

2023 marks the Forty Fifth (45) Anniversary of AFSS providing culturally responsive services for Aboriginal children, youth and families, to sustain a safe, resilient future while being connected to culture.

Culture gives us strength, stability, wisdom and power to achieve long lasting positive change through our actions, recognising the ongoing survival of the oldest existing culture in the world today.



As an Aboriginal community controlled organisation we have a responsibility to advocate and amplify voices for Aboriginal children, families and community, while listening to our ancestors, moving forward with resilience and aspiration.

January 26 is not a day of celebration for many Australians, particularly for Aboriginal people. It marks the beginning of the grief, dispossession of their land, violence, massacres and genocide, representing the attempt to end culture and connection to language and access to country for Aboriginal people.

The debate about "changing the date" is about more than just a day. It's about who we are as a country and whether we remain trapped by our history and by the failure to imagine any relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

As an Aboriginal organisation, January 26 is an opportunity to celebrate the richness of our culture and people. We are still here, our languages are still spoken and our cultures are strong.

We need to consider the children that we work with and demonstrate strength and resilience.

Working in an Aboriginal organisation is and needs to be different, we need to show support to our colleagues and stand together showing how we work towards growing cultural pride for our children and families.

Culture isn't a privilege, it's a right and we all need to stand up and support the rights of children in our care.

Some of the ways to stand in solidarity with our Aboriginal Children, families and our colleagues are below.

1. Understand and learn the truth about Australian history

"White Australia has a black history." Some people might not be comfortable with this, but as a nation, we can only move forward if we are honest and mature about our history.

There are some online resources that highlight the truth, including:

- [Here's why Australia's National Day of Celebration is a Day of Mourning for Indigenous People](#)
- [The Truth Collective](#)
- [Australia Day - Invasion Day](#)
- [Stories of Survival](#)
- [Colonial Frontier Massacres in Eastern Australia 1788-1872](#)

2. Attend a Survival Day event

There are Survival Day and Invasion Day events across the country. Some of the main events are listed below and if you google "Invasion Day events" or "Survival Day events" you will be able to find an event near you.

Amnesty International Australia always puts together a list of Survival Day and Invasion Day events that are happening around the country. See below for events.

3. Support Aboriginal music

Tune into the live broadcast of music at the Yabun Festival on Koori Radio in Sydney (93.7FM) or [stream it live here](#). You can also catch the top 100 Indigenous songs on 3KND in Melbourne (1503AM) or [stream it live here](#).

If you're organising an event, put together a playlist of songs that recognise the truth about 26 January. NITV has put together its [Top 40 Survival Day playlist](#) and has a [Survival Day playlist](#) on Spotify.

4. Share the truth on social media

Social media is a great way to show your network of family and friends that you are taking a stand in solidarity with Aboriginal Australians. If you see an article, video or image about Invasion Day or Survival Day, post it and share it. We've been sharing Survival Day content on our Facebook page which you can [check out here](#).

5. Promote Aboriginal voices

Australian politicians and the media are very good at talking *about* Aboriginal peoples, rather than listening. As a result, Aboriginal voices are often ignored, as evidenced by the Government's decision to ignore the Uluru Statement.

The [@IndigenousX twitter account](#) is a platform for Aboriginal people to share their knowledge, opinions and experiences.

6. Speak out, be active and be political

Ultimately, issues of inequality and injustice are political. Don't leave it to others to take on the issues; Advocating and amplifying the voices of our children and families need to be done.

Survival day 25-26 January 2023 Calendar (a beginning)

Wednesday January 25 Time - 8pm

Tarntanya (Adelaide) Survival Day, Kurna Land

Tindo Utpirndee Sunset Ceremony, Tarntanya

Location - Tarntanya Wama (Elder Park), King William Rd, Adelaide.

As the sun begins to fall on the evening of the 25 January, we invite you to Tindo Utpurndee – Sunset Ceremony in Elder Park/Tarntanya Wama to witness, recognise and listen to the voices of recovery from First Nations' Peoples.

When you walk in someone else's country, it is always important to walk softly and respectfully.

This place holds many ancient stories, and Tindo Utpurndee is one of these, which speaks of spirit, truth, and recovery. Tindo Utpurndee (this Ceremony) will also provide an opportunity to gain a deeper bi-cultural understanding of our ancient landscape. Voices of the first peoples and sharing of truth from First Nations leaders. Past, Present and Future generations still seeking recognition, respect, and reciprocity for recovery.

Led by Burka, Senior man Karl Winda Telfer, Mullawirra Meyunna – Dry Forest People with YELLAKA – 'Old Wisdom-New Ways' (Kurna Meyunna)

Mourning in the Morning Smoking Ceremony/Dawn Service

Location - Tarntanya Wama (Elder Park), King William Rd, Adelaide, SA.

Time - 8am - 9am

Date - Thursday January 26

General Event Info - Event is free, but bookings are essential.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mourning-in-the-morning-smoking-ceremony-tickets-504261378357>

Rally and March

Location - Tarndanyangga (Victoria Square), Adelaide.

Time - 12pm

Date - Thursday January 26

General event info - <https://www.facebook.com/events/979298333465132/>

Lights on the river, Tarntanya

Location - Tarntanya Wama (Elder Park)

Time - From 5.30pm both days

Date - Wednesday and Thursday January 25/26

Lights on the River is a two-day program on Wednesday 25 January and Thursday 26 January. The program showcases Our SA Story through immersive visually engaging light, vision, and sound installations supported with complimentary children's activations.