

# National Reconciliation Week Fact Sheet

## What is National Reconciliation Week?

National Reconciliation Week is celebrated each year from 27th May to 3rd June. It is a time to celebrate and build on positive and respectful relationships and connections between Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



## Significance of 27th May and 3rd June

**27th May:** This marks the 1967 referendum when more than 90% of Australians voted 'yes' to count Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into the census. It gave the Australian government the power to make laws for these people.

**3rd June:** This marks the 1992 'native title' Mabo decision. It recognised that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had rights over their land and that the British did not take them over during Colonisation.

## What is the importance of National Reconciliation Week?

Reconciliation involves building positive, respectful relationships between all Australians and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It helps to create a positive change and to help Australians learn about their shared histories, cultures and achievements.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders have faced many challenges and inequality over the years. These things have prevented them from reaching their potential. Being able to reconcile with them will lead to respect and better relationships and partnerships.

