

A Guide to Celebrating NAIDOC Week at Work

There are so many ways to celebrate NAIDOC Week in the workplace. These are just a few suggestions that will honour this year's theme of Our Languages Matter – and also ignite thinking and action around Reconciliation Action Plans, the continued need to close the gap, recognising examples of Indigenous excellence in Australia, and instituting respectful practices in your workplace that acknowledge the original custodians of the land on which you are today.

Follow the conversation online from 2 – 9 July: [#NAIDOCWeek](#)

1. Provide the History

It's important to tell the story. Especially if, in your workplace, you have an international team and there just might not be an awareness of the importance of celebrating and acknowledging the richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language and culture.

NAIDOC was originally the abbreviation of National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee – the acronym has since become the name of the week itself. Every year, NAIDOC Week has a different theme and this year's theme is Our Languages Matter.

You read a full history of NAIDOC Week [here](#) and [download a timeline](#).

2. Create a NAIDOC Awareness Gallery

A picture says 45 years of words...and then some... If you want to create a gallery of the history of NAIDOC Week dating back to 1972 to raise awareness of the sustained campaign to recognise and celebrate the culture of our First Nations, [look no further](#). All the images provided on the NAIDOC website are published under Creative Commons license. You can view the 2017 poster celebrating the 2017 theme [Our Languages Matter](#).

3. Celebrate with an Event to Share Knowledge

Are you an Indigenous Australian? Do you work with someone who identifies as an Indigenous Australian? Maybe a few people? Maybe you are an Indigenous Enterprise working in a hub with other organisations?

For many business communities, it would be a wonderful experience to take part in a knowledge sharing session about the culture of First Australians. If you are looking for valuable resources to educate your teams, look no further than [Reconciliation Australia's website](#) where the ["Share Our Pride" section](#) outlines everything you need to know beautifully.

You may want to produce a special event and if you do, be sure to do that in liaison with NAIDOC and [promote it here](#).

Contact us to build strategies that will make a difference to your business and to the communities you wish to help.

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4. Getting Across Inclusive Language & Establish Protocols

Do you feel that your workplace could do with some reinforcement of the need to use inclusive language? Demonstrate your respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders by providing learning forums on inclusive language and behaviours.

There are a number of resources online that provide guidelines to correct usage when referring to First Australians. This is one we found published by the [NSW Department of Health](#), which is very comprehensive. There are many others, Reconciliation Australia among them.

You may also want to use NAIDOC Week as an opportunity to establish a protocol of commencing all meetings and events with a Welcome to Country or an Acknowledgement of Country. To understand which protocol to use when, and

what to say, [go here](#). Many organisations also choose to include an Acknowledgement of Country at the entrance of their place of work – to recognise and pay their respects to the traditional custodians of the land – and in their email signatures.

5. Start a Discussion About Reconciliation

What is Reconciliation? The movement for Reconciliation has this ambition: to enable all Australians to contribute to the reconciliation of the nation. There are five interdependent dimensions to realising this ambition and they are: race relations, equality and equity, unity, institutional integrity and historical acceptance.

Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) provide a framework for organisations across sectors to realise the vision for reconciliation. You can join the RAP Program [here](#).



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