



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education 2025 National Reconciliation Week

The National Reconciliation Week theme for 2025, **Bridging Now to Next**, urges us to look ahead and continue to push forward towards a more united and respectful nation as past lessons guide us.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

Bridging Now to **Next**

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

#NRW2025 | RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU



'We are reminded that reconciliation is an ongoing journey. There has been much that needs to be healed – there has been injustice, discrimination, dispossession, and all that accompanies these issues. As we journey together, we must continue to heal from the past while also looking toward the future. We need to find effective ways to ensure the common good is shared by all people of this nation, especially our First Nations People.'

*Bishop Charles Gauci, Chair of the Bishops Commission for Relations with
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 27 May 2024*

Acknowledgement of Country

This National Reconciliation Week we acknowledge the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations across Australia, who have had continued connection to their Country since time immemorial. We especially remember 27 May and 3 June, two dates that are important to all Australians. The first is the anniversary of the 1967 referendum when Australians voted overwhelmingly for a change in the constitution and the second is Mabo Day which commemorates Mer Island man Eddie Koiki Mabo and his successful efforts to overturn the legal fiction of terra nullius, or 'land belonging to no-one'. We pay tribute to the Elders who have come before and used their voice for change for a better future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We honour today's Elders who continue to advocate for Reconciliation through Voice, Treaty and Truth-telling.

The following resources are available for use during National Reconciliation Week:

- [Prayers](#)
- [2025 Theme: Bridging Now to Next](#)
- [2025 Events](#)
- [Narragunnawali](#)
- [1967 Referendum Anniversary – 27 May](#)
- [Mabo Day – 3 June](#)
- [60th Anniversary Freedom Ride](#)
- [Primary and Secondary books and other educational resources](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Professional learning opportunities for teachers](#)
- [Notable Quotes and Speeches](#)

Prayers

Prayers		
Tracks on Sacred Ground	Tracks on Sacred Ground video (3:58 mins)	A reflection written by Aunty Delsie Lillyst, adapted by the Sandhurst Aboriginal Team – the Aboriginal voice echoed by the Christian voice.
Kalik Baring Kayap Baring: Many Paths, One Destination – Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited	National Sorry Day prayers	National Sorry Day is held on 26 May – the day before National Reconciliation Week (NRW). During NRW, staff will be able to use many prayers for different occasions, including staff and classroom prayer and liturgies.
Dadirri Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann	DADIRRI (Official Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Video) (3:42 mins)	<i>Dadirri</i> (da-did-ee) means inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness. It is a ‘tuning in’ experience with the specific aim to come to a deeper understanding of the beauty of nature.
Liturgy	Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria	Liturgies can be found on the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria website.
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC)	NATSICC website	NATSICC is the peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisory body to the Catholic Church. A range of resources are available from their website.
Hymns and songs for Reconciliation Sunday	Hymns and songs for Reconciliation Sunday	The Uniting Church of South Australia has put together a collection of hymns and songs for Reconciliation Week which can be accessed from their website.

Sorry Day prayer by Andrew Chinn & Yaama. Words by Catherine Connors based on the stories of Yaama.

[Sorry Day](#)

Yaama is the First Nations Community of St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, Cornubia, QLD. In 2022, one of their key projects was to write a poem for Sorry Day, which "remembers and acknowledges the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, which we now know as 'The Stolen Generations'.

**Common Grace
A movement of people pursuing Jesus and justice**

[Common Grace](#)

Common Grace is led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian Leaders, who are walking together in friendship to pursue justice, healing and flourishing of our First Nations peoples.

2025 National Reconciliation Week theme: Bridging Now to Next

Reconciliation Australia

The National Reconciliation Week theme for 2025, Bridging Now to Next, urges us to look ahead and continue to push forward towards a more united and respectful nation as past lessons guide us.

Reconciliation Australia

[Reconciliation Australia YouTube channel](#)

Offers a multitude of videos.

[What is Reconciliation?](#)

Reconciliation Australia explains what reconciliation is, as well as providing a framework for organisations and individuals to use in considering the aspects that are needed to use in considering the aspects that are needed to foster reconciliation in our communities.

Reconciliation Victoria [National Reconciliation Week](#)

The Reconciliation Victoria website provides information about what Reconciliation Week is, along with links to other important websites. Visitors to the site can also sign up for their newsletter.

Reconciliation NSW [National Reconciliation Week](#)

Reconciliation NSW runs the Reconciliation in Education program to support all educators and students across NSW on their reconciliation journey, and to highlight the importance of reconciliation in education.

Reconciliation Australia – themes from previous years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 – Now More than Ever (30secs) • 2023 – Be a Voice for Generations (45 secs) • 2022 – Be Brave. Make Change. (30 sec) • 2021 – More than a Word. Reconciliation Takes Action (1 min) • 2020 – In This Together (30 secs) • 2019 – Grounded in Truth: Walk Together with Courage (1 min) 	Videos outlining the National Reconciliation Week themes from previous years are available on Reconciliation Australia's YouTube channel. Together they shape the history of reconciliation and how we can move forward in our reconciliation journey.
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Events 2025

Events 2025	Up-to-date information about community events is available on the Reconciliation Australia Events Calendar page. If you would like to register your own public or advise of a private event, please do so via this link .	
Reconciliation Film Club screenings	Reconciliation Film Club	Get together online to watch one – or more – of these excellent documentaries or TV shows during National Reconciliation Week.

Narragunnawali

Narragunnawali (Narra Gunna Wally)	<p>Narragunnawali is an online platform that supports all schools and early learning services in Australia to develop environments that foster a high level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions.</p> <p>Sign-up is free and provides access to an extensive suite of resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education (1:53 min) • About Narragunnawali (2:54 min) 	
Varied resources for classroom use with supporting teacher resources	Curriculum resources	<p>Curriculum resources are available for early learning, primary and secondary settings and can be used as is or adapted to suit local context. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABC – Right Wrongs • Caring for Country.

Reconciliation for the Next Generation	Reconciliation for the Next Generation (1 hr 6 mins)	<i>Reconciliation for the Next Generation: Practical Ways to Connect Schools & Early Learning Services with Reconciliation</i> is a webinar overview of how the Narragunnawali Reconciliation in Education program works and how schools and early learning services can help advance reconciliation.
Reconciliation poetry prompts	Reconciliation poetry (Primary) Reconciliation poetry (Secondary)	Prompts are available, inviting students to use the theme for National Reconciliation Week to write a poem.
Reconciliation Toolkits	Reconciliation Toolkits	Reconciliation is everyone's business, and for everyone's benefit. Whether you're a school or service leader, teacher or educator, student, parent, carer or community member, your role is important within the reconciliation in education community of practice. These toolkits contain comprehensive guides and core resources to support conversations and reconciliation action.

1967 Referendum Anniversary – 27 May

The 1967 Referendum		
ABC	ABC Right Wrongs	On 27 May 1967, Australians voted in a referendum to change how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were referred to in the Constitution. Explore these personal stories, opinions and historical recordings of what happened.
Australians Together	The 1967 Referendum	The 1967 Referendum was a landmark achievement for Indigenous Australians. Following decades of Indigenous and non-Indigenous activism, over 90% of all Australians voted in favour of amending two sections of the Australian Constitution.
Australians Together	The Indigenous civil rights movement in Australia	By the mid-1960s, Indigenous opposition to assimilation was strengthening and an Indigenous civil rights movement was growing under the banner of self-determination.

Behind the News	1967 Referendum – Behind the News (3:59 mins)	This episode of Behind the News investigates the timeline and major events in the lead-up to the 1967 Referendum.
	Referendum Campaign (4:27 mins)	The 27th May is the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, which changed Australia's Constitution so Indigenous people would be counted in the census. Now, many Australians say it's time for another referendum. We find out about the campaign to give First Australians a voice in parliament and recognition in the Constitution.
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies	AIATSIS 1967 Referendum	Credible information on the 1967 Referendum.
Deadly Story	Deadly Story: The 1967 Referendum	Truth-telling for students.

Mabo Day – 3 June

Mabo Day		
Australians Together	Mabo and Native Title: The end of Terra Nullius, the beginning of Native Title	The momentous Mabo case finally acknowledged the history of Indigenous dispossession in Australia, abolished the legal fiction of <i>terra nullius</i> , and altered the foundation of Australian land law.
NITV	Native Title: What does it mean and why do we have it?	The <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth) was first created 31 years ago and marks a historic moment in Australian law that changed the face of our land rights system.
Racism No Way	Racism No Way: Terra Nullius	Terra nullius fact sheet.
Deadly Story	Deadly Story: Mabo Day	Statement from Bonita Mabo (Eddie Koiki Mabo's wife) on the consideration for a public holiday commemorating Mabo Day.
Reconciliation Australia – Let's talk	Commemorating Mabo Day	Mabo Day allows students some time to learn about how the Mabo decision reshaped our history and our laws as well as a bit about Eddie Koiki Mabo himself.
Behind the News	Mabo Day	This <i>Behind the News</i> segment is about Eddie Mabo, the Mabo Day public holiday in the Torres Strait and how this day is a chance for all Australians to remember a man who had a big impact on Australia's history.


Mabo: The Native Title Revolution	Mabo: The Native Title Revolution	This website has links to many clips that discuss aspects of the Mabo native title case and would be appropriate for Secondary students.
Together in Art – Art Gallery of New South Wales	Gail Mabo – ‘Under the Stars’ #TogetherInArt Interview	In this interview, artist Gail Mabo discusses her artwork ‘Tagai’, sharing the story of its creation, the significance of the constellation Tagai in the islands of the Torres Strait, and its connections to her father – community leader and land rights advocate Eddie Koiki Mabo. ‘Tagai’ was commissioned for the ‘Under the stars’ exhibition which explored stargazing and mapping by Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists.
ABC Education	The significance of Mabo Day	This video explores Mabo Day and why it is celebrated on 3 June each year. Students can learn more about the life and work of Eddie Mabo who fought to disprove <i>terra nullius</i> .
Australia Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)	Eddie Koiki Mabo	Further information about Eddie Koiki Mabo.
Inquisitive	The Mabo Decision	Lesson pages relating to who Eddie Mabo was and why he was important.

60th Anniversary- Freedom Ride

Freedom Ride	The 1965 Freedom Ride – led by Uncle Charlie Perkins and his fellow students at the University of Sydney – was a significant event that drew national and international attention to poor living conditions faced by Aboriginal people and the racism that was rife in New South Wales country towns.	
AIATSIS	1965 Freedom Ride	In 1965, a group of students from the University of Sydney drew national and international attention to the appalling living conditions of Aboriginal people and the racism that was rife in New South Wales country towns. Known as the Freedom Ride, this 15-day bus journey through regional New South Wales would become a defining moment in Australian activism.
NSW Aboriginal Land Council	Aboriginal Land Council Freedom Ride Fact Sheet	Freedom Ride Fact Sheet.
Deadly Story	Students lead 'Freedom Ride' through NSW towns	Outlines major events of the Freedom Ride.

Remembering the Freedom Riders, 60 years after they exposed segregation in Australia	Remembering the Freedom Riders, 60 years after they exposed segregation in Australia - ABC News	ABC article.
Troy Cassar-Daley- Freedom Ride	Troy Cassar-Daley - Freedom Ride (4.21mins) Lyrics- Freedom Ride	Troy Cassar-Daley's song- Freedom Ride, featuring Paul Kelly.

Primary and Secondary Books and Other Educational Resources

Primary – books		
Two Mates by Melanie Prewett, illustrated by Maggie Prewett	Teacher notes	This picture book explores the friendship between two young boys (and, by extension, their families) who live and play in the Kimberley.
Respect by Auntie Fay Muir and Sue Lawson, illustrated by Lisa Kennedy	Teacher notes	Part of the 'Our Place' series, <i>Respect</i> explores the basic cultural principle that informs all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations throughout Australia.
Walking for Reconciliation by Beth Hall		<i>Walking for Reconciliation</i> answers questions about reconciliation and the Stolen Generations and provides advice about ways people can show support for reconciliation.
The Rabbits by John Marsden, illustrated by Shaun Tan	Teacher notes	<i>The Rabbits</i> offers a rich and immensely valuable perspective on the effect of human beings on our environment. Visually loaded and told with a passion for truth and understanding, it aims to promote cultural awareness and a sense of caring for the natural world.
Young Dark Emu: A Truer History by Bruce Pascoe	Teacher notes	<i>Young Dark Emu: A Truer History</i> is a children's version of Bruce Pascoe's <i>Dark Emu</i> – a book that explains that Australian Aboriginal people at the time of British colonisation were not only hunter-gatherers, but also people who made agricultural use of their land.

Kunyi Written and illustrated by Kunyi June Anne McInerney	Teacher Notes	Kunyi's story is one of healing and reconciliation. She is telling it so that the lives of the children at Oodnadatta Children's Home will not be forgotten. This is a collection of tender and honest stories that will educate children on our nation's history and remind adult readers of the real impact of the Stolen Generations.
Race for Reconciliation by Anita Heiss	Teacher Notes	This is the story of one Aboriginal family, and their journey through one amazing year. Cathy Freeman comes to her school, and Mel's whole family go to Sydney to join in the Peoples Walk for Reconciliation across the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Secondary – books

Us Mob Walawurru by David Spillman and Lisa Wilyuka	Magabala Books – teacher notes Copyright Agency – teacher notes	<i>Us Mob Walawurru</i> is set on a cattle farm in 1960s Central Australia and centres on Ruby as she seeks to understand why two cultures are at odds with each other. The more she learns, the harder the journey becomes as she is drawn back to country to uncover the secrets of her past.
Dark Emu – Black Seeds: agriculture or accident by Bruce Pascoe	Teacher notes Also supported by <i>Dark Emu in the Classroom: Teacher Resources for High School Geography Year 9–10</i>	<i>Dark Emu</i> argues for a reconsideration of the 'hunter-gatherer' tag for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians and attempts to rebut the colonial myths that have worked to justify dispossession.

Resource Book

Practical Reconciliation: Strengthening Relationships for all Australians in 7 easy steps	https://www.evolve.com.au/practical-reconciliation-book/	Aunty Munya Andrews and Carla Rodgers from Evlove Communities have created a guide to practical reconciliation.
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Resources

ABC Education	Resources for schools, teachers and students	A selection of resources is available related to the topic of First Australians from the ABC's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures collection.
Cool Australia	Cool Australia NRW Resources	NRW teaching resources.

ABC iview	iview video collection	Selection of videos on various topics, including National Reconciliation Week.
Behind the News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation Week 2015 • Reconciliation Week 2021 • Mabo Day • Various videos relating to histories and cultures 	Teacher resources are available from <i>Behind the News</i> covering a variety of topics relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories.
VAEAI - Calendar	Koorie Education Calendar	Framed around significant events throughout the calendar year, the interactive Koorie Education Calendar has been developed by VAEAI to assist educators and learners alike.

Music

Music		
Solid Rock – Voice for Reconciliation	Voice for Reconciliation Choirs	Reconciliation Australia have called for singers across Australia to contribute to celebrating Goanna's iconic Australian anthem <i>Solid Rock</i> .
Do you see me?	Do you see me (2:17 min)	By Deb Cheetham and the Dhungala singers.
The Journey	The Journey, Reconciliation Australia and Song Division (2:33 min)	Developed by Reconciliation Australia staff.
Let's Recognise	'Let's Recognise' the First Australians, Auslan song (Australian Sign Language) (2:05 min)	By Kerry Fletcher.
Reconcile	Reconcile (audio) (3:30 min)	By Joel Wiggins – a Gunaikurnai man who wrote this song with his cousin, hip-hop artist Deon Baxter.
Come Together	Come Together	By Isaiah Firebrace, Lee Kernaghan & Mitch Tambo.
Playlist for National Reconciliation Week 2020	Listen up! It's our National Reconciliation Week playlist	Compiled by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff network at CSIROscope.
indigiTUBE	indigiTUBE	indigiTUBE is a digital meeting place for First Nations song, dance, language and lore. It gathers stories from the desert to the sea, connecting and sharing culture from our remote and urban regions. Note that some items contain explicit language and that some users have the capacity to filter these out.

Narragunnawali	Resource Guide: The Arts – Music	A guide containing information and resources for teachers and educators to consider how to effectively embed important ideas around reconciliation, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions, within the study of The Arts – Music.
SBS NITV	SBS songs about survival, protest, reconciliation and truth-telling	Suggestions for songs about survival, protest, reconciliation and truth-telling. Many songs tell stories of the struggles Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People face in Australia since Captain Phillip planted the British flag at Sydney Cove.
ABC Listen	Music by First Nations Composers (3h 4 mins)	Music by First Nations Composers in Australia.
Spotify – First and Forever Festival	First Nations Playlist	A playlist from the First and Forever Festival that celebrates Blak excellence and the force that is contemporary First Nations culture and music.
SA Museum	SA Museum NRW Young Explorers	Young Explorers is a program for 3 to 5 year-olds. Presenters Emma and Stephen share stories, activities and songs centred around the objects and galleries of the Museum. In this special series for Reconciliation Week, they are joined by Eva Wilson an Aboriginal Educator who shares knowledge and culture through Adnyamathanha, Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna language, culture and song on the theme of 'in this together'. Together they explore the universal needs of living things including food, water, shelter, and warmth.
Apple Music	First Nations Playlist - Apple Music	Playlist of First Nations musicians.

Professional Learning Opportunities for Teachers

Teacher Professional Learning Opportunities	Leadership, quality teaching and workforce development are critical to achieving a workforce of culturally competent educators. As an action, your whole staff may engage in a discussion or undertake self-reflection after viewing one of the following professional learning opportunities. Alternatively, each staff member may decide to view these independently.	
NITV – Explainer	What is National Reconciliation Week?	Five-point brief summary explaining the premise of National Reconciliation Week.
Reconciliation Australia	Teach About Reconciliation (3:29 mins)	A short clip explaining the importance of teaching about reconciliation.

Reconciliation Australia	What is Reconciliation? NAIDOC Week Reconciliation Week Kids (2:40 mins)	Students and teachers describe what they believe reconciliation to be.
Reconciliation Australia	Let's Talk ... Mythbusting	The myths that are unpacked on this fact sheet may provide some prompts for classroom discussion in an upper primary and secondary school setting.
Reconciliation Victoria	Reconciliation Victoria Webinars	Free resource available to educators or anyone interested in embedding reconciliation into education.
TED Talks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia, we need to talk – Cally Jetta (9:48 min) • Chris Sarra – All you need is ... TO DREAM (20:20 mins) • ONExEAR – Michael Williams (6:36 mins) • ONExSAMENESS – Dr Anita Heiss (18:16 mins) • IndigenousX – Luke Pearson (19:01 mins) • Two worlds – Ingrid Cumming (11:40 mins) • Science, art, and reconciliation – Steven Tingay (17:59 mins) • My stolen childhood, and a life to rebuild – Sheila Humphries (14:50 mins) 	These TED talks can be very confronting with personal stories, but stories that need to be told.
ABC Radio National	AWAYE!	<i>AWAYE!</i> presents diverse and vibrant Aboriginal arts and culture from across Australia. Programs vary in length and are available as podcasts. Suitable for senior secondary students and teachers.

Notable Quotes and Speeches

Notable Quotes and Speeches	Notable quotes and speeches relating to the journey of reconciliation.	
Australian Government	Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples	Transcript and video of the Australian Government's 2008 Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples.
Australian Human Rights Commission	Speech for Reconciliation	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar AO made this speech at the WA Reconciliation Breakfast on 10 November 2011.
ANU Reconciliation Lecture 2023	2023 ANU Reconciliation Lecture	Full speech of the 2023 Australian National University Reconciliation Lecture delivered by Tom Calma AO FAA FASSA.
SBS NITV – ANU Reconciliation Lecture 2015	2015 ANU Reconciliation Lecture	Full transcript and key quotes from the 2015 Australian National University Reconciliation Lecture delivered by the Honourable Kevin Rudd.
The Guardian – Notable speeches by Indigenous Australians: 'We refuse to be pushed into the background.'	Article	From Jack Patten's opening address at the first Day of Mourning protest to Lowitja O'Donoghue's call for Aboriginal recognition in the constitution, here are five powerful speeches from the long campaign for Indigenous rights.