

National Reconciliation Week

27 May - 3 June

Don't Keep History a Mystery - National Reconciliation Week theme, 2018.

Did you know that **National Reconciliation Week** starts with the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum and ends on the anniversary of the Mabo victory, which led to the Australian Government recognising native title and acknowledging Indigenous Australians as the original occupants of Australia?

National Reconciliation Week celebrates the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and all other Australians. Every year, the week is held between the same dates, 27 May to 3 June. The dates draw attention to significant historical events. The 27 May marks the day in 1967 when the referendum was passed for the Australian Government to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and to allow them to be recognised in the census. The 3rd of June marks the day in 1992 that led the Australian Government to recognise native title and acknowledge Indigenous Australians as the original occupants of Australia.

If your school does not already have one, consider developing a [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) and include activities linking National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Action Week, so that colleagues and students see how these days are inter-connected. Include students, colleagues and your [LAECG](#) where possible in its development.



To find out more about Reconciliation Action Plans ([RAPs](#)), and about planning events to celebrate National Reconciliation Week, contact [Reconciliation Australia](#). The site has a number of updated resources.



Watch the [NITV special: What is National Reconciliation Week?](#) Consider and discuss the various perspectives around what reconciliation means and the movement itself. The supplementary information is great background for the discussion.

Source: NITV
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National Reconciliation Week, which kicks off on the anniversary of a day that aimed to give Indigenous Australians greater equality, strives to grow the relationship between them and other Australians.



With younger students read stories to encourage thinking about reconciliation such as the Broome-set [Two Mates](#) by Melanie Prewett (teaching [resources](#) available).



With local Koorie community members and colleagues organise a week of cultural activities such as performances, films, stories, workshops. Focus on the contribution that Aboriginal people have and continue to make to Australian society, and work with students to complete a variety of tasks that explore what reconciliation means for young Australians.



Victorian Curriculum:

[VCHHK076](#) Significance of days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia and the importance of symbols and emblems, including Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Harmony Week, National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC week and National Sorry Day: *History 3-4*

[VCCCC027](#) Examine how national identity can shape a sense of belonging and examine different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including **Aboriginal** and Torres Strait Islander peoples' perspectives: *Civics and Citizenship 7-8*

[VCHHK154](#) Significance of the following events in changing society: 1962 right to vote federally, 1967 Referendum, Reconciliation, Mabo decision, Bringing Them Home Report (the Stolen Generations), the Apology and the different perspectives of these events: *History 9-10*