

Culturally Sensitive Aboriginal RTW Service NEWSLETTER

May 2021 | Issue #2



Working towards reconciliation IN AUSTRALIA

Please join us!

We would be delighted if you could join us for an exclusive Q&A presentation with the CEO of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council based in Redfern. This informative discussion will provide insights on how we can achieve reconciliation in Australia through the five dimensions of reconciliation:

HISTORICAL ACCEPTANCE | RACE RELATIONS
EQUALITY AND EQUITY | INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY | UNITY

Date

Friday 28 May

Time

10am-11:30am

(45min presentation/Q&A session, followed by morning tea)

Speaker

Nathan Moran

CEO, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

Venue

The Australian Hall, 150 Elizabeth St, Sydney

RSVP

To Mei Ling Yong (myong@workfocus.com) by no later than Friday 21 May

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WORKFOCUS
AUSTRALIA





Looking back

Lest We Forget

2021 ANZAC Day Commemoration

ANZAC Day and the ANZAC spirit has been forged into Australian history and has been unquestionably commemorated across Australia and New Zealand since 1915.

On ANZAC Day, it is also important to acknowledge the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who served in the military and war. Unfortunately, the exact number of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is unknown as the Australian Defence Force did not record cultural heritage until more recently. In the early 1900s many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were not legally able to join the army, and so many hid their identities.

Lest We Forget.

[Read more about ANZAC Day and Aboriginal Service People](#)

What's ahead...

National Sorry Day

On 26 May, WorkFocus Australia will be remembering and reflecting on the impact that past policies of forcible removal had on the Stolen Generations, their families, their communities and their countries.

National Sorry Day is of significance to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and provides the opportunity to remember and recognise these past mistakes.

In 1997, a report called [Bringing them Home](#) was put forward in Parliament, which details the hardships undergone by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children that were forcefully removed from their families as part of official government policy during the 20th Century. The report also included a list of recommendations to move towards reconciling and moving on from these past mistakes. One of these recommendations was for the government to issue a formal apology to the Indigenous communities.

The first National Sorry Day was held exactly one year later, and it has been held on the same day every year since.



1967 Referendum Anniversary

In 2021, 27 May marks 54 years since the Australian Government held a referendum of tremendous significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Prior to the 1967 Referendum, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples did not have the same rights as other Australians, including the right to:

- move to wherever they wanted
- own property wherever they wanted
- marry whomever they chose
- be the legal guardian of their own children
- receive the same wage for the same work.

WorkFocus Australia acknowledges the significance of the 1967 Referendum and supports the need for equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Read more: [History of Parliament](#); [Reconciliation Referendum](#)



More than a word

Reconciliation takes action

National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June) provides the opportunity to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and past achievements, and to explore and discuss how we can all contribute towards achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates honour two significant milestones in the Australian reconciliation journey; the 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision.

The 2021 theme for [National Reconciliation Week](#) is “More than a word. Reconciliation takes action”. This highlights the importance of putting reconciliation into action and the responsibility by all to achieve a strong, respectful and reconciled nation.



Mabo Day

The final day (3 June) of National Reconciliation Week commemorates the successful efforts of Mer Island man, [Eddie Koiki Mabo](#), to overturn the notion of terra nullius (land belonging to no-one). The Mabo case was heard over a ten-year period, commencing in the Qld Supreme Court and progressed to the High Court of Australia.

On the 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia passed the decision that ‘native title’ did exist. Sadly, Eddie Mabo died five months before the High Court’s decision was delivered and was later posthumously awarded the Australian Human Rights Medal in the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Awards.

Following the High Court’s decision, Australia’s Federal Parliament passed the Native Title Act 1993 which established a legal framework for native title claims throughout Australia by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

GET IN touch

Please call us on **1300 570 181** or visit workfocus.com/return-to-work/aboriginal-return-to-work-service

