

First Nations Guide



NAIDOC Week 2024 - Leader Talking Points
Internal Protocols



NAIDOC Week 2024 – Leader Talking Points

These leader talking points can be used by leaders.

What is NAIDOC Week 2024?

- The acronym NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee.
- NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate Indigenous culture and heritage, unify communities, and commemorate 65,000 years of history. NAIDOC Week is also a week to educate and share stories.
- NAIDOC Week 2024 runs from Sunday 7 July to Sunday 14 July.

Why is NAIDOC Week important?

- The origins of NAIDOC Week can be traced back to the Aboriginal rights movement. On 26 January 1938 protestors marched against the rights and poor treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. This became known as the Day of Mourning.
- In 1955, the Day of Mourning was moved from January to July to shift the focus onto celebrating First Nations people, rather than protesting. In 1975, this was extended to be a week-long celebration, now known as NAIDOC Week.

NAIDOC Week theme

- Each year a theme is chosen to reflect important social issues and to help bring about systemic change.
- The theme for this year's NAIDOC Week is 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud'. This theme celebrates the unyielding spirit of our communities and invites everyone to stand in solidarity, amplifying the voices that have long been silenced.

NAIDOC Week Art and Posters

- NAIDOC Week celebrations also include a national poster competition which commenced in 1967. This competition provides an opportunity for Indigenous artists aged 16 years and over to submit their artwork designs showcasing the NAIDOC Week theme.
- These posters reflect not only the many significant social changes that have occurred since 1967, but also evolution of art over the last 54 years.
- This year's poster was designed by Samuawgadhgal artist and educator, Deborah Belyea.
- The artwork is titled 'Urapun Muy', from the Kalaw Kawaw Ya dialect of the Top Western Islands of the Torres Strait, which means 'One Fire'. The title of this work pays homage to Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people everywhere, as we all have that one fire: our passion for our culture.



Cultural appreciation

- Cultural appreciation means appreciating another culture in a respectful and sincere way. It helps broaden perspectives and build cross-cultural connections.
- Cultural appropriation is using elements of a culture which you do not belong to. Appropriation is disrespectful, exploitative, hurtful, and reinforces racism.
- Consider context, ask about origins of different customs and use this understanding to broaden your own understandings.

Questions to encourage further discussion

Below are some reflective questions to ensure you are appreciating culture, and not appropriating it:

- *Am I being respectful?*
- *Am I following a trend and ignoring the cultural significance?*
- *Do my actions exploit others?*
- *Am I borrowing something that doesn't belong to me?*

