

2016

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER TIMELINE



CENTRE FOR CULTURAL COMPETENCE AUSTRALIA



60,000 years ago

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture is the oldest surviving culture in the world.

Dating back 60,000 years evidence of Australia's First peoples can be found in archaeological sites across Australia.

Over many thousands of years Australia's First peoples were influenced by severe

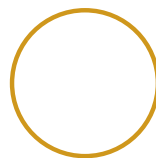
environmental changes including the rising of sea levels and drying out of the continent.

In the last 200 years Australia's First peoples have endured and survived sudden and often destructive changes to their cultures and way of life brought about by the arrival of the Europeans in 1788.



pre 1451

Aboriginal contact with various Melanesian groups of Papua New Guinea and the Torres Strait Islands



1451

Dutch explorers record Indigenous traders from Indonesia to northern Australia



1600s

Earliest recorded contact between Europeans and Aboriginal people



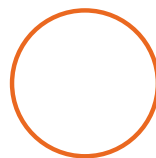
1770

Lieutenant Cook lands in Botany Bay, and claims possession under the doctrine of 'terra nullius'



1788

Colony of Port Jackson is established, and transportation of convicts begins



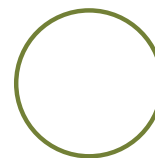
1789

Outbreak of smallpox introduced by the British devastates Aboriginal population



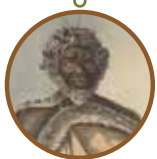
1804

Pemulwuy leads a campaign of resistance against British settlers on the land of the Dharug people



1804

Colonists are authorised to shoot Aboriginal people in response to resistance to settlement



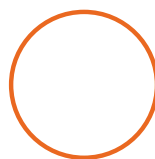
1824

Marital law is declared in Bathurst, NSW when seven Europeans are killed by Aboriginal people



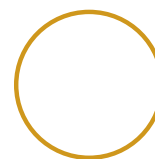
1830

Tasmanian Aboriginal people are forcibly settled on Flinders Island



1834

The Battle (Massacre) of Pinjarra in Western Australia



1837

British Select Committee recommends 'Protectors of Aborigines' be appointed

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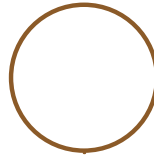


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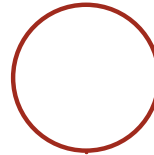
1838

Myall Creek Massacre – Settlers shoot 28 Aboriginal people near Inverell, NSW



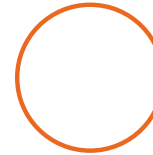
1869

The Board for the Protection of Aborigines is established in Victoria



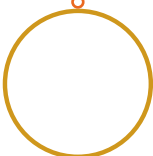
1883

The NSW Aborigines Protection Board is established



1901

Australia becomes a Federation. The Constitution states that we would legislate for any race except Aborigines



1909

In NSW, The Aborigines Protection Act 1909 becomes the primary statute governing Aboriginal lives



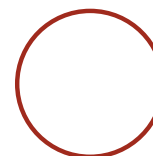
1914

Aboriginal people serve in World War I and are among Australian troops at Gallipoli



1915

The NSW Aborigines Protection Board is given powers to remove Aboriginal children without a court hearing



1925

Australian Aborigines' Progressive Association is formed to oppose NSW Aborigines Protection Board



1928

Coniston Massacre (NT) Europeans shoot 32 Aborigines



1937

First Commonwealth/State conference on 'native welfare' adopts assimilation as the national policy



1939

World War II begins. Aboriginal people serve in Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific and New Guinea



1940

The NSW Aborigines Protection Board loses its power to remove Aboriginal children



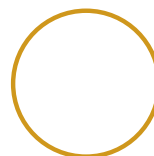
1965

'Freedom Ride' by Aboriginal people and students is led by Charles Perkins into North Western NSW in support of Aboriginal rights



1967

Constitutional Referendum on Aboriginal Rights is held



1968

Commonwealth government establishes Office of Aboriginal Affairs



1969

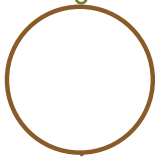
NSW Aboriginal Welfare Board is abolished

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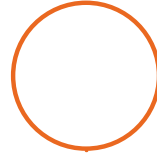
1971

Neville Bonner is sworn in as Australia's first Aboriginal Senator



1972

Aboriginal Tent Embassy is pitched outside Parliament House in Canberra demonstrating for Land Rights



1976

The Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act is passed by the Federal Parliament



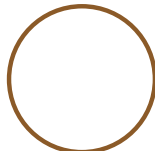
1984

Nine Pintupi people who had been living on their Country in South Australia meet non-Aboriginal people for the first time



1988

The Bicentennial celebration of British Settlement in Australia - Barunga Statement by Prime Minister Hawke



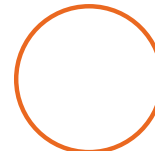
1991

The Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation is established



1992

The High Court of Australia hands down its landmark decision in Mabo vs Queensland



1996

The High Court hands down its decision in the Wik Case



1997

The Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission presents Bringing Them Home



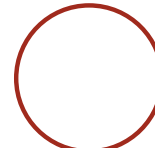
2007

The Intervention – NT Emergency Response to the Little Children are Sacred Report



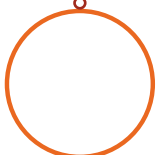
2008

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd formally apologises to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for abuse under past governments



2009

Australian Government ratifies UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



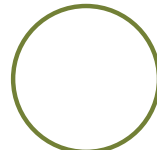
2010

The National Congress of First Peoples established to represent the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples



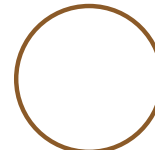
2012

Northern Territory Intervention renamed Stronger Futures and renewed for 10 years.



2013

Nova Peris becomes first Indigenous woman to be elected to Federal Parliament



2014

Indigenous Advancement Strategy announced by the Australian Government