



Reconciliation Week in Australia - Significance of the dates.

The beginning and end dates of National Reconciliation Week mark two significant milestones in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history post-colonisation.

May 27th is the anniversary of the passing of the 1967 Referendum when Australians voted to amend the constitution, enabling the Commonwealth to make laws for First Nations peoples and for them to be included in the census.

The end of the Week, **June 3rd, marks the anniversary of the Mabo decision**, (1992) when the High Court of Australia recognised the land rights of the Meriam people – successfully overturning the lie of terra nullius on which the colonisation of Australia was founded.

Both moments represent the culmination of decades-long campaigning by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activists fighting to slowly have their rights recognised within their own lands.

