

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

**Subject:** FW: Aboriginal dignity

**From:** s 47F  
**Sent:** Saturday, 17 May 2014 5:09 AM  
**To:** Scullion, Nigel (Senator)  
**Subject:** Aboriginal dignity

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Senator Nigel Scullion

11 May 2014

Dear Sir,

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
<input 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	.....
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reply by Adviser	.....
s 22(1)(b)(ii)	s 22(1)(b)(ii)
20 MAY 2014	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Dept	<input type="checkbox"/> NFA
Referral: .....	
Instructions: .....	

Aboriginal people need firstly to feel worthwhile and have dignity before any issues affecting them are addressed.

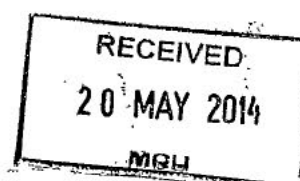
I have for a long time been concerned that Australia Day is on the day of invasion for the Aboriginal people.

For EVERYONE in Australia to celebrate the day, why not make it the day of the referendum - 27 May 1967.

This was the day that the majority of Australians voted to include Aboriginal people as citizens of Australia with the same rights as the non Aboriginal people.

How can the indigenous population feel as if they belong when the Government holds a public holiday on the day that invaders took their land and started the anihhilation of their people?

s 47F



LH+R- Recog + recog  
S11poststream

To The minister In Charge Of Aboriginal Affairs

Senator The Honorable Nigel Scullion

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> Brief Rec'd
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Parl. Sec.	<input type="checkbox"/> s 47F
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reply by CoS	<input type="checkbox"/> s 47F
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Advisor	
11 MAR 2014	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Dept.	<input type="checkbox"/> 01/03/2014
Referral: .....	
Instructions: .....	PL, cover constitutional recognition

Dear Sir,

I have a suggestion, regarding the meaning of Australia Day for your consideration. s 47F

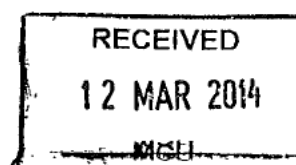
### THE CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY

There are many encouraging developments in the Aboriginal communities – academic, political, artistic, constructive employment, and life style achievements, and it's great that the Government is responsible for a number of these activities..

Increasingly the Australia Day celebration date seems inappropriate and misleading. This date is when the British landed, assumed that they were the first citizens, and settled individuals from the British jails.

Decimation of the aboriginal population, life style, and culture, started. They only gave diseases, and alcohol in return. Today many of the negatives that influence a number of young aborigines, some of whom throw their lives away, appear to be a lack of self respect, life without purpose or hope for the future, and the inability or unwillingness to benefit from the growing educational and employment opportunities, developed recently. Welfare money and the feeling that white Australians see them as inferior don't help the situation. The older Aborigines feel that their old culture, beliefs, and social structures are not understood or respected by 'White Australia.' The truth is that we could learn a lot from them

Let's do something about the insult to the Aborigines 'The First Australians', that is, the meaning of the Australia Day date. The respected Aboriginal leaders could be consulted about selecting another earlier date. Perhaps Australia Day could be one week earlier, so that the true 'First Australians' will be celebrated



s 22(1)(b)(ii)

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

Yours Sincerely,

s 47F

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

MC18-003252

IAG-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	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Parl. Sec.	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject: .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by CoS	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Advisor	.....
17 JAN 2018	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Dept	<input type="checkbox"/> NFA
Referral: .....	
Instructions: # ILLC culture.	

17 JAN 2018

4pm

s 47F

Email:

s 47F

27 August, 2017

The Hon. Malcom Turnbull MP

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your remarkable contribution to the government of Australia.

My name is

s 47F

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

Australia Day should remain as is because it is the beginning of an everlasting union of all Australians.

"O, the Great South Land is the Dreaming where our hearts beat as one,

And the spirits of our fathers find peace, in the sacred valleys of sun –

The long sea roving is over, the shores have been charted and drawn,

One people, one land the moon birds call as they fly to embrace the dawn"

Sincerely,

s 47F

s 22(1)(b)(ii)





s 22(1)(b)(ii)

From: s 47F  
 Sent: Friday, 10 February 2017 10:03 AM  
 To: Scullion, Nigel  
 Subject: Fw: The Great Aussie.....

From: s 47F  
 Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 3:53 PM  
 To: : FW: The Great Aussie.....

I don't want to upset anyone but this is an interesting overlook of recent events.

Cheers s 47F

From: s 47F  
 Subject: FW: The Great Aussie.....

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
<input 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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10 FEB 2017	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Dept	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NFA
Referral: .....	.....
Instructions: <i>UIMR</i>	.....

### The Great Aussie Bastard

January 24

*This is a comment written by a John on the Daily Telegraph page who has an **Aboriginal ancestor**.*

*On 26 January 1788 when the First Fleet ships unloaded their c12...00 convicts, Royal Marine guards and officials not a shot was fired.*

*As they looked around what's now Circular Quay they saw nothing other than bush.*

*Not a single building, planted field, domesticated plant or animal - nothing at all. It was the same across the continent.*

*It was "terra nullius" - a vacant land.*

*There was no Aboriginal Army to defeat in battle. There was nothing to claim as the spoils of victory.*

*There was just wild bush. The few Aborigines who came out to have a look at these strange people were completely illiterate and innumerate*

*and those on the south side of the harbour spoke a language completely unintelligible to those on the north side of the harbour and they'd been constantly at war*

13 FEB 2017

with each other for as long as anyone can remember.

There was no "invasion".

Captain Phillip was instructed by the government in London to treat the natives "with amity and kindness" and he did.

No Aborigines were shot; no platoon of Marines fixed their bayonets or loaded their muskets or took a shot at anyone who emerged from the bush

to see what was going on. Instead they offered them gifts and friendship.

Most people now "identified" as "indigenous" - like myself and my children and grandchildren have European - mostly British - ancestry to a greater or lesser extent.

I recently had a DNA test done that shows I'm 48% Irish, 20% English, 30% Scandinavian, 1% Spanish and 1% Aboriginal.

The absurdity is that, in this time of identity politics, I am an "Aborigine" by virtue of the fact that one of my Irish ancestors married an Aboriginal woman **6 generation ago**.

There is no reason to change Australia Day. It was the day "Australia" came into being and had it not been for those British coming ashore on 26 January 1788

I wouldn't exist and neither would Mr Mundine.

The name "Mundine" is as English as a cold pork pie or fish-n-chips wrapped in newspaper.

It's time for all indigenous people take a spoonful of cement, harden up and to get over what happened 229 years ago and stop playing the victim.



**From:** [REDACTED] s 47F  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 June 2016 2:39 PM  
**To:** Scullion, Nigel (Senator)  
**Subject:** Australia Day

Hi,

I am a [REDACTED] s 47F and I am investigating the issue of whether Australia Day should be changed to another date to be more inclusive of Aboriginal people. I would be interested to know what the policy of your party is on this particular issue and if you have a personal opinion that you may like to share.

I would appreciate a reply if you are able to do so.

Kind Regards,  
[REDACTED] s 47F

MC18-002112

Dear Hon. Nigel Scullion

Po box 6100 Parliament House. act 2600

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
<input 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	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Advisor	
10 JAN 2018	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reply by Dept	<input type="checkbox"/> NFA
Referral: .....	5-1-18
Instructions: <i>HL: culture</i>	
<i>using recent words of letters signed</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

mob

s 47F

email

s 47F

BUNGAREE  
& Matthew  
FLINDERS who  
circumnavigated  
Australia together  
in 1803



10 JAN 2018

MCU 4pm

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

mob

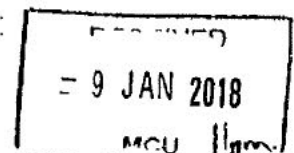
s 47F

email

s 47F

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
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05 JAN 2018	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reply by Dept	<input type="checkbox"/> NFA
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Instructions: <i>HCC: Culture</i>	.....

*Using recent words  
in office letters of response  
on same.*





MC17-003249

IAG-HLC

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

From: 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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<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Parl. Sec.	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject: .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by CoS	
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12 JAN 2018	
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Instructions: HLC: Culture	

03/06/2017 09:30:55 PM

s 47F

s 47F

MABO Day

Hello Mr Turnbull

I just watched the news report on Mabo Day celebrations and feel compelled to write to you.

I am a non-indigenous Australian. A non Greeny, and a centre Conservative, so not the type of person who gets out and protests about Aboriginal rights. But in 2017 it is clear the rights of Aboriginal people in Australian history have been at most times non existent and best, just ignored. They have been treated very badly. And there is no question that the continent was theirs before the British arrived and destroyed the Aboriginal way of life, not to mention, murdered so many of the people.

I was very upset at the comments that Australia Day should be eliminated because it is invasion day. The day marks the beginning of the building of a great nation to be proud of. So I am all for Australia day.

MARBO DAY

But I think there should be a national holiday every year to celebrate the anniversary of that historic day when Mr Marbo's case was won. I think it would be a great day for us all to share in the pride of their culture and a chance for us to reconcile differences. We could all celebrate the knowledge that Aboriginal people were the original people in this land.

Would you please consider the idea. I bet if that was a referendum question Australia would vote yes.

Thank you. s 47F

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

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

s 47F

13 SEP 2017  
 C. H. H. H.

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> Brief Req'd
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<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by CoS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reply by Advisor	
12 SEP 2017	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Dept	<input type="checkbox"/> NFA
Referral: .....	
Instructions: <i>Call Home</i>	

## **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>[4][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>[1]</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>

MC17- 076805

Senator The Honourable / 30.01.17  
 Nigel Scullion  
 Minister for Indigenous Affairs

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Parl. Sec.	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject: .....
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06 FEB 2017	
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Referral: .....	
Instructions: .....	

*culture*  
*Working to be worked*

Dear Mr Scullion,

Can I first say thank you for in office.  
 your 'contribution to the Indigenous  
 Affairs portfolio. I can imagine this work  
 to be complex and challenging.  
 Thank you for your service to Australia,  
 for the personal sacrifices you make  
 and for all the work you do that  
 goes unthanked and unnoticed. I  
 believe that politics is ultimately an  
 altruistic endeavor and I thank you  
 for serving in this way.

06 FEB 2017

I am writing to you today to  
 draw your attention to a significant  
 moment in Australian history that  
 has just occurred and to give

(1)

you a firsthand account of the events that transpired.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017 the City of Fremantle in Perth WA held an event called 'One day in Fremantle'. The event was in place of Australia Day celebrations traditionally held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January.

As you know the 26<sup>th</sup> of Jan marks the date that the first British fleet raised the Union Flag, symbolic British occupation. This day is known to many indigenous people as the beginning of the sickness, the beginning of the genocidal war. Jan 26 also marks remorse and regret for non-indigenous Australians that understand our history in its true sense.

On the 28th of Jan in Fneo the day began with a smoking ceremony initiated by Noongar Elders of the Whadjuk nation; our beautiful wildflower country of the South West.

The ceremony was a time for storytelling and, for listening. As stories were told a deeper knowing of our country began to unravel, the words traveled on smoke over the one-thousand plus people gathered. Our identity as Australians began to take a more complete shape as we reflected on the strength and resilience passed down from ancestors that suffered captivity and torture to our young indigenous that today battle the ongoing effects of colonisation and marginalisation.



The cleansing of the morning set the tone for the celebrations of the afternoon. When we set foot at the esplanade I was immediately overwhelmed with a sense of peace and joy, it was contagious. To see the faces of the old people lit up with pride and relief was truly moving.

Aboriginal and non Aboriginal children scaled the play equipment together with parents looking on together. It was the sweetest of evenings. There was joyful solidarity in every face wanting to be a part of a reconciliation story. Wanting something better than January 26.

As I watched the sun go down  
over the peaceful gathering of  
15 000 dancers and picnickers I  
thought of you Mr Scullion.  
What kind of Australia day  
celebration do you want to champion?  
You have the power to stop  
the party that dances on the  
graves of our ancestors and  
enshrines us in shame. You  
can bring us as a nation forward  
into a deeper richer story that  
brings healing to the victim and  
the perpetrator. This is not a  
~~mere~~ rhetorical question. I want to  
know what you intend to do  
about this national day of shame

let me finish by saying that I am available to offer helpful resources and continue a discussion with you on the matter. As an active member of my local community I am available to collect grass roots evidence for you.

The Premier Colin Barnett and the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull have spewed vitriolic threats about this initiative, perhaps they do not understand all of the sentiment behind Jan 26? I believe you as Indigenous Affairs minister are charged with a duty to represent and educate your party on these matters. I hope you are encouraged by the example that Fremantle has made and will feel courageous in moving forward with reconciliation in our nation. Your legacy matters. Change the date.

(6)

I wish you all the best in  
2017, I look forward to hearing  
your thoughts.

Kinel Regards, your friend

s 47F

s 47F

s 47F

s 47F

13 FEB 2017

②

MC 17-018522.

The Honorable Malcolm Turnbull MP

Senator the Honorable Nigel Scullion

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, NSW, Minister Leslie Williams

NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian

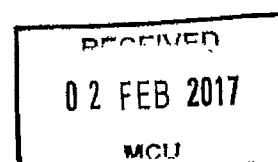
Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reply by Advisor	.....
31 JAN 2017	
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Dear Members,

I wish to express my opinion for a change of date for Australia Day (26<sup>th</sup> January) for Aborigines so that they can reflect on their own day with relevant meaning as to what colonisation has meant to them. How can they possibly rejoice on the present date? History speaks otherwise and this must be reflected in the ways we live and how we treat Aborigines.

To list but a few of the atrocities visited upon the Aborigines, there were:-

1. Invasion literally over-night. All land automatically taken, although Cook was warned by the British not to put the British Flag up if there were people in the land when he was on voyage. His Log Books now reveal he DID see people I(Aborigines), but he didn't consider them people!!... People here for 40000 years or so!
2. The use of the gun against them.(What chances of survival here?)
3. Sources of food cut off from them. Relegation to the outskirts of the cities.
4. Stolen Children.
5. Incarceration and Deaths- in -Custody.
6. Massacres. Only one trial (Myall Creek) was won by the Aborigines because the Attorney General, Plunkett, asked for another trial.
7. Aboriginal children not forced to go to school.



MC 17-016740.

8. That atrocious Department for Aboriginal Affairs; copies of what were done to the Aborigines by that Board....now open to the Public by such re-visionist historians as Henry Reynolds.

9. I have seen records at the Woorabinda Mission which revealed people were punished for such things as "answering back".

10. Curfews.

11. Permission to marry.

I mention but a few of the atrocities. The results have been devastating throughout 200+ years.

The Maories have named another date other than the British date. They can "celebrate" their existence in their own way, in spite of colonisation in New Zealand.

Please consider this request with the respect it warrants.

Yours truly,

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

s 47F

s 47F



s 22(1)(b)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(b)(ii) (Sen N. Scullion) s 22(1)(b)(ii) on behalf of Scullion, Nigel  
 (Senator) <Senator.Scullion@aph.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 July 2016 8:59 AM  
**To:** Scullion, Nigel  
**Subject:** FW: Treaty with First Australians  
**Importance:** High

s 22(1)(b)(ii) Constituent Enquiries | Office of Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion  
 Minister for Indigenous Affairs | Senator for the Northern Territory | Leader of the Nationals in the Senate  
 T s 22(1)(b)(ii) F s 22(1)(b)(ii) M s 22(1)(b)(ii)  
 1/229 McMillans Rd, Jingili NT 0810  
[www.nigelscullion.com](http://www.nigelscullion.com)

**From:** s 47F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 July 2016 12:08 PM  
**To:** Scullion, Nigel (Senator)  
**Cc:** Turnbull, Malcolm (MP); [minister@maff.gov.au](mailto:minister@maff.gov.au); s 47F  
**Subject:** Treaty with First Australians  
**Importance:** High

**Attention:** Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion  
 Minister for Indigenous Affairs

Dear Minister,

Beyond constitutional recognition, does the Coalition Government support a treaty with the first Australians?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have never ceded ownership of this their land and they have lived and occupied every part of this country for well over 40,000 years. Their land was stolen from them through violence and despotism and the Australian Government has not till this day offered the first Australians a deserved treaty – the only true and just way to begin healing and to begin righting the wrongs of the past.

I'm one such non-aboriginal Australian that doesn't hold his head up proud on Australia day, and will never be able to do so until we have righted the wrongs of the past and fully and squarely faced our dark history. Can you answer how it is that I should be able to stand as a proud Australian knowing intimately the history of the invasion of this land?

Until such time as a Federal Government has the leadership to forge a treaty with the first Australians, Australia Day will always remain to represent the Invasion Day.

"The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been." Henry Kissinger

I look forward to your response and learning the official position of the current Government.

Yours faithfully,

s 47F

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

☐ Reply by Minister  
☒ Reply by Parl. Sec.  
☐ Reply by CoS  
☐ Reply by Advisor

☐ Brief Req'd  
 Subject: .....

28 JUL 2016

☐ Reply by Dept  
 Referral: .....

Instructions: *Constitutional Recognition Taskforce*

☐ NFA



Dear government,

I think that Australia Day should be celebrated on a different day because it's the day we stole Australia from the ~~india~~ Aboriginal people. It's a day for Aboriginal people to ~~feel~~ feel sad and I don't think that's right. It's like celebrating ~~that~~ because we killed lots and lots of Aboriginal ~~pea~~ people.

From

s 47F

Minister,  
A letter for you  
from my  
daughter.

s 47F

s 47F





# Bob BALDWIN MP

*listening locally - fighting nationally*



Bob Baldwin MP - Federal Member for Paterson

Electorate: PO Box 156 Raymond Terrace NSW 2324, 35 Sturgeon Street Raymond Terrace • Phone (02) 4983 1330 • Toll free 1300 656 840 • Fax (02) 4987 5444  
 Canberra: Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 • Phone (02) 6277 4200 • Fax (02) 6277 8447 • Email: [bob.baldwin.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:bob.baldwin.mp@aph.gov.au)

BB:JW:REF:1868441

Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion  
 Minister for Indigenous Affairs  
 Parliament House  
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Nigel,

I write further to correspondence dated 29 January 2016 from my constituent s 47F regarding his concern surrounding the date and significance of celebration on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, Australia Day.

Please find enclosed a copy of the correspondence for your information and consideration. I would appreciate your review of the matters raised and look forward to your response.

Please contact my office should you require any further information in this regard.

Yours faithfully,  
s 22(1)(b)(ii)

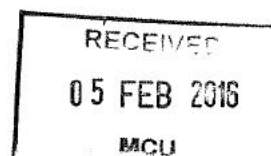
Bob Baldwin MP  
 Federal Member for Paterson

MC16-009489  
 IAC - Housing, Land & Culture

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
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04 FEB 2016	
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Referral: .....	
Instructions: Culture Branch	

-To original letter.

VIP



**From:** bob@bobbaldwin.com.au [mailto:bob@bobbaldwin.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 January 2016 7:10 PM  
**To:** enquiries@bobbaldwin.com.au  
**Subject:** New Submission

A user has submitted the form on your site.

Click [here](#) to see the details

#### Contact Bob

**Title:** Mr  
**First Name:** s 47F  
**Surname:** s 47F  
**Company Name:** -  
**Address:** s 47F  
**Suburb:** s 47F  
**State:** s 22(1)  
**Postcode:** s 47F  
**Email:** s 47F  
**Telephone:** s 47F  
**Mobile:** -

#### Enquiry:

I sent this message to the Liberal Party in Canberra but no one bothered to reply. I am not an Aborigine but I understand the concerns the Aboriginal people have for having Australia Day on the 26th January to celebrate the first white settlement in Australia. Australia Day should celebrate when we became a nation separate from British rule and that happened in 1901 { Federation } when the Commonwealth of Australia was born with states and territories and a Prime Minister. That date was the 1st January { New Years Day } but surely we can Australia Day on another date { perhaps when first Federal Parliament was held or even Federation when it was decided to form a nation }. To me this makes more sense and it would make more sense to the Aboriginal people. I was a Primary teacher for forty years and it was very difficult to discuss Australia Day with Aboriginal children in my class. I contacted you because unlike other Liberal representatives, you take the time to answer and follow-up questions. Why can't the Australian Government look at this issue? Changing the date won't be an expense. I do know that the majority of Aboriginal people will not celebrate the current Australia Day on the 26th January.

**Validation:** FAILED

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

**From:** s 22(1)(b)(ii) (Sen N. Scullion) s 22(1)(b)(ii) on behalf of Scullion, Nigel  
 (Senator) <Senator.Scullion@aph.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 January 2016 12:46 PM  
**To:** Scullion, Nigel  
**Subject:** FW: Australia Day

s 22(1)(b)(ii) Electorate Officer | Office of Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion  
**Minister for Indigenous Affairs | Senator for the Northern Territory | Leader of the Nationals in the Senate**  
 T s 22(1)(b)(ii) | F s 22(1)(b)(ii)  
 1/229 McMillans Rd, Jingili NT 0810  
[www.nigelscullion.com](http://www.nigelscullion.com)

**From:** s 47F  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 January 2016 12:17 PM  
**To:** Scullion, Nigel (Senator); Peris, Nova (Senator); Di Natale, Richard (Senator); [shorten.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:shorten.mp@aph.gov.au);  
[bandt.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:bandt.mp@aph.gov.au); [albanese.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:albanese.mp@aph.gov.au); [ken.vowles@nt.gov.au](mailto:ken.vowles@nt.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Australia Day

Would the honourable ministers, senators and Members please consider expanding the concept of Australia Day to be inclusive of Invasion Day and Sorry Day?

Could this public holiday be extended to a three day occasion similar to Easter which recognizes a progression and transition?

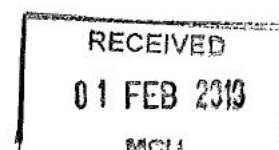
The 24th could be a combined Discovery and Invasion Day recognizing both the hopes of the discoverers and new settlers and the anguish and losses of the first Australians. The 25th could be a Sorry and Reconciliation Day and the 26th, a Day of hope, reconciliation and affirmative action.

If not, perhaps a recognized and separate Invasion Day and Sorry Day could be added to the calendar.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

s 47F

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
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Instructions: <i>CA HARR</i>	





s 22(1)(b)(ii)

From: webservices@pmc.gov.au on behalf of s 47F <webservices@pmc.gov.au>  
 Sent: Monday, 30 January 2017 1:44 PM  
 To: Scullion, Nigel  
 Subject: Australia /Invasion day

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

Submitted on Monday, January 30, 2017 - 13:43 Submitted by user: Anonymous Submitted values are:

Minister: Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion

Title: Retired

First Name: s 47F

Last Name: s 47F

Email address: s 47F

Subject: Australia /Invasion day

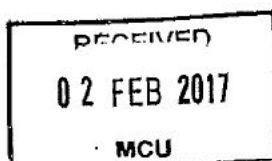
Comment:

Good morning Minister, I feel someone should challenge the absurd accusation of Australia Day being Invasion day. 11 ships left England on the 13th of May 1787 to the Penal Colony of Australia. the First fleet comprised 2 Royal navy, 3 store, and 6 convict transports ships. In total roughly 1100 to 1500 people, made up of Marines, seamen, officers, free people and convicts. the arrival of the fleet was 18th -20th of January 1788 I believe the estimated population of Indigenous at the time of the fleets arrival was estimated between 318,000 and 1,000,000. On this basis I do not think the word Invasion can be used to destroy Australia Day, and comments from Government should be made to support the B--s being flung around by the Fremantle Council, and other radicals.

I am a proud 4th generation Australian and object to radicals endeavouring to destroy what so many of our boys have fought and died for. A day when we celebrate our freedom and our loyalty to our flag

As a matter of further interest I am very willing to support the education and fair go to the Indigenous people if the minority group of them are policed by the majority to stop the bashings, rape, break-ins, car theft, and much more. It continues on a daily basis and all I read and hear is grumbles about how many Indigenous young are in jail.

Regards s 47F



Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
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Instructions: <i>Culture</i>	

MC17-111379

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

From: s 47F  
 Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 12:59 PM  
 To: Scullion, Nigel  
 Subject: Senator Fifield's position on Australia Day  
 Attachments: 17-11-28 - s 47F - Letter to Senator Fifield - Australia Day.pdf

Dear Senator Scullion,

Please see attached for your consideration a letter regarding Senator Fifield's position on Australia Day, including the recent decision by triple j to reschedule The Hottest 100. If possible, I would appreciate a response from you to the questions outlined in this letter.

Regards,

s 47F

s 47F

Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
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28 NOV 2017 <i>referral</i>	
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Instructions: <i>File</i>	

29 NOV 2017

MCU *2pm*



Tuesday, 28 November 2017

s 47F

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

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 nullius* 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 22(1)(b)(ii)

s 47F

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

---

s 47F

s 47F

s 22(1)(b)(ii)

From: s 47F  
 Sent: Monday, 5 December 2016 7:13 PM  
 Subject: Australia Day

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to you regarding Australia Day, and request that you consider the argument for changing its official date, and ask the senate/parliament to debate this topic. I would also like to propose the third Monday in February for this holiday, and ask you to at least consider this date.

Australia Day is meant to be a day to celebrate what is great about Australia and being Australian. As the anniversary of the proclamation of British sovereignty over Australia, January 26<sup>th</sup> is a poor choice for such a celebration, as this event lacks the ability to inspire the pride and patriotism that would make it deserving of a prominent role in a national day celebrating our country, especially with its controversial links to the destruction of Aboriginal culture and loss of life that make it a day of mourning for much of the Aboriginal community and its supporters. I feel it would therefore be fitting for a new date to be found.

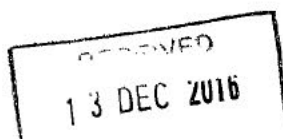
I'd also like to propose the third Monday in February (ranging between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> each year) to be considered for Australia Day as it:

- Has no links to any controversial event in Australia's history (as far as I can tell).
- Does not coincide with the anniversary of any particular event, therefore allowing greater focus on the celebration of Australia as a whole, rather than commemorating such an event, which also has the potential to falsely inflate the importance of said event in our history.
- Occurs during the school term, giving the opportunity for teachers to engage children in the event through studies and themed school activities.
- Retains a summer celebration for Australia Day, allowing many of the existing traditions that rely on fine weather to be maintained.
- Ensures a three day weekend, and avoids the inconvenience of the occasional mid-week public holiday.

If a date so early in the school term is inappropriate, several other Mondays in January or February would also work for many of the same reasons as above.

I hope that you consider this proposal and bring it to debate in the senate or parliament. Thank you for your time.

s 47F



Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply by Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> Brief Req'd
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