

The top of the page features a vibrant background of overlapping circular patterns in shades of orange, teal, and pink, reminiscent of traditional Indigenous art. In the center, a large black circle contains the text "NAIDOC Week 2023 For our Elders" in a bold, multi-colored font.

NAIDOC Week 2023 For our Elders

Leader's notes

Please advise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within your meeting that these resources may contain names and images of deceased persons.

Introduction to theme

In NAIDOC Week 2023, with the utmost respect, we honour the ones that have gone before us. They endured trauma, racism, injustice and knockbacks. They did not give up. Instead, with deep wisdom, courage and tenacity they fought to be seen and heard. Their voices and advocacy have paved the way for us to do what we do today.

Providing steady influence and carrying extensive knowledge, both individually and collectively, our Elders provide an anchor point – praying and believing for a healed and unified nation. They pass on to the next generation the wisdom and stories that keep this vibrant culture alive and remind us of the wisdom and faithfulness of God.

In NAIDOC Week 2023 we celebrate our Indigenous Elders. We also celebrate our non-Indigenous elders who have journeyed alongside their Indigenous brothers and sisters, fighting for justice and amplifying the voices of those who need to be heard. We commit to furthering their work in gratitude for their achievements and for the sake of generations to come.

Check out the NAIDOC Week website to get involved with events that are happening around the country and build connections in your community.

- Local NAIDOC Week committees [Local NAIDOC Committees](#)
- Local event calendar [Local NAIDOC Week events](#) – join another event or register your event

NOTE: This resource pack includes an Intergenerational segment. It is suitable for all ages and we encourage you to use it even if you do not have children in your meeting.



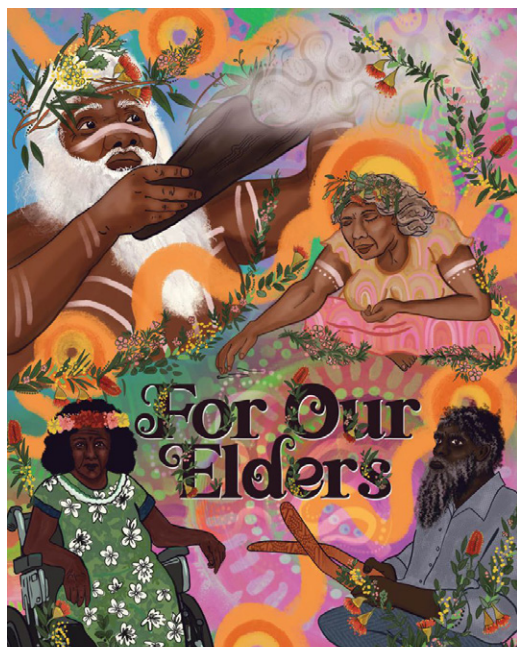
NAIDOC Week 2023 poster

This year's NAIDOC Week poster was designed by Bobbi Lockyer, a proud Ngarluma, Kariyarra, Nyulnyul and Yawuru artist, born and based on Kariyarra Country in Port Hedland.

Bobbi says, "With this poster I wanted to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future."

We encourage you to display this poster during NAIDOC Week.

To download the poster or find out more about the artwork, visit <https://www.naidoc.org.au/2023-poster>



NAIDOC Week
2-9 JULY 2023
#NAIDOC2023 #ForOurElders
@naidocweek @naidocweek facebook.com/NAIDOC
Where there is knowledge there are our Elders. Our Elders passed the knowledge for us, taught us our language, our history, they passed down their art, stories and wisdom. Our Elders are the foundation of our communities and are models for our children. With this poster, we want to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future.

DOs and DON'Ts – some helpful tips for connection

Connection can be difficult at any time – this is magnified when there is a history of hurt. It is only when we are willing to try, when we are willing to move outside our comfort zones and when we are courageous enough to feel awkward that we make progress. Consider the challenges that our Elders have overcome to bring the people of our nation together and take a step forward. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

- **Don't** assume that our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters have all the answers when it comes to journeying together. It is the responsibility of every person to wrestle through the challenges and find better ways forward.
- **Do** begin with an Acknowledgement of Country or invite a local Elder to bring a Welcome to Country.
- **Do** wear a shirt with an Indigenous design, display an Aboriginal and a Torres Strait Islander flag, or wear a Unity pin. These symbols represent your commitment to a more unified future.
- **Don't** engage as a 'once off' or token gesture. Strive to connect to build ongoing relationships.
- **Do** try to learn how to say a few words of welcome in the language of the Traditional Custodians of your land. Do ask for help with pronunciation.
- **Do** ensure that you are appreciating rather than appropriating culture.

See the [Supporting NAIDOC toolkit](#) for additional information about how to connect in culturally safe and appropriate ways.



Scripture suggestions

Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you.

Deuteronomy 32:7, NIV

Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob, all the remnant of the people of Israel, you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

Isaiah 46:3-5, NIV

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

Psalms 92:12-15, NIV

Gray hair is a crown of splendour; it is attained in the way of righteousness.

Proverbs 16:31, NIV

Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

Proverbs 17:6, NIV

Prayer

Father, throughout the story of the Word, you remind us of the importance of our elders. They carry wisdom, experience and knowledge that can inform and guide us if we are humble enough to listen.

Today we joyfully celebrate the gift of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders. We think of the care they have taken of our lands and waters and the rich culture they have helped to preserve. Thank you for the courageous lives that they have lived – the battles they have fought and the victories they have won. We are grateful for the opportunities to journey together that are available today as a result of their lives.

We deeply grieve the pain and trauma, the racism and discrimination, that they have endured. We ask for healing for our nation.

May the stories of our Elders inspire us to strive harder, to be more united, to work through the pain and discomfort to reach a place of peace and equality.

Daily prayer of commitment

Invite everyone to pray this prayer together as a corporate commitment. Encourage them to continue to pray it daily as we journey together towards healing.

Our Creator Spirit, you are like the fragrance of fresh gum leaves and as sweet as nectar. I adore you. I acknowledge that this is where you placed First Nations peoples, to have this deep and enduring relationship with you and creation.

Give me a greater understanding of Indigenous peoples and give me the courage to be brave, to step out in faith, to be bold and to stand in solidarity with them.

Forgive me when I've looked the other way. Let me use your power to bring peace and unity to this nation, so that the wound in the heart of Australia is healed. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Salvation Army Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Team, 2023.

