1. **Australia Day**, 26 January – For many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Australia Day provides an opportunity to recognise the resilience and survival of Aboriginal people and culture.

2. The anniversary of the National Apology, 13 February – The National Apology to the Stolen Generations occurred on February 13. The theme for the National Apology Day in 2016 was Heal our Past, Build our Future, Celebrate our Heroes. For more information visit the Healing Foundation websites.

3. Harmony Day, 21 March – Harmony Day celebrates the cultural diversity of Australia and the importance of inclusiveness, respect and sense of belonging for everyone. For more information visit the Harmony Day website of the Department of Social Services.

4. **National Close the Gap Day**, Thursday 17 March – An annual event to raise awareness of the health experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Evidence indicates that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a life expectancy approximately 10 years less than other Australians. The day aims to promote health equality within a generation. For more information visit the Oxfam Australia website.

5. Nanga Mai Awards, March – The Department of Education’s Annual Nanga Mai Awards (An Eora word meaning: to dream) are held in March every year. The awards celebrate and recognise excellence and achievement in Aboriginal education in NSW Public Schools. For more information visit the AEC Awards page.

6. National Sorry Day, 26 May – Is held annually on the 26 May. It is an opportunity to reflect on the sad and painful experiences of the Stolen Generations and recognise the healing and power of saying sorry. This commemorative day was a recommendation of the Bringing them Home report, May 1997.

7. National Reconciliation Week, 27 May to 3 June – This year celebrates 25 years of reconciliation in Australia, the theme for 2016 is Our History, Our Story, Our Future. National Reconciliation Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about the shared histories, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal people. The week connects two significant dates in Australia’s history. The first being May 27 as the anniversary of the 1967 referendum and June 3 which marks the historic Mabo decision of the High Court of Australia to recognise native title. For more information visit the Reconciliation Australia website.

8. **MABO Day**, 3 June – The Mabo case, led by Eddie Koiki Mabo, argued that Terra Nullius should not have been applied to Australia as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a unique connection with the land. The decision also led to Australian Parliament passing the Native Title Act in 1993. A Fact Sheet on The Mabo decision can be downloaded from the Reconciliation Australia website.

9. **Coming of the Light**, 1 July – The coming of the Light is a holiday celebrated by Torres Strait Islander people. This day is marked by cultural ceremonies which are held on the anniversary of the day the London Missionary Society arrived in the Torres Strait on 1 July 1871.

10. National NAIDOC Week, 3 – 10 July – NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. NAIDOC week is held from the first Sunday to the Second Sunday in July and celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This year’s theme is Songlines: The Living Narrative of Our Nation. For more information visit the National NAIDOC Committee website.

11. National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day, 4 August – Celebrates the strengths and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The theme for 2016 is We all Belong, My Country, Our Country. For more information visit the Aboriginal Children’s Day website.

12. International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, 9 August – The day was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1994 to promote the protection and rights of Indigenous people and celebrate indigenous people’s culture and achievements all around the world. For more information visit the United Nations website.