

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Calendar 2023



Dates of significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that we participate in, United in Reconciliation.

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>Jul 1 Coming of the Light The Coming of the Light is a holiday celebrated by Torres Strait Islanders recognising the arrival of Christianity on the Islands on 1 July 1871.</p> 	<p>Aug 4 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day A time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities to celebrate the strengths and culture of their children.</p> 	<p>Sep 7 Indigenous Literacy Day Takes place annually on the first Wednesday in September to raise awareness of the educational struggles facing First Nations communities.</p> <p>It's important to note that Indigenous Literacy Day is about more than just First Nations struggle. It is also a celebration of Indigenous culture, with an emphasis on the stories that make up this country's rich heritage and history.</p> <p>The Indigenous Literacy Foundation focuses on instilling a love of reading from an early age.</p> 	<p>Oct 29 Grandparents Day Grandparents Day is a secular holiday celebrated in various countries; it is celebrated to show the bond between grandparents and grandchildren.</p> <p>Ngapigan (Grandmother) By Anjilkurri Rhonda Radley</p> <p>Grandmother Talk breath in the tree see the flowers taste the water feel the land listen to the birdsong smell the bush</p> <p>Grandmother/Granddaughter a baby awakening to the first light old ways with a loving embrace the star shining brightly in the night sky</p> <p>Grandmother/Granddaughter Space lives within you as you live within her.</p>	<p>Nov Men's Mental Health Awareness Month November is men's mental health awareness month. Around one in eight men have a common mental health problem. In 2020, suicide was the second leading cause of death for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (ABS 2021a).</p> <p>If you, or someone you know, are feeling worried or no good, we encourage you to connect with 13YARN on 13 92 76 (24 hours/7 days) and talk with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter. This is your story; your journey and we will take the time to listen. No shame, no judgement, safe place to yarn.</p> 	<p>Dec 3 International Day of People with a Disability We acknowledge this day to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability.</p> <p>The First Peoples Disability Network of Australia is an organisation governed by First Peoples with lived experience of disability.</p> 
<p>Jul 2-9 NAIDOC Week Let's learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on Earth. The theme for 2023 is "For our Elders".</p> 	<p>Aug 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples Observed on August 9 each year to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.</p> <p>This day also recognises the achievements and contributions that indigenous peoples make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.</p> 	<p>Sep 13 Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on Thursday 13 September 2007. On April 3 2009, Australia shifted its position in support of the UNDRIP.</p> <p>The UNDRIP is a framework for better recognising and protecting the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p> <p>Sep 14 R U OK? Day Reach out to a colleague or friend to see how they're doing. If you need someone to yarn with you can contact Lifeline or 13YARN.</p> <p>R U OK? A conversation could change a life.</p> 	<p>Oct Indigenous Business Month Indigenous Business Month is an initiative driven by the alumni of Melbourne Business School's MURRA Indigenous Business Master Class Program. The program sees business as a vehicle towards self-determination, a way of providing positive role models for First Nations peoples and improving quality of life for First Nations communities.</p> <p>Since its establishment in 2015, Indigenous Business Month is an annual celebration that occurs every October and 2023 marks its 9th year.</p> 	<p>Nov 24 Full Circle Reconciliation Awards UnitingCare's annual Full Circle and Reconciliation Awards recognise, congratulate and celebrate the courageous and creative contributions our people deliver to those we serve in communities across Queensland and the Northern Territory.</p> 	<p>Dec 5 International Volunteer Day On this date we raise awareness of the important role volunteers play in responding to challenges facing the world.</p> <p>Dec 25 Christmas Day Rejoice this Christmas period and find all your Uniting Church Christmas Services and Events here.</p> 

Acknowledgement of Country

UnitingCare acknowledges with gratitude and respect the Traditional Owners of the lands, waters and seas of the communities we serve.

We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging, as they are the Custodians of culture, ceremony and connection to Country. We hold hope of walking together in relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to a place of justice and equality.