

MC18-003252

IA9-WLC

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

From: s 47F  
 Sent: Tuesday, 16 January 2018 7:56 PM  
 To: Scullion, Nigel  
 Subject: Australia Day

Dear Senator Scullion,

With all due respect, you need to be a bit more forthright on the question of the date of Australia Day. Without doubt, the existing date conjures up memories of a colonial power's arrival in Australia and the cruel actions of that colonial government against the indigenous people. Who would want to be reminded of that, let alone want to celebrate all that?

Let's instead come up with a different date that allows us to celebrate the nation we've become but without reference to the tragedies of the past dating from 26 January, 1788.

How about our federation date, 1 January, 1901. It's a no-brainer

Yours sincerely,

s 47F

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reply by Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> Brief Req'd
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Parl. Sec.	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject: .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by CoS	.....
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17 JAN 2018	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Dept	<input type="checkbox"/> NFA
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Instructions: # ALL: culture .....	

17 JAN 2018

MC18-002112

Dear Hon. Nigel Scullion

Po box 6100 Parliament House. act 2600

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
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10 JAN 2018	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reply by Dept	<input type="checkbox"/> NFA
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Instructions: <i>HL: write me</i>	<i>of letters signed</i>
<i>vs a new word</i>	

In regards to any controversy over the holding of Australia Day each year on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, here is a suggestion that may keep all sides happy. Instead of shifting the date, why not shift the emphasis? Mathew Flinders and the indigenous crewman, Bungaree, **(who came from a tribe in Broken Bay near Pittwater)**, were the first people to circumnavigate Australia. Accomplished in 1801 to 1803, it was one of the greatest feats in our naval and maritime history. Because of the objective, it meant that they touched the shores of every quarter of Australia, so it was an effort that includes the whole country, not just NSW.

By simply emphasising this effort above any other on Australia Day we better represents the fact that all our first explorers needed the assistance of the indigenous peoples to survive. We needed their trackers to find people who were lost and criminals, (like the Clarke gang), too. If people still want the date changed, then simply make it the last day in January, as it will be easier to remember that way, or the day on which they both completed their circumnavigation.

Sincerely

s 47F

s 47F

BUNGAREE  
& Matthew  
FLINDERS who  
circumnavigated  
Australa together  
in 1803



10 JAN 2018

MCU 4

MC18-001840

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

From: webservices@pmc.gov.au on behalf of s 47F <webservices@pmc.gov.au>  
 Sent: Thursday, 4 January 2018 6:51 PM  
 To: Scullion, Nigel  
 Subject: shifting the emphasis of Australia Day

Public submission received from Ministers Media Centre - ministers.dpmc.gov.au

Submitted on Thursday, January 4, 2018 - 18:50 Submitted by user: Anonymous Submitted values are:

Minister: Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion

Title: mr

First Name: s 47F

Last Name: s 47F

Email address: s 47F

Subject: shifting the emphasis of Australia Day

Comment:

In regards to any controversy over the holding of Australia Day each year on the 26th of January, here is a suggestion that may keep all sides happy. Instead of shifting the date, why not shift the emphasis? Mathew Flinders and the indigenous crewman, Bungaree, (who came from a tribe in Broken Bay near Pittwater), were the first people to circumnavigate Australia. Accomplished in 1801 to 1803, it was one of the greatest feats in our naval and maritime history. Because of the objective, it meant that they touched the shores of every quarter of Australia, so it was an effort that includes the whole country, not just NSW.

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Sincerely s 47F

s 47F

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
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Instructions: <i>HCC - Culture</i>	
<i>Using recent words</i>	

*in office letter of response  
on same.*

RECEIVED
9 JAN 2018
MCU [signature]



MC17-003249

TAG-NLC

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

From: [REDACTED] s 47F  
 Sent: Wednesday, 10 January 2018 11:00 AM  
 To: Scullion, Nigel  
 Subject: Australia Day 26th January

Dear Minister

Rather than contemplate a change of date to commemorate Australia Day, why don't we simply broaden its purpose and create a wider forum for discussion? Let us celebrate Australia Day as a date of Truth and Reconciliation; of acknowledgement of Australia a multi-cultural nation that has achieved much to be proud; and at the same time recognise the wrongs of the past.

Our indigenous peoples can rightfully express their views of the past, present and the future on this day as well as celebrate progress the country has made over 230 years. The non-indigenous Australians can celebrate being Australians and also be made aware of those wrongs.

To change the date could be more divisive and would disenfranchise the indigenous, non-indigenous Australians and prospective Australians. Australia Day Committees have been active in most local government regional areas and major cities for over 30 years supported by all levels of government and making the day a part of our culture. It is hoped that these committees would support a change of emphasis rather than changing the date. Establishing a new date is likely to fragment views across the total community. Invigorating Australia Day to make it more inclusive would seem more appropriate.

The peoples of Australia, including educators and all levels of government should take time to reflect on the broader significance at this time. Equally the Australia Day ambassadors' message should represent both non-indigenous groups and indigenous peoples to unite all Australians.

Yours sincerely,

s 47F

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
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Instructions: <u>File culture</u>	

s 47F

Senator the Hon N Scullion  
 Minister for Indigenous Affairs,  
 Leader of the Nationals in the Senate,  
 PO Box 40021  
 Casuarina NT 811

25<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Dear Mr Scullion,

The ongoing conversation regarding the date and focus of Australia Day has had me considering the question for some time.

The issue of dispossession on that date is an insurmountable concern for our first people. I request that you consider my thoughts on this matter. The central part of this is respect for all Australians and involves reflection and celebration over three days. Acknowledging our first people, those who are here now and those who would be Australians in the future. A declaration of who we want to be.

The three-day reflection and celebration could be as follows:

**December 31<sup>st</sup> -The past.** Primarily acknowledge the first people, then those that came after.  
 (Public holiday to replace January 26<sup>th</sup>)

**January 1<sup>st</sup> -The present:** The day we became one country: Our strengths and our weaknesses.

**January 2<sup>nd</sup> -The future.** Back to work but taking the time to consider how to create an improved country reflecting our weaknesses in the workplace, the community and the home.

I understand the political nature of any changes but I hope that you will consider this option and hopefully discuss it with your fellow Parliamentarians. I thank you for your time and hope we can all move toward a more compassionate country with this being one way to create a new vision for Australia. I would appreciate any assistance in progressing these heartfelt hopes and remain ready to answer any questions or continuing dialogue on this matter. I intend to contact other parties that may be interested to progress this idea, but I see you as a strong voice in my community and as the best place to initiate change. Details are below this letter.

Yours sincerely,

s 47F

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s 47F

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reply by Advisor	
12 SEP 2017	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Dept	<input type="checkbox"/> NFA
Referral: <i>Cr. Hove</i>	
Instructions: <i>Cr. Hove</i>	

13 SEP 2017

### **AUSTRALIA DAY PROPOSAL**

The current day celebrates dispossession of the first people of this continent and the ongoing dominance of the colonising power, its culture and its laws. This reinforces the negative and quite incorrect information regarding the culture and sociology of the original people for both the conquered and the conquerors in an ongoing way. It has been useful to those who intended to take over the land for their own purposes to omit the observed and written accounts by early explorers and pastoralists of farming practices, sedentary lifestyles, house building, food capture and storage and astronomical knowledge (and so much more) of the aboriginal people across the country. This gives the impression that the new ways will benefit the "primitive" people, deliberately falsifying their true abilities to thrive peaceably for tens of thousands of years in an otherwise hostile environment.

### **THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE**

I propose that the date changes from January 26<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> each year. This day would focus on the past, how we all came to be here now. The primary reflection would consider those we have dispossessed followed by migrants and their backgrounds. This encompasses all people respectfully. They may well also appreciate the ability to have an extended break including New Year's Eve. The following day, January 1<sup>st</sup>, is the anniversary of Australia's Federation where we moved from disparate states and territories to one unified country. This day would consider the present, our achievements and our shortfalls. January 2<sup>nd</sup> would see a return to work with a nationwide focus on the sort of future we want to live in and how we can work towards this vision. The actions we take now, in the home, school, community and workplace shape the future we want to achieve.

### **ACKNOWLEDGING THE PAST**

For a country to be inclusive and caring for all its citizens I feel that learning of the past and acknowledging the complexities of the aboriginal culture that thrived before colonisation is the important first step. There could be a national focus on one area a year so thorough research can be done on the true abilities of the aboriginal heritage we have been denied. Television, education and media would be encouraged to embrace the research and the whole community gradually come to an understanding of what once was here. This should provide the impetus to create a more inclusive and respectful society especially for those who have been disempowered.

### **THE PRESENT**

January the 1<sup>st</sup> is the obvious day for celebration, when the states joined to become one country. The date of January 26<sup>th</sup> means nothing to many states as it only acknowledges the taking possession of one part of New South Wales. In Western Australia, Foundation day has become Western Australia day better to embrace all rather than dispossession. The date remains the same however.

There are many wonderful areas of achievement, humanity and kindness that are not fully acknowledged in this busy life. The Australia day awards show just a small sample of the extraordinary undertakings happening around us. It is important that these deeds be illuminated to allow recognition where it is due, and for inspiration to flourish. However, it is also necessary to highlight the areas where we have not met our own expectations and need to continue to work at resolving these issues. This leads into the actions to be considered for the future.

## THE FUTURE

The third part of the three-day focus on our country and community needs to instigate planning for the country we want to become. Debate over our targets and implementing change is the ideal way to begin the New Year. Though I do not expect this day to be a public holiday it is necessary to create a thoughtful purpose to our daily efforts. Every workplace can embrace this opportunity and all employees could be a part of the change we work toward. Encouraging inclusiveness and thoughtfulness in our daily lives can also be considered part of Act, Belong, Commit as we deal with the pressures of modern living.

" 'Who controls the past,' ran the Party slogan, 'controls the future: who controls the present controls the past.' "

page 40 1984 by George Orwell Penguin Classics reprint 2000

**These Commonwealth countries do not celebrate their national day on the day the first settlers arrived.**

Each has evolved a national day to reflect the values of that country. Wikipedia reference for all.

## CANADA

Although Canada existed prior to 1867, within both the French and British empires, Canada Day is often informally referred to as "Canada's birthday", particularly in the popular press.<sup>[1][5][6]</sup> However, the term "birthday" can be seen as an oversimplification, as Canada Day is the anniversary of only one important national milestone on the way to the country's full independence, namely the joining on July 1, 1867, of the colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick into a wider British federation of four provinces (the colony of Canada being divided into the provinces of Ontario and Quebec upon Confederation). Canada became a "kingdom in its own right" within the British Empire named the *Dominion of Canada*.<sup>[7][8][9][10][11]</sup> Although still a British colony, Canada gained an increased level of political control and governance over its own affairs, the British parliament and Cabinet maintaining political control over certain areas, such as foreign affairs, national defence, and constitutional changes. Canada gradually gained increasing independence over the years, notably with the passage of the Statute of Westminster in 1931, until finally becoming completely independent with the passing of the 1982 Constitution Act which served to fully patriate the Canadian constitution.<sup>[12]</sup>

Under the federal Holidays Act,<sup>[13]</sup> Canada Day is observed on July 1, unless that date falls on a Sunday, in which case July 2 is the statutory holiday. Celebratory events will generally still take place on July 1, even though it is not the legal holiday.<sup>[14]</sup> If it falls on a Saturday, any businesses normally closed that day will usually dedicate the following Monday (July 3) as a day off.

## NEW ZEALAND

Waitangi Day became a nationwide public holiday on its observance in 1974 by first undergoing a name change. In 1971 the Labour shadow minister of Māori Affairs, Matiu Rata, introduced a private member's bill to make Waitangi Day a national holiday, to be called **New Zealand Day**. This was not passed into law.

After the 1972 election of the third Labour government under Prime Minister Norman Kirk, it was announced that from 1974, Waitangi Day would be a national holiday known as New Zealand Day. The New Zealand Day Act legislation was passed in 1973.<sup>[11]</sup> For Kirk, the change was simply an acceptance that New Zealand was ready to move towards a broader concept of nationhood. Diplomatic posts had for some years marked the day, and it seemed timely in view of the country's increasing role on the international stage that the national day be known as New Zealand Day.<sup>[12]</sup> At the 1974 celebrations, the Flag of New Zealand was flown for the first time at the top of the flagstaff at Waitangi, rather than the Union Flag, and a replica of the flag of the United Tribes of New Zealand was also flown.<sup>[13]</sup>

The election of the third National government in 1975 led to the day being renamed Waitangi Day because the new prime minister, Robert Muldoon, did not like the name "New Zealand Day" and many Māori felt that it debased the treaty. Another Waitangi Day Act was passed in 1976 to change the name back to Waitangi Day.<sup>[14]</sup>

Waitangi Day underwent 'Mondayisation' in legislation enacted in 2013, shifting the public holiday to Monday if 6 February falls on a Saturday or Sunday.<sup>[15]</sup>

## SOUTH AFRICA

**Freedom Day** is a South African public holiday (its national day), celebrated on 27 April. It celebrates freedom and commemorates the first post-apartheid elections held on that day in 1994. The elections were the first non-racial national elections where everyone of voting age of over 18 from any race group, including foreign citizens permanently resident in South Africa,<sup>[1]</sup> were allowed to vote. Previously, under the apartheid regime, non-whites had only limited rights to vote.

It is part of the twelve public holidays determined by the Public Holidays Act (No. 36 of 1994).

On the first commemoration of the holiday, President Nelson Mandela addressed Parliament:<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

As dawn ushered in this day, the 27th of April 1994, few of us could suppress the welling of emotion, as we were reminded of the terrible past from which we come as a nation; the great possibilities that we now have; and the bright future that beckons us. And so we assemble here today, and in other parts of the country, to mark a historic day in the life of our nation. Wherever South Africans are across the globe, our hearts beat as one, as we renew our common loyalty to our country and our commitment to its future.

## SINGAPORE

The National Day of Singapore is celebrated every year on August 9, in commemoration of the Singapore's independence from Malaysia in the year 1965. This holiday features a National Day Parade, an address by the Prime Minister of Singapore, and fireworks celebrations.



On the 2nd/3rd Sunday after the National Day, the Prime Minister of Singapore makes an annual address to the nation, called the National Day Rally. A yearly event since 1966, the Prime Minister uses this rally to address the nation on its key challenges and its future directions, and can be compared to the State of the Union Address delivered by the President of the United States. Prior to 2005, the rally was a continuous speech from 8 pm (SST). From 2005, the Malay and Chinese versions were delivered at 6.45 pm with a break at 7.30 pm while the English version was delivered at 8 pm. Opposition of MPs have been invited to the rally since 2007

## MALAYSIA

Malaysia Day is held on 16 September every year to commemorate the establishment of the Malaysian federation on the same date in 1963. It marked the joining together of Malaya, North Borneo, Singapore and Sarawak to form Malaysia.

## INDIA

Republic Day honours the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950 replacing the Government of India Act (1935) as the governing document of India.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Constitution was adopted by the Indian Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949, and came into effect on 26 January 1950 with a democratic government system, completing the country's transition towards becoming an Independent republic. 26 January was chosen as the Republic day because it was on this day in 1930 when Declaration of Indian Independence (Purna Swaraj) was proclaimed by the Indian National Congress as opposed to the Dominion status offered by British Regime.

It is one of three national holidays in India, the other two being Independence Day and Gandhi Jayanti.

Independence Day is annually celebrated on 15 August, as a national holiday in India commemorating the nation's Independence from the United Kingdom on 15 August 1947, the UK Parliament passed the Indian Independence Act 1947 transferring legislative sovereignty to the Indian Constituent Assembly. India still retained King George VI as head of state until its transition to full republican constitution. India attained Independence following the Independence Movement noted for largely nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience led by the Indian National Congress (INC). Independence coincided with the partition of India, in which the British India was divided along religious lines into the Dominions of India and Pakistan; the partition was accompanied by violent riots and mass casualties, and the displacement of nearly 15 million people due to religious violence. On 15 August 1947, the Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru raised the Indian national flag above the Lahori Gate of the Red Fort in Delhi. On each subsequent Independence Day, the prime minister customarily raises the flag and gives an address to the nation.<sup>[1]</sup>

The holiday is observed throughout India with flag-hoisting ceremonies, parades and cultural events. There is a national holiday, and schools and government offices distribute sweets, but no official work is done.<sup>1</sup>

Tuesday, 28 November 2017

Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield  
Minister for Communications  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

s 47F

Dear Senator,

I write to express my great disappointment in your request that the ABC Board review and reconsider triple J's decision to move the date of *The Hottest 100*.

In your interview with *ABC News Breakfast* this morning, you stated that Australia Day should be a day that unites all Australians. I agree with this sentiment; unfortunately, however, many Indigenous Australians do not feel able to celebrate our nation on a day that also commemorates the arrival of the First Fleet.

As you would be aware, while the British colonisation of New South Wales represents the beginning of modern Australia, it also marks the moment when the devastating fiction of *terra nullus* was realised. This is a date of great historical significance, but it is clearly not a date of universal celebration.

How can a national day be unifying if it is held on a date that also represents the beginning of the historic dispossession of First Nations people -- of their land, language and culture?

Ultimately, as with all things, I believe we should be pragmatic about this issue. To this end, I ask: What is Australia losing by moving our national holiday from 26<sup>th</sup> January -- a day which has only being recognised as a national holiday since 1994? Is the arrival of the first fleet so integral to our collective identity that we must celebrate our nation on this date, to the exclusion of First Australians?

What can we gain if we do make this change? If changing the date will enable *all* Australians to feel welcome and empowered in celebrating our nation, surely this is a worthy goal?

s 47F

s 47F

To the specific decision taken by triple J, you also stated in your interview this morning that the public broadcaster should not take action that divides people. Given that, as outlined above, the 26<sup>th</sup> of January is a divisive day for many Australians, surely triple J's decision to move *The Hottest 100* to a date that is not offensive to Indigenous Australians is working to unite their audience, and Australians more broadly?

I strongly urge you to reconsider your position on this matter; to embrace calls to change the date of Australia Day; and to show leadership in identifying a date on which a truly unifying national day of celebration can be held.

Regards,

s 47F



CC: The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister  
Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs

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s 47F



s 47F

