



# Health & Wellbeing

July – NAIDOC



## NAIDOC history

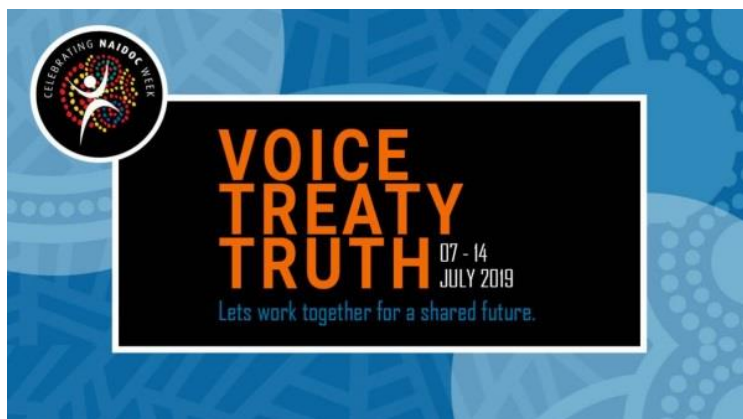
NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920's which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

## What is NAIDOC week (7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July)?

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

## Theme for 2019 – VOICE. TREATY. TRUTH.

The Indigenous voice of this country is over 65,000 plus years old. They are the first words spoken on this continent. Languages that passed down culture and knowledge for over millennia. They are precious to our nation. It's that Indigenous voice that include know-how, practices, skills and innovations - found in a wide variety of contexts, such as agricultural, scientific, technical, ecological and medicinal fields, as well as biodiversity-related knowledge. They are words connecting us to country, an understanding of country and of a people who are the oldest continuing culture on the planet.

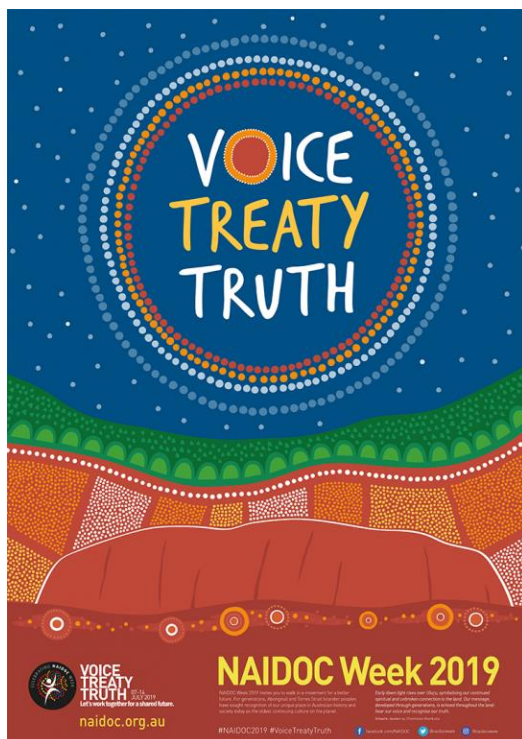


With 2019 being celebrated as the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages, it's time for our knowledge to be heard through our voice. For generations, we have sought recognition of our unique place in Australian history and society today. For generations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have looked for significant and lasting change. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people want their voice to be heard.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have always wanted an enhanced role in decision-making in Australia's democracy. In the European settlement of Australia, there were no treaties, no formal settlements, and no compacts. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people therefore did not cede sovereignty to our land. It was taken away from us.

Australia is one of the few liberal democracies around the world which still does not have a treaty or treaties or some other kind of formal acknowledgement or arrangement with its Indigenous minorities. A treaty has always been the primary aspiration of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander movement.

Critically, treaties are inseparable from truth. Lasting and effective agreement cannot be achieved unless we have a shared, truthful understanding of the nature of the dispute, of the history, of how we got to where we stand. The true story of colonisation must be told, must be heard, and must be acknowledged. But hearing this history is necessary before we can come to some true reconciliation, some genuine healing for both sides. Then we can move forward together!



For more information visit: <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>