

Dear

Your participation will help reconcile our history and reshape the future for all Australians.

This January 26, we want to invite all followers of Christ to open our hearts to a greater understanding, a deeper compassion and an acknowledgment of what this day represents for Indigenous Australians.

Indigenous Christian leader Mark-Yettica-Paulson says, *“There are many reasons why Australia is a fabulous and awesome country, so how do we celebrate that without digging the knife into Aboriginal people? How do we celebrate without saying, ‘We never recognised you when we founded this country, and we’re not going to recognise you now.’?”*

As the church united, let us speak love, act out forgiveness, and in humility work together for a national identity that includes and honours all Australians, particularly first Australians.

As a part of supporting that journey, **we’ve included a Church Service Resource Kit that we’ve developed especially for Churches of Christ congregations to use during a service on or near January 26th.**

Here are some ideas to help your service facilitate strong and respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians in your church and wider community:

1. Learn: [Read Mark Yettica-Paulson’s fantastic article: Liberating the Change the Date Conversation.](#)
2. Pray: [Join one of Common Grace’s ‘Change the Heart’ prayer services](#) in the lead up to Australia Day.
3. Act: [Read Australians Together’s ‘Australia Day: Pride and Pain’ timeline](#) and discover some more ideas to respond.
4. Invite an Indigenous Australian to be involved in your service.
5. Give thanks for new life in Indigenous ministries and help support these projects through a financial gift (we’ve included a copy of our IMA brochure that shows how you can donate).

So, what could the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Australia look like if we leave behind fear and misunderstanding? If we choose the act of forgiveness and humility? If we believe that God is at work doing something amazing in our nation? Honouring and including one another can transform the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd

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You and your church can help make a difference in our future together. Please join us on this journey of **inclusion and honouring** with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Help contribute to that greater picture of what it means to be Australian.

To find out more about our Indigenous ministries, please visit www.gmp.org.au/about-us/more-about-ima, or engage with us on <https://www.facebook.com/imaaustralia/>

Blessings,

Nick Wight, Remy Sese, Colin Battersby,
The IMA Team.

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