



Australian Government

Department of the
Prime Minister and Cabinet



Acknowledging Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples with Australia's National Symbols

FLYING THE ABORIGINAL AND THE TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAGS

The Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag became official flags of Australia on 14 July 1995.

At times of special significance it is encouraged, as a symbol of respect and reconciliation, to fly the Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Islander Flags alongside the Australian National Flag. Flying the flags can be a sign of reconciliation. Treat the flags with respect and dignity.

The Australian National Flag is the lead flag when it is flown with other flags, such as the Aboriginal or the Torres Strait Islander Flags.

The Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag are equal under flag protocol. They can be flown in any order. They do not need to be flown together.

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL FLAG

The Australian Aboriginal Flag is the flag of Aboriginal peoples of Australia.

The Australian Aboriginal Flag was first raised on 9 July 1971 at Victoria Square in Adelaide. Mr Harold Thomas from Northern Australia designed the flag.



Designed by Mr Harold Thomas

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAG

The Torres Strait Islander Flag is the flag of Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia.

The Torres Strait Islander Flag design is credited to the late Mr Bernard Namok of Thursday Island.



Designed by Mr Bernard Namok

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Australian National Anthem is an important national symbol of Australia. It should be treated with respect and dignity.

All Australians are encouraged to sing the Australian National Anthem at ceremonies or public events.

ANTHEM PROTOCOLS

When the Australian National Anthem is played at a ceremony or public event, it is a sign of respect to stand. The Anthem can be played at any time during an event (it doesn't have to be played at the start of an event).

The tune or tempo of the Australian National Anthem should not be changed. Any musical instrument may be used in the performance of the Anthem.

SINGING IN-LANGUAGE

The Australian National Anthem should be sung in English, as this is the language in which it has been proclaimed as the official anthem of Australia.

When sung in a language other than English, the song is known as Advance Australia Fair rather than the Australian National Anthem.

The official National Anthem, in English, should play before any other versions of the song Advance Australia Fair.

REPRODUCING IMAGES OF THE FLAGS

Images of the flags should be used respectfully, just like the flag it represents, and shown accurately.

To use images of the Torres Strait Islander Flag you need to request permission from the Torres Strait Island Regional Council:

Torres Strait Island Regional Council

PO Box 7336

Cairns QLD 4870

Telephone: 07 4034 5700

The reproduce the Australian Aboriginal Flag on flags and pennants, banners and buntings you need to request permission from Carroll & Richardson - Flagworld Pty Ltd

Flagworld Pty Ltd

22-24 Miles Street

Mulgrave VIC 3170

Telephone: 1800 135 247

International: +61 3 9566 4500

The Commonwealth allows the design of the Australian Aboriginal Flag to be freely reproduced by the public on all other mediums.