



Reconciliation Timeline

- 1930s** **Aboriginal activists** such as William Cooper, the Australian Aborigines' League **call for citizenship rights for Aboriginal peoples**
- 1963** **Yirrkala Bark Petition** presented by Yolngu people protesting about mining on their land
- 1965** **The Freedom Ride** drawing attention to the discrimination experienced by Aboriginal people
- 1966** **Wave Hill Walk Off** - 200 Aboriginal stockmen walk off the job at a cattle station in protest against poor working conditions and disrespectful treatment. Becomes first land claim.
- 1967** **Referendum** - 92 per cent of Australians vote 'yes' giving the Commonwealth power to legislate for Aboriginal people and enabling Aboriginal people to be counted in the census
- 1972** **Tent Embassy established** on the 26 January outside Parliament House in Canberra – continues
- 1975** **Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)** passed by Federal Parliament
- 1976** **The Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976** is passed, becoming the first legal recognition of an Aboriginal system of land ownership
- 1979** **Aboriginal Treaty Committee** is formed and the National Aboriginal Conference calls for a treaty
- 1988** **The Barunga Statement**, calling for self-management and a system of land rights, presented to the Prime Minister. Prime Minister Hawke responds by expressing his desire to conclude a treaty by 1990
- 1990** **ATSIC established** - evidenced a significant shift in power from government to an elected body
- 1991** **Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody** - Report tabled. Final recommendation calls for a process of reconciliation
- The **Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation** is established
- 1992** **Mabo decision** handed down by High Court
- Redfern Speech** delivered by Prime Minister Keating
- 1993** **Native Title Act** passed by the Federal Government
- 1996** First **National Reconciliation Week** celebrated – 27 May ('67 Referendum) – 3 June (Mabo Day)
- The **Wik Peoples v Queensland** (1996) 187 CLR 1 decision is handed down
- 1997** **Australian Reconciliation Convention** convened in Melbourne - more than 1,800 participants



Grassroots community action gathers momentum in support of native title following plans to amend the Native Title Act – 10 Point Plan

Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) established

Local Reconciliation Groups flourish with the support of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, State Reconciliation Councils and ANTaR

Bringing Them Home Report into child removal policies released by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Apology one of 54 Recommendations, including Reparations

2000 Corroboree 2000 celebrations. Hundreds of thousands of Australians participate in **bridge walks**

The **Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation** presents the national reconciliation documents and its Final Report – **Roadmap to Reconciliation** – Council **ends its term**.

Reconciliation Australia is set up, as recommended in the Report.

2004 ATSIIC is abolished.

2005 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Report calls for governments to commit to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **health and life expectancy equality within 25 years**. From the Report, the **Close The Gap Campaign** for Indigenous Health Equality is developed.

2006 Reconciliation Australia launches the **Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) program**.

2007 The **Northern Territory Emergency Response Act 2007 (Cth)** is passed. This legislation excludes the operation of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth).

Australia **opposes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP)**

2008 Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivers the **National Apology** to the Stolen Generations.

2009 The **National Congress of Australia's First Peoples** is established.

Australia indicates its **support for UNDRIP**

2010 Government commits to a **referendum to recognise Indigenous peoples in the Constitution**.

2011 **Expert Panel** on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples hands Report to Gillard Government.

2013 **Act of Recognition** is passed on February 13th, with two-year sunset clause for consideration of Referendum.

Recognise campaign is launched by Reconciliation Australia.

2014 **Adam Goodes** named **Australian of the Year**