

KEY MESSAGES – AUSTRALIA DAY 2021

Australia Day 2021

Over the past year our nation has faced fire, flood, drought and the coronavirus pandemic.

On Australia Day 2021, we **reflect** on the selfless and courageous sacrifice of thousands of first responders and frontline workers who put the safety and wellbeing of others before their own.

We **reflect** on the resilience of communities and the spirit of helping, giving and supporting that defines us as Australians.

We **respect** the stories, histories and contributions of all Australians, especially those who have given so much over the past year.

Australia Day 2021 is a day for us to **celebrate** and thank the first responders and frontline workers who kept going to work, so that the rest of us could stay safe at home.

On Australia Day we **celebrate** being Australian together.

Reflect, respect, celebrate – we're all part of the story.

On Australia Day, we **reflect** on our nation's true history, which began tens of thousands of years ago with the First Australians – the world's oldest living culture – and on the impact that European settlement had on our First Australians and their way of life.

We respect their extensive knowledge of land, sea and sky, which allowed them to care for Country as they would a family member.

We **reflect** on our modern history – the waves of immigration that have shaped us into one of the world's great multicultural success stories.

We **respect** that, regardless of where we come from, the faith we follow or the language we grew up speaking, we are all Australian and we all have a contribution to make.

And we **celebrate** our nation's place in the world – a proud, ancient, multicultural nation built on shared values that allow us to enjoy the freedoms and opportunities that other nations aspire to.

We celebrate Country and how the land and sky defines our Australian identity – from the saltwater to the freshwater, from the rainforest to the desert.

About *The Story of Australia*

The National Australia Day Council's campaign celebrates the extraordinary achievement that is our nation. It is a story that began tens of thousands of years ago and has untold chapters still to write.

The stars of the campaign are everyday Australians from across the nation reading an original poem, *The Story of Australia*.

In 2021, the campaign recognises the contributions and sacrifices made by Australians in response to the coronavirus pandemic. People like Leanne, a nurse, and Alex, a primary school teacher.

Australia Day Date

Australia Day is a time for all Australians to come together to reflect, respect and celebrate.

The National Australia Day Council supports Australia Day on 26 January – our national holiday.

Australia Day is more than a commemoration of a single day in our nation's history. It is the day, above all others, for Australians to reflect on our past, respect the contribution we all have to make and celebrate our nation and its people.