

NAIDOC Week

4 July 2021: NAIDOC Week is usually held in the first week of July. This year, the theme is 'Heal Country!' and it is being held 4-11 July. NAIDOC stands for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee' and it traces its origins to the boycotting of Australia Day (26th of January, referring back to the arrival of the First Fleet in Sydney Cove in 1788 and the commencement of the British colony under Captain Arthur Phillip). From 1938 to 1955, Aborigines Day/ Day of Mourning was observed on 'Australia Day' by Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders and others. In 1955, Aborigines Day was shifted to the first Sunday in July. The National Aborigines Day Observance Committee (NADOC) was established in 1956 as a remembrance day for Aboriginal people and their heritage was established on the second Sunday in July. In 1975, it was decided that the event should cover a week. In 1991, NADOC became NAIDOC ('National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee') in recognition of Torres Strait Islander history, heritage and achievements.

Australia Day became widely known as 'Invasion Day' from 1988. Although the 'Australia Day Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Acknowledgement Project' has been running since 2020, with Councils and local Aboriginal Communities working together on 'meaningful, reflective, and respectful Australia Day events', it is hard to contemplate true reconciliation when the date celebrated is that of colonisation, especially under the legal pretence of acquiring terra nullius (nobody's land – land that is considered unoccupied or uninhabited). As we wait for the inevitable - the removal or movement of Australia Day - NAIDOC is an extremely important celebration of Aboriginal and Islander history, culture and achievements.

Sources: Creative Spirits (2021) '[NAIDOC Week](#)', accessed 4 July 2021; National Australia Day Council (2021) '[Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Acknowledgement Project](#)', accessed 4 July 2021.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medicines Committee launches during NAIDOC Week

7 July 2021: A new joint committee between National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and Medicines Australia (MA) launches this week with a key focus on improving access to medicine and better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

[Read more on the NACCHO website](#)

Reoffending among child sexual offenders

8 July 2021: A study examining reoffending among 1,092 child sexual offenders (all male and charged in New South Wales between 2004 and 2013) was published two days ago by the Australian Institute of Criminology. It was found that seven percent of child sexual offenders sexually reoffended within 10 years of their first police proceeding for a child sexual offence, while 42 percent non-sexually reoffended. It was also found that the risk of sexual and non-sexual reoffending was highest in the first two years.

[Read more on the AIC website](#)

Upcoming event: Launch of the CIJ's 'Leaving custody behind'

RMIT free online event 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm on 15 July 2021

Launch by the Hon Natalie Hutchins, Victoria's Minister for Corrections, together with an expert panel discussion, of the Centre for Innovative Justice's Issues Paper, 'Leaving custody behind: Foundations for safer communities & gender-informed criminal justice systems.'

Australia is locking up women in increasing numbers. In Victoria, the rate at which women are being imprisoned, especially Aboriginal women, has risen sharply in recent years and is increasing at a faster rate than for men.

[Read more on the RMIT website](#)