

Significant Dates

2015

WIMMERA

National Apology
Anniversary
13 February

This event marks the anniversary of the Apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples in the House of Representatives on 13 February 2008 by former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd. The apology was for past laws, policies and practices that have impacted on Australia's First Nations Peoples, particularly members of the Stolen Generation. www.nsd.org.au

National Close the Gap Day
20 March

Every year people are encouraged to hold their own event on National Close the Gap Day to raise awareness of the 17-year life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. www.oxfam.org.au

Harmony Day
21 March

Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. By participating in Harmony Day activities, people can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong and contribute. Free promotional products are available at: www.harmony.gov.au

National Sorry Day
26 May

National Sorry Day is a significant day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly for Stolen Generation survivors and their families. Not to be confused with National Apology Day. A standalone National Sorry Day was recommended in the 1997 *Bringing them home* report which reported on the forcible removal of Indigenous children from their families, community and cultural identity. www.nsd.org.au

National Reconciliation
Week
27 May to 3 June

National Reconciliation Week is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to join the reconciliation movement and "walk the talk." Reconciliation Australia can provide free promotional products which can make celebrating this event very simple at an organisational level. www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw

NAIDOC Week
First full week in July
From Sunday to Sunday
(inclusive)

NAIDOC is one of the biggest celebrations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians. NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Activities take place across the nation during NAIDOC Week and all Australians are encouraged to participate. www.naidoc.org.au

National Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Children's Day
4 August

NAICD is a celebration of Indigenous children and is held on 4 August each year to celebrate the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children within family and community and raise awareness of important issues impacting on children and families. www.snaicc.org.au

International Day of the
World's Indigenous People
9 August

The International Day of the World's Indigenous People was first proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1994. The day is celebrated each year with decade long themes. The current theme (2005-2014) is a *Decade for action and dignity*. www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday

