

BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023

2 MAY — 3 JUNE

Let's learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture together. The more we learn, the stronger our future generations will be in accomplishing reconciliation in Australia. This year, the theme for Reconciliation Week is: Be A Voice For Generations. What does that mean to you? How do you think you could be a voice for generations? Whose responsibility is it to be a voice for generations? Do you believe you can be a voice that demands equity, respect and change? What do you want to happen to make Australia a place you are happy to live in?

Before you can expect people's thoughts and actions to change, you must first understand what has led to this point and what problems and challenges do and don't still exist today. Reconciliation can be beautiful and exciting when it is genuine and connects people to live in harmony with respect for each other.

National Reconciliation Week is a time for everyone to learn about our shared history and to experience and know more about our local cultures and achievements. This is a time that we can reflect on how we can make a difference to our community. You don't need to do big things to make an impact. You can contribute toward reconciliation by doing small visible things in your every day life. You can offer small acts of kindness or use the power of your words to make a difference in the place that you work, your home and when you are with your friends. The words you speak and the actions you take today, set an example and an expectation for others. By challenging our thoughts and actions in small ways now, we are creating a stronger foundation for future generations of people that will help us work together towards achieving reconciliation and becoming a society of people who respect and appreciate each other. Together, we can create a better future for all.

So how can we make small changes in our lives? Firstly, we can learn more about the First Nations peoples of Australia. We can learn more about their history and culture, more about their language and customs. We can encourage others to incorporate First Nations culture into our local communities. Learn more about art and the symbols used to tell stories. Listen to the dreaming stories that tell stories of creation and of ancestors. Talk to local Elders and find out what they love about their heritage and what makes them proud to be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Learn to say some words in the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander dialect.

You can also learn more about the journey Australia has taken toward reconciliation. Did you know that Reconciliation Week falls between the same dates every year? This is so we can commemorate two special events that changed Australia's history and were significant moments in returning power and respect to the First Nations people of Australia. Do you know what those two historic events are?



RECONCILIATION
AUSTRALIA