



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Project

**A Resource for
Community Sector Workers**

About ACTCOSS

ACTCOSS acknowledges and pays our respect to the traditional owners and custodians of Canberra and their elders, and we recognise the displacement and disadvantage they have suffered as a result of European settlement. We celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and ongoing contribution to the ACT community.

The ACT Council of Social Service Inc (ACTCOSS) is the peak representative body for not-for-profit community organisations, people living with disadvantage and low-income citizens of the Territory.

ACTCOSS is a member of the nationwide COSS network, made up of each of the state and territory Councils and the national body, the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS).

ACTCOSS' objectives are a community in which all people have the opportunities and resources needed to participate in and benefit from social and economic life and the development of a dynamic, collaborative and viable community sector.

The membership of the Council includes the majority of community based service providers in the social welfare area, a range of community associations and networks, self-help and consumer groups and interested individuals.

ACTCOSS receives funding from the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), which is jointly funded by the ACT and Australian Governments.

ACTCOSS advises that this document may be publicly distributed, including by placing a copy on our website.

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The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project staff would appreciate any feedback you have on this resource. Please email actcoss@actcoss.org.au or call on 02 6202 7200.

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Introduction

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders are a diverse group of peoples made up of many different nations who have a strong physical and spiritual connection to the land, sea and their people. This resource has been developed to provide only basic information and should be used as a guide to start further research and conversation. It is recommended that staff, volunteers and leaders of community organisations attend cultural awareness training to raise their knowledge and awareness of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders.

It is hoped that the information provided will assist the community sector to further engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and as a result become a more inclusive workplace which respects and values a diversity of cultures.

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ACTCOSS Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Project

The ACTCOSS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project works with ACT community sector homelessness service providers and individual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers to improve service responses to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT.

Consultancy

Consultancy is provided to organisations as well as individual workers such as:

- providing links between mainstream services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services; and
- support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in the community sector, including recruitment and retention.

Aboriginal Culture, History & Heritage Training

Facilitated by Kerry Reed-Gilbert in partnership with ACTCOSS, the training provides a general introduction to the history of Aboriginal peoples in Australia. The workshop aims to improve knowledge of Aboriginal culture and dispossession, exploring ways organisations might improve their practice to respond to the needs of Aboriginal people accessing their services. Please see www.actcoss.org.au for more information and future dates.

Cultural Awareness Self-Assessment Toolkit (CASAT)

The Cultural Awareness Self-Assessment Toolkit (CASAT) is a set of good practice standards developed to assist community service organisations to improve the quality of their services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and communities and to improve the organisation's knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. If you would like more information and receive a copy, please contact ACTCOSS. To download a copy of the toolkit, please see www.actcoss.org.au

ATSIComSec Network

The ATSIComSec Network is a bi-monthly network meeting which provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in the homelessness and related services in the ACT the opportunity to come together to discuss relevant issues. Sessions include peer support and occasional presentations from invited guest speakers.

ATSIComSec Email Network

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community workers can subscribe to the email network by going to:

<http://www.communitylists.org.au/mailman/listinfo/atsicomsec>

Information is forwarded on to members daily on a range of topics such as: job vacancies, training and professional development, seminars, community sector activities / issues.

Phone: 02 6202 7200

Fax: 02 6281 4192

Postal Address: PO Box 849, Mawson ACT 2607

Aboriginal Peoples & Torres Strait Islanders

Aboriginal People

Aboriginal people are descendants of the original inhabitants of mainland Australia and its islands, for example: Tasmania, Rottnest, Magnetic, Palm, Hinchinbrook, Stradbroke, Fraser, Mornington, Bathurst, Groote Eylandt and Melville Islands. Researchers say that their ancestors lived on the mainland for over 60 000 years. Aboriginal people believe they have always been here since Creation, the beginning of the Dreamtime.

Torres Strait Islanders

Torres Strait Islanders are descendants of the original inhabitants of the Torres Strait region which lies between the tip of Cape York Peninsula and south west coast of Papua New Guinea. In the last 25 years, archaeologists working in the Torres Strait have found evidence of human settlement dating back 2500 years.

Identity

People identify through connections to their nation, family, cultural and spiritual beliefs, land, lifestyle, community, etc. For example, I am a Koori from New South Wales or I'm from the Wiradjuri nation. Aboriginal people's identity is not defined by physical appearance eg. skin colour, hair colour. Identity is defined by heritage, belonging and connections. There are also people who will identify as having both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.

'Indigenous Peoples' is used in the United Nations to refer to Indigenous peoples from all around the world. The term is also used in Australia when referring to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Definition

The definition of Aboriginality as defined by Federal Court decisions requires that an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person:

1. is of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; and
2. identifies as an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and
3. is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives or has lived.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples may be asked to provide a Confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status form or letter when applying for targeted services or programs such as ABSTUDY, identified positions, and specific memberships. This form requires confirmation from an incorporated Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait organisation that the applicant meets the 3 criterion as defined by the Federal Court of Australia.

Statistics - 2006 Census

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples

The 2006 Census was conducted on 8 August 2006. It aimed to accurately measure the number of people in Australia on Census Night, their key characteristics, and the dwellings in which they live.

The Estimated Residential Population (ERP) is the official measure of the population and is based on adjusting the results of the Census to estimate more accurately the numbers of people usually living in an area.

More information about ABS activities in the field of Indigenous statistics is available from the Indigenous theme page on the ABS website: www.abs.gov.au

National Statistics

At 30 June 2006, the ERP of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples was 517,174 or 2.5% of the total population.

148 178	New South Wales	2.2% of population
146 429	Queensland	3.6% of population
77 928	Western Australia	3.8% of population
66 582	Northern Territory	31.6% of population
30 839	Victoria	0.6% of population
26 044	South Australia	1.7% of population
16 900	Tasmania	3.4% of population
4 043	Australian Capital Territory	1.2% of population

At 30 June 2006 (ERP), Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples were identified as being of:

463 874	Aboriginal origin	89.7%
33 112	Torres Strait Islander origin	6.4%
20 188	Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin	3.9%

Statistics for ACT/Queanbeyan

The 2006 Census identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were located in the following geographic areas:

1 662	Belconnen/Gungahlin/North Canberra	1.1%
1 391	Tuggeranong/ACT South	1.6%
792	South Canberra/Weston/Woden	1.0%
3 875	TOTAL population on Census night	

1916 identified as male and 1931 identified as female. 3579 (93%) being of Aboriginal origin, 161 (4%) being of Torres Strait Island origin; and 107 (3%) being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

The 2006 Census identified 937 people being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin in Queanbeyan, representing 2.6% of the total population.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Flags

Aboriginal Flag	Torres Strait Islander Flag
 <p>As stated by Mr Harold Thomas:</p> <p>Black: Represents the Aboriginal people of Australia.</p> <p>Red: Represents the red earth, the red ochre and a spiritual relation to the land.</p> <p>Yellow: Represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector.</p> <p>The Aboriginal flag was designed by Harold Thomas, a Luritja man from Central Australia. It was created as a symbol of unity and national identity for Aboriginal people.</p> <p>The flag was first flown at Victoria Square in Adelaide on National Aborigines Day, 12 July 1971. The flag was chosen as the official flag for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy and was first flown there in 1972.</p> <p>In 1997, the Federal Court of Australia officially recognised Harold Thomas as the author of the flag. This protects the flag under the Copyright Act 1968 and so it may be only reproduced in accordance with this legislation or with the permission of Mr Thomas.</p> <p>The copyright license for the manufacture and marketing of the Aboriginal flag has been awarded by Mr Thomas to Carroll and Richardson Flags. Flags that do not have a white header at the left side, or flags that do not show the Carroll and Richardson label could be infringing the copyright owned by Mr Harold Thomas.</p>	 <p>Each part of the flag is designed to represent something about Torres Strait Island culture.</p> <p>Green: Represents the land.</p> <p>Blue: Represents the sea.</p> <p>White: Represents peace.</p> <p>Black: Represents the Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>The dhari (headdress) represents Torres Strait Island people and the five pointed star represents the 5 major Island groups. The star also represents navigation, as a symbol of the seafaring culture of the Torres Strait.</p> <p>The Torres Strait Islander Flag was created in January 1992 as a symbol of unity and identity for Torres Strait Islander peoples. Designed by the late Bernard Namok, then a 15 year old school student from Thursday Island, it was the winning entry from a design competition held as part of a Cultural Revival Workshop, organised by The Islands Co-ordinating Council. The Island Co-ordinating Council also chose the design as its simplicity would allow each Torres Strait community to incorporate their own emblem into the design for local identification.</p> <p>The flag was recognised by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission in June 1992 and given equal prominence with the Aboriginal flag.</p>
<p>On 14 July 1995, both flags were recognised by the Australian Government as an official 'Flag of Australia' under the Flags Act 1953.</p> <p>For guidance about using the Aboriginal flag, its colours, or the Torres Strait Islander Flag refer to the Commonwealth Flag Officer (phone 02 6271 5629 or 02 6271 5111) at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.</p>	

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

By including 'Welcome to Country' and/or 'Acknowledgement of Country' into your organisation's activities, you are recognising and paying respect to the Aboriginal people on whose country or ancestral land you are meeting on. Your organisation will also be promoting a mutual respect and understanding of Aboriginal peoples and their culture to the wider community.

Welcome to Country is a ceremony performed by the traditional owners and custodians of the land, to welcome visitors to Country and can also be a way of informing their ancestors of who they are, and the event taking place. This is an opportunity to increase your awareness and acknowledge the Aboriginal people on whose Country or ancestral land you are meeting on. Some examples of Welcome to Country are a speech by the traditional owners (usually an Elder), dance, didgeridoo playing or smoking ceremonies.

It is not always possible or practical to arrange a 'Welcome to Country', so as a general rule it would be appropriate to do an 'Acknowledgement of Country' at the beginning of your event.

Acknowledgement of Country is a statement made by the speaker, usually at the beginning of proceedings, to acknowledge the traditional owners or custodians of the land on which you are meeting, e.g.:

I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we meet on – (NAME, e.g. the Wiradjuri people), and pay my respect to their Elders, both past and present.

Please talk to the local government, parks and wildlife, land council or an Aboriginal organisation to gain information on the traditional owners of the land you are visiting.

ACT and Surround

If you are holding an activity in the ACT and wish to acknowledge the local Ngunnawal people, you may like to make the following recommended acknowledgement:

I/We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal people. I/We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region. I/We would also like to acknowledge and welcome other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may be attending today's event.

Important Dates and Events

NB: There may be other days that are celebrated or recognised within each community.

Month	Day	Year	Event	Summary
January	26		Common terms used: Day of Mourning Invasion Day Survival	From 1938 until 1954, the Day of Mourning was held annually on the Sunday before Australia Day and was known as Aborigines Day. In 1988 Aboriginal people and their supporters marched to mark the 200th anniversary of the invasion. The first Survival Concert was held in 1992.
January	26	1972	Aboriginal Tent Embassy	The Aboriginal Tent Embassy appeared on the lawns in front of Parliament House, Canberra. The Aboriginal flag was flown later this year and grew national recognition as the flag representing Aboriginal people.
February	12	1965	Freedom Rides	Led by the late Charles Perkins, it exposed to the wider community, nationally and internationally, the racism Aboriginal people faced.
February	13	2008	The Apology	Anniversary of the formal apology by the government and the Parliament of Australia to Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people - in particular to the Stolen Generations.
March	05	1990	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC)	ATSIC is established by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989 (ATSIC Act) as a means to involve Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples in the processes of government affecting their lives.
March	16	2005	ATSIC Amendment Bill	Parliament passed the ATSIC Amendment Bill, repealing provisions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 1989 (Commonwealth) and thereby abolishing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and its structures from 30 June 2005.
March	21	1999	Harmony Day	This date coincides with United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as a day to encourage tolerance and understanding between Australians of all races and cultural backgrounds.

Month	Day	Year	Event	Summary
April	25	1993	ANZAC Day	The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commemorative Ceremony is held after the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Aboriginal Memorial Plaque on the side of Mount Ainslie. The commemorative ceremony is conducted to remember those Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples who have served in the Australian Forces.
May	26	1998	National Sorry Day	Is held on the anniversary of the tabling of the <i>Bringing Them Home</i> report to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Sorry Day is followed by National Reconciliation Week.
May/June	27 May to 03 June	1996	National Reconciliation Week	Beginning with the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, this week is celebrated with activities across Australia. The week ends with Mabo Day on 3 June.
May	27	1967	1967 Referendum	Over 90% of Australians voted in a Referendum to remove clauses from the Australian Constitution which discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The Referendum also gave the Commonwealth Government the power to make laws on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
May	28	2000	Peoples Walk for Reconciliation	250,000 people walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in a public declaration that 'Reconciliation is the work of all Australians.'
June	03	1992	Mabo Day	Commemorates the High Court decision that recognised the existence of native title rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This decision overturned the myth of terra nullius - that the continent was empty, unowned land before the arrival of Europeans in 1788.
June		1992	Torres Strait Islander Flag	The Torres Strait Islander flag was recognised by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) and given equal prominence with the Aboriginal Flag. The flag was designed by Bernard Namok in 1992.

Month	Day	Year	Event	Summary
June	26	1879	Torres Strait annexed to Queensland	The majority of the remaining islands in Torres Strait were annexed to Queensland, by Letters Patent from London again, and by an Act in the Legislative Assembly in Brisbane. Torres Strait had become part of Queensland.
July	01	1871	Coming of the Light Festival	This is the day the London Missionary Society first arrived in Torres Strait. at Erub Island on 1 July 1871, introducing Christianity to the region. This is a significant day for Torres Strait Islanders, who are predominantly of Christian faith. The festival of religious and cultural ceremonies is held annually.
July			NAIDOC Day	From 1938 until 1954, the Day of Mourning was held annually on the Sunday before Australia Day and was known as Aborigines Day. In 1955 Aborigines Day was moved to the first Sunday in July after it was decided the day should also become a celebration of Aboriginal Culture. Today NAIDOC Day is commonly celebrated on the Friday during NAIDOC Week.
July	First Sunday to Sunday	1975	NAIDOC Week	NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee; this is a week that celebrates Aboriginal and Islander people and culture. The week is marked with different activities, with each year having a different theme.
July	12	1971	First day Aboriginal Flag is flown	Designed by Harold Joseph Thomas, A Luritja man from Central Australia, the Aboriginal flag was first flown in Adelaide on National Aborigines Day, 12 July.
July	14	1995	Flags of Australia	Both the Aboriginal flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag were officially proclaimed by the Australian government as 'Flags of Australia' under Section 5 of the Flags Act (1953).
August	04	1988	National Aboriginal and Islander Childrens' Day	The Secretariat of National Aboriginal & Islander Child Care established this annual event. Each year the day is marked with a special theme.

Month	Day	Year	Event	Summary
August	09		International Day of the World's Indigenous People	A day marked to recognise Indigenous history, culture, languages, rights and aspirations throughout the world. It is celebrated with activities highlighting Indigenous Peoples and their culture.
August	10	1987	Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody	Announced after a spate of Aboriginal deaths in prison and policy custody, hearings began in 1988. The final report was submitted in April 1991.
August	14	1963	The Yirrkala Bark Petitions	The Yolngu people of north-east Arnhem Land presented the petitions to the Australian Parliament, in the form of a bark painting, calling for recognition of their land rights. The petitions were the first documents from the Aboriginal people that were recognised by the Commonwealth Parliament. Currently on display at Parliament House.
August	22	1975	Gurindji Freedom Day	Prime Minister Gough Whitlam handed deeds to Vincent Lingiari and poured a handful of earth into his hand saying: '... this land will be the possession of you and your children forever...'
September/ October	TBA	1995	The Deadlys	The Deadly Sounds Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Music, Sport, Entertainment and Community Awards is held in Sydney.
October	Long weekend	1971	Koori Knockout	Every year on the October long weekend, NSW hosts the Koori Knockout of Aboriginal Rugby League teams from all around the state.
October	26	1985	Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park 'Handover'	Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people attended the 'Handover' when Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen passed over the title deeds at a ceremony at the base of Uluru. Five minutes later the traditional owners signed an agreement leasing the Park back to the Australian Parks and Wildlife Service for 99 years.
December	09	1976	Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976	The first Aboriginal Land Rights Act was passed in Parliament. The Act recognised Aboriginals as traditional land owners for the first time in Australian history and came into force on 26 January 1977.

Month	Day	Year	Event	Summary
December	10	1948	Human Rights Day	Human Rights Day celebrates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since its adoption in 1948, this declaration has been translated into 360 languages, showing its universal relevance and forethought for securing human rights around the world.
December	22	1993	Native Title Act 1993	The Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth) was passed by Federal Parliament. The Act provides statutory recognition and protection for the concept of native title as recognised by the High Court in the case of Mabo v. The State of Queensland (1992). The Act came into effect on 1 January 1994.
December	23	1996	Wik Decision	The High Court of Australia judgement that native title rights could exist side-by-side with the rights of pastoralists on cattle and sheep stations. When pastoralists and Aboriginal rights were in conflict, the pastoralists' rights would prevail, giving pastoralists certainty to continue with grazing and related activities.

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held around Australia in the first full week in July (commencing on Sunday) to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Celebrations are based on a national theme – the theme for 2010 is 'UNSUNG HEROES – CLOSING THE GAP BY LEADING THEIR WAY'. The focus city for 2010 is Melbourne. The city will host the National Awards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander achievers in a number of categories. Based on the theme, a NAIDOC poster is circulated nationwide to promote the week and the theme. The poster is normally available in May and can be ordered online.

For more information visit the NAIDOC website: www.naidoc.org.au

The Canberra & District NAIDOC Committee coordinate activities in the ACT such as the Family Day and NAIDOC Awards. Nominations for local awards include: Person of the Year, Youth of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year, Scholar of the Year, Apprentice/Trainee of the Year, Elder of the Year, Artist of the Year, Organisation/Agency/Committee of the Year, Non-Indigenous Person/Organisation's Contribution to the Indigenous Community. The Committee also distribute a NAIDOC Program of activities throughout the week and we encourage services to contact them if they would like their event included in the program. Please call your local Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC) for contact details for your local NAIDOC Committee. To be connected to your local ICC call 1800 079 098.

Canberra & District Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Sector Worker of the Year

The ACT Council of Social Service sponsors the Canberra & District Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Sector Worker of the Year award in addition to the local NAIDOC Awards. More information about the award can be obtained by calling 02 6202 7200.

Here are some ideas on how your workplace can celebrate NAIDOC Week:

- Participate in NAIDOC activities in your area.
- Nominate an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person for the local NAIDOC Awards.
- Display the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, and posters.
- Host a morning tea / barbecue (incorporate some bush foods).
- Show a DVD in your staff room.
- Purchase resources for your library, waiting room, e.g. art, books.
- Design your own trivia quiz for staff.
- Wear the colours of the flags.
- Visit local sites of significance, e.g. Yankee Hat in Namadgi National Park.
- Visit local attractions, e.g. National Museum of Australia – Gallery of the First Australians.

Websites

Name	Suggested Extension	Address
ABC Indigenous	Home	www.abc.net.au/indigenous
ACT Dept of Housing & Community Services	Multicultural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs > ATSIA > Welcome to Country	www.dhcs.act.gov.au/matsia
ACT Health	Health Services > Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health	www.health.act.gov.au
Australian Bureau of Statistics	Topics @ a Glance > People > Indigenous	www.abs.gov.au
Australian Government	Culture Portal > Australian Stories > Indigenous arts, culture and heritage > Indigenous cultural heritage	www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au
Australian Government	Indigenous Portal	www.indigenous.gov.au
Australian Human Rights Commission	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice	www.humanrights.gov.au
Australian Human Rights Commission (HEREOC)	Race Discrimination > Publications > 'Face the Facts 2008'	www.humanrights.gov.au
Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (AIATSIS)	Little Red Yellow Black Site	www.aiatsis.gov.au
Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR)	Issues and Campaigns	www.antar.org.au
Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts	Indigenous	www.arts.gov.au
National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC)	Frequently Asked Questions	www.naidoc.org.au
National Congress of Australia's First Peoples	Latest News	www.nationalcongress.com.au
National Sorry Day Committee	Sorry Day > History of Sorry Day	www.nsdcc.org.au
Reconciliation Australia	Reconciliation Resources	www.reconciliation.org.au
SBS Living Black	Home	www.news.sbs.com.au/livingblack
Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care	Clearinghouse Tools and Resources	www.snaicc.asn.au
Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)	The Torres Strait > General History	www.tsra.gov.au

Useful Resources

NB: Please search online for more information.

Name	Format	Description
Aboriginal Australia Map	Map	The map attempts to represent language, tribal or nation groups of Australia's Indigenous peoples.
Aboriginal Studies Press	Catalogue	Publishing arm of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) that chooses writing that promotes an understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures.
First Australians	DVD & Book & Study Guide	Over seven episodes, First Australians depicts the true stories of individuals - both black and white - caught in an epic drama of friendship, revenge, loss and victory in Australia's most transformative period of history.
Indigenous Newlines	Magazine	An Australian Government magazine on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues.
Koori Mail	Newspaper	Fortnightly newspaper providing news, views, advertisements and other material of interest.
Living Black	SBS	Indigenous current affairs
Lousy Little Sixpence	DVD & Study Guide	Examines the experiences of five stolen children. Margaret Tucker, Bill Reid, Geraldine Briggs, Flo Caldwell and Violet Shaw.
Macquarie Aboriginal Words	Publication	Brief history and culture behind the words.
Message Stick	ABC	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander lifestyles, culture and issues
National Indigenous Television	Pay TV	National Indigenous Television programs.
National Indigenous Times	Newspaper	Fortnightly newspaper providing news, views, advertisements and other material of interest.
Population Characteristics, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Australians	Publication	Describes key characteristics from 2006 Census.
Reconciliation Action Plan Toolkit	Toolkit	A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a tool to help your organisation build positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.
Stories of the Ngunnawal	Book	A book of seven stories by Ngunnawal Elders living in the ACT area.
The Little Red Yellow Black Book	Publication	A snapshot of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture
The Stolen Children: Their Stories	Book	Personal stories of indigenous people that appear in the Report from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Bringing Them Home.
Women of the Sun	DVD & Study Guide	Drama series about the lives of Aboriginal women over two centuries of Australian history.

ACT & Region - Directory of Contacts

Name	Other Names / Acronyms	Brief Description	Location	Telephone
2xx 98.3 Community Radio Sovereign Voices	Koori Radio Sovereign Voices	WED 9am-12pm Local Aboriginal news, music and culture	Civic	6230 0100
Aboriginal Corporation for Sporting and Recreational Activities	Boomanulla Oval ACSRA	sporting programs, hire of facilities and venue	Narrabundah	6295 2463
Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)	SEALS ALS	justice services	Civic	6249 8488
ACT Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre	Cultural Centre Burringiri	venue, exhibition and cultural centre for related activities and performances	Yarramundi Reach	6205 3297
ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Consultative Group	ATSIECG	consultative education group		0409 483737
ACT Aboriginal Justice Centre	AJC Justice Centre	support services in justice	Civic	6162 1000
ACT Aboriginal Justice Centre Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Interview Friends Scheme	Interview Friends Police Liaison	call out roster of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander volunteers to attend police stations when persons are taken into custody	Civic	6162 1000
ACT Carers Indigenous Carer Program	ACT Carers Koori Carers	support and services for carers	Belconnen	6296 9900
ACT Community Arts Office ACT Indigenous Arts Officer	Community Arts Indigenous Arts Program	opportunities and assistance for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander artists and art workers through mentoring, capacity building etc	Civic	6247 3314
ACT Council of Social Service Gulanga Program	ACTCOSS	community sector support	Phillip	6202 7200
ACT Medicare Local – Indigenous Health, Closing the Gap Program	Medicare Local ACTML	Indigenous health	Weston	6287 8007
Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (National Office)	AIDA	students and doctors, health	Barton	1800 190498
Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre (National Office)	AILC Leadership Centre	leadership, courses	Yarramundi Reach	6251 5770

Name	Other Names / Acronyms	Brief Description	Location	Telephone
ANTaR ACT - Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation	ANTaR ACT	works locally and nationally on a range of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander issues		antaract@yahoo.com
Billabong Aboriginal Corporation	Billabong	community programs, housing	Holt	6278 4799
Burrunju Aboriginal Art Gallery	Burrunju Gallery, Cultural Centre Gallery	gallery for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander artists	Yarramundi Reach	6251 4371
Burrunju Aboriginal Corporation	Burrunju	community programs		6231 5231
Burrunju Aboriginal Corporation Indigenous Community Support Service	ICSS community support service	community support service	Queanbeyan	6297 3520
Canberra & District NAIDOC Committee	NAIDOC Committee	coordinates Canberra and district NAIDOC Week activities	Contacts change at AGM each year	Contact ACTCOSS 6202 7200
Canberra Rape Crisis Centre Nguru Project	Nguru Project CRCC	rape crisis service	North Canberra	6287 3618
Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation	Gugan Gulwan	variety of support services to young Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people - ACT & Region	Wanniassa	6231 9555
Indigenous Allied Health Australia	IAHA	peak allied health body for Indigenous Australians	Deakin	6285 1010
Indigenous Community Volunteers (National Office)	ICV Indigenous Volunteers	volunteers to assist individuals, families businesses, orgs, communities in community development	Phillip	1800 819542
Indigenous Social Inclusion Company	ISIC	employment, education, training		0417 115956
Kemarre Arts	Kemarre	arts, creative writing	Weston	6288 2259 0423 629470
Kuracca Consultancy	Kuracca	cultural awareness, facilitation, training, photography, poetry, arts & crafts	North Canberra	6241 7346
Marymead Child & Family Centre Indigenous Children's Program Indigenous Locational Supported Playgroup	Marymead	support services for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children and their families - tailored to individual family needs	Narrabundah	6162 5800
Munjuwa Queanbeyan Aboriginal Corporation	Munjuwa	community service, housing and health programs	Queanbeyan	6297 3578

Name	Other Names / Acronyms	Brief Description	Location	Telephone
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (National Office)	NACCHO	peak Aboriginal health body	Braddon	6248 0644
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance	NATSIWA	women's issues, policy, advocacy, representation, capacity building	Civic	6175 9919
National Indigenous Times (National Office)	Indigenous Times NIT	national Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander fortnightly news, shop, advertising	Wanniassa	1300 786611
National Sorry Day Committee (National Office)	Sorry Day Committee NSDC	Stolen Generation, advocacy and support	Civic	6162 1372
Ngambri Dancers	Ngambri dancers	Aboriginal dance, bush tucker, welcome to country, didgeridoo performances etc.		0404 362595
Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation	NAC NACORP	aged care, Home and Community Care	Yass	6226 3799
NSW Aboriginal Land Council Ngambri Local Aboriginal Land Council	Ngambri Land Council Land Council	Aboriginal land issues	Queanbeyan	6297 4152
NSW Aboriginal Land Council Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council	OLALC Onerwal Land Council	Aboriginal land issues	Yass	6226 5348
Reconciliation Australia (National Office)	RA	promotes reconciliation	Parke	6273 9200
United Ngunnawal Elders Council	Ngunnawal Elders UNEC	Ngunnawal heritage, Welcome to Country		6207 1667
Winnunga Boxing & Gym	Fyshwick Boxing	boxing and gym	Fyshwick	0409 761158
Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service	Winnunga Medical Service AMS	medical service	Narrabundah	6284 6222
Wiradjuri Echoes	Wiradjuri Echoes	Aboriginal dance group, workshops		0415 623571
Wis-Wei Consultancy	Wis-Wei	cross culture awareness, facilitation, governance, mentoring, catering, dance etc.	Charnwood	6259 2053 0415 623571
Women's Legal Centre Indigenous Women's Law & Justice Support	WLC	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women's law and justice support	Civic	6257 4377
Yidinji	Yidinji	Aboriginal art, didgeridoo performances	North Canberra	0406 043660

ACT Government

NB: Telephone numbers may change. Please call Canberra Connect on 13 2281 for updated contact details.

Name	Other Names / Acronyms	Brief Description	Location	Telephone
ACT Community Services Directorate Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Services	DHCS DHCS ATSI Narrabundah House Kinship & foster care Family services	accommodation for youth@risk kinship and foster care family support program	Civic	6205 4798
ACT Community Services Directorate Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	OATSIA	ACT Government	Civic	6205 7195
ACT Community Services Directorate West Belconnen Child and Family Centre Indigenous Parenting Support Service	Growing Healthy Families Program	health, education and family support	West Belconnen	6205 2904
ACT Community Services Directorate Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body	ATSIEB Elected Body	ACT Government representative body for ACT Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community	Civic	6205 2551
ACT Community Services Directorate Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs United Ngunnawal Elders Council	UNEC Ngunnawal Elders Council	Ngunnawal heritage and connection to land	Civic	6207 1667
ACT Health Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Unit	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Unit	policy advice, ACT health service coordination	Civic	132 281

Name	Other Names / Acronyms	Brief Description	Location	Telephone
ACT Health Health Liaison Officers	HLOs	Canberra Hospital Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officers		6244 2316
		Mental Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer		6296 8900
		Alcohol and Drug Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer		6205 8387 0429 927251
		Calvary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer		6264 7097
ACT Human Rights Commission	Human Rights ACT HRC	complaints about discrimination, promotes human rights and awareness	Civic	6205 2222
Economic Development Directorate Sport & Recreation Services/Support Indigenous Sport Program	Indigenous Sport Program ISP	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander sport and recreation	Lynham	6207 2077 13 2281
Education and Training Directorate Teaching and Learning/Curriculum Programs Indigenous Education	AEWs/IEWs Koori Pre Aboriginal Students	Indigenous Policy and Organisational Practice Indigenous Education Officers Program Koori Preschool Program	Sterling Various Various	6205 9195 6205 9195 6205 7903
Justice & Community Safety Directorate Criminal and Civil Justice Ngambra Circle Sentencing Court	Ngambra Circle Sentencing Koori Court	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander court	Civic	6207 1728 13 2281

Education

Name	Other Names / Acronyms	Brief Description	Location	Telephone
Canberra Institute of Technology Yurauna Centre	Yurauna Centre CIT	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community education	Reid	6207 3310
Jabal Centre Australian National University	Jabal Centre ANU	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander tertiary education	ANU - Acton	6125 3520

Name	Other Names / Acronyms	Brief Description	Location	Telephone
Ngunnawal Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education University of Canberra	Ngunnawal Centre UCAN	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander tertiary education	UCAN - Bruce	6201 2998

Australian Government

Name	Other Names / Acronyms	Brief Description	Location	Telephone
Aboriginal Hostels Limited	AHL Hostels	hostel accommodation	Woden	6212 2001
Australian Bureau of Statistics National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics	ABS NCATSIS	leadership and coordination role for national statistical activity about Australia's Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples	Belconnen	1800 633216
Australian Federal Police Indigenous Community Liaison Officer	Community Liaison Officer Police Liaison Officer PLO	assists Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people and organisations in their dealings with the police (and vice versa)	Civic	6245 7488
Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies	AIATSIS The Institute	information and research about the cultures and lifestyles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, past and present	Canberra	6246 1111
Australian Public Service Commission APS Indigenous Careers	APSC Public Service	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander APS careers	Phillip	6202 3593
Centrelink ABSTUDY	ABSTUDY	school and further study - financial assistance for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples	National Contact	13 2317
Centrelink Indigenous Call Centre	Centrelink Call Centre	Indigenous Customer Service Officer provides information to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people on Centrelink policy changes and how to receive and maintain correct entitlements	Braddon	13 6380
Dept of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations Indigenous Programs - National Office	DEEWR	various programs, e.g. early childhood, schooling, higher education, skills, youth, employment and business	Civic	13 3397

Name	Other Names / Acronyms	Brief Description	Location	Telephone
Dept of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations Indigenous Youth Mobility Program - Canberra	IYMP DEEWR	accommodation for IYMP participants	Queanbeyan	6200 5930 (AUSWIDE)
Indigenous Business Australia	IBA	home ownership, business	Woden	1800 107107
Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs Indigenous Coordination Centre – Queanbeyan	ICC - Queanbeyan FaCHSIA	FAHCSIA Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander service	Queanbeyan	6200 5150
Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs Indigenous Leadership Program	Leadership Program ILP FaCHSIA	leadership development	Woden	1800 249873
Dept of Health & Ageing Office of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health	DHA OATSIH	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health needs	Woden	1800 020103
Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations	ORIC	support and regulate corporations	Woden	1800 622431 6289 1555
Torres Strait Regional Authority	TSRA	Torres Strait Island affairs	Thursday Island	1800 079093

My Contacts

Name	Org/Dept/Serv/Prog	Telephone/Mobile	Email
Example: John Williams	Land Council	5555 5555 0455 555555	john@lc.org.au