



Reconciliation Guide for Churches

The Week of Prayer for Reconciliation and National Reconciliation Week (NRW) are held each year between 27 May and 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the Mabo decision.

As an initiative of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (now Reconciliation Australia) and communities of faith across the country, the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation was established in 1993 and continues to receive strong support from faith communities. The week-long event has been celebrated nationally across the general community since 1996 when it evolved into NRW.

The week is an opportunity to connect with the broader community to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.

This NRW Guide for Churches provides useful information and ideas on how to get involved during the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation.

What you can do during the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation

Join with other churches who are holding a service for reconciliation during the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation, preceded or followed by a morning or afternoon tea.

Here are some ideas to make your service and morning or afternoon tea a great way to build and maintain strong and respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians in your church community:



1. Incorporate songs, prayers, readings and liturgy that focus on reconciliation, creation and justice. There are plenty of resources out there, and we encourage you to talk amongst your church or ask your leadership about resources for your church. As a starting point, TEAR Australia has some great worship resources, which can be found [here](#).
2. Include a Welcome to Country or Acknowledgment of Country. Australians Together has information on how to make Welcome or Acknowledgement of Country meaningful for your church event. Learn more [here](#).
3. Register your event on Reconciliation Australia's NRW website to join a community of Australians across the country who are celebrating National Reconciliation Week: reconciliation.org.au/nrw and print off some posters for your church to promote the week.

What next?

Wondering how you can keep the momentum going after the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation? Continue along your journey with the following actions.

- Watch "Sharing Our Story" – a free four-episode DVD resource designed to help churches discover the shared story of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
- Engage with Reconciliation Australia. Sign up to Reconciliation Australia's mailing list to receive great resources that will support your church and community along your reconciliation journey. Find out more [here](#). You can also become a supporter of Reconciliation Australia on our social media platforms. Like us on [Facebook](#) and keep up to date on [Twitter](#).
- Become a World Vision Church Partner and support World Vision's Australia Program World Vision partners with Indigenous Australian communities to support positive wellbeing outcomes for children, families and communities. Find out more [here](#).
- Volunteer in your local community Volunteering at a local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander group/organisation is a great way to build relationships between your church or organisation and your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.