum is available from the National Museum of Australia: www.indigenoustrights.net.au/section.asp?SID=5.
- Find out more about the Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at: www.recognise.org.au.
- Register your National Reconciliation Week event at: www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw