

Supporting reconciliation



Our national flags



Australian flag

White Commonwealth Star: unity of six states and the Australian territories
Southern Cross: reminder of Australia's geography
Union Jack: history of British settlement



Aboriginal flag

Black: Aboriginal people
Yellow: sun, the giver of life
Red: earth and the spiritual relationship to the land



Torres Strait Islander flag

White dhari: headdress
White star: five major island groups
Black: Torres Strait Islander people
Green: land
Blue: sea



QIECC

Queensland Indigenous Education
Consultative Committee

Great state. Great opportunity.



Queensland
Government

History of our national flags

Australian

Following Australian Federation on 1 January 1901, the Commonwealth Government staged the 1901 Federal Flag Design Competition, attracting 32 823 entries.

The judges chose five almost identical designs and shared the £200 prize money equally, including one £40 prize given to a Melbourne schoolboy, Ivor Evans.

The designs were all based on two earlier designs: the national colonial flag (1923/24 designed by Captains John Nicholson and John Bingle) and the Australian federation flag (1931 designed by Captain Nicholson).

The final design was approved by King Edward VII in 1902 but not gazetted until 1934.

Aboriginal

The Aboriginal flag is an official flag of Australia recognised under Federal legislation in July 1995.

It was designed by Aboriginal Elder and Artist Harold Thomas in 1971 as a symbol of Aboriginal identity.

The flag was first flown on National Aborigine's Day in Victoria Square, Adelaide, on 12 July 1971.

It was created as a symbol of unity and national identity for Aboriginal people during the land rights movement of the early 1970s.

Torres Strait Islands

The Torres Strait Islander flag is an official flag of Australia recognised under Federal legislation in July 1995.

The flag was designed by Torres Strait Islander Bernard Namok.

It is emblazoned with a white Dhari (headdress), a prominent symbol of Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The white five pointed star symbolises peace, the five major island groups and the navigational importance of stars to the seafaring people of the Torres Strait.

Flag-flying protocols

Strict flag-flying protocols govern the way all Australian flags are used.

More information can be obtained from:

www.itsanhonour.gov.au/symbols/docs/australian_flags_excerpt.pdf

