

# NAIDOC Week 2023 For our Elders

## Honouring our Elders

“Remember the days of long ago; think about the generations past. Ask your father, and he will inform you. Inquire of your elders, and they will tell you.”

Deuteronomy 32:7, NLT

With great strength, wisdom and dignity, Aboriginal and Torres Islanders have led their peoples and fought for justice for generations upon generations. They have set an example that is an inspiration for all Australians. Many Indigenous Australians feel they have not been valued or heard in the past. This is an opportunity to create spaces where we intentionally listen to and honour our Elders who have passed and those who continue to journey with us.

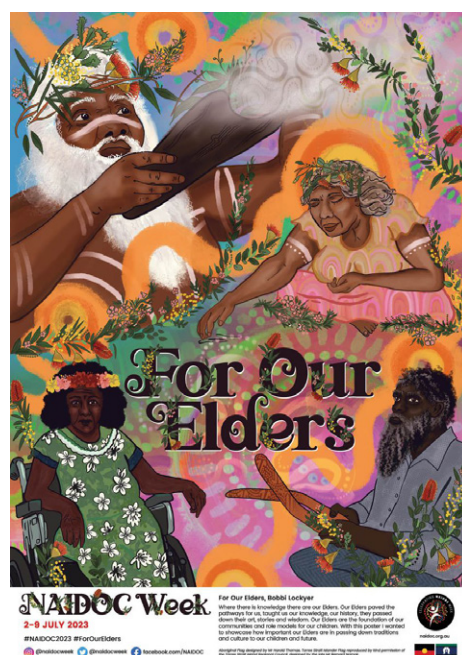
### NAIDOC Week 2023 poster

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>



## Points to consider

The knowledge and stories of our Elders keep culture and language alive. This wisdom won't be written in a book – it is an oral tradition. The next generation then becomes responsible for passing on the knowledge. It is through relationship with our Elders that culture is kept alive.

- This is an opportunity to commence or continue building relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples rather than a 'one-off' event
- Consider how you will make the encounter culturally safe for all involved – contact a member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team
- Many of our Elders are constantly giving – time, resources, wisdom – think about how you can honour them without asking anything of them
- Be aware that it might not be culturally safe to use the names, voices or images of deceased persons
- Be aware that Elders might have not felt honoured or heard in the past – they might not have confidence or feel that they have a story to tell

## Questions to ask

Please tell me about your family/mob.

What are some of the important lessons you learnt from your Elders? How have these lessons helped you to live well?

What is one part of your story that you are proud of?

What would you like people to remember about you?

What have been some of the challenges that you have experienced?

## Who will you honour?

Who are the Elders/elders that have impacted your corps and community? How has their story connected with your story?

- Honour Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Elders in your corps
- Meet and invite Indigenous Elders from your community
- Honour non-Indigenous elders who have contributed to the journey of reconciliation

## How will you honour them?

There are many ways to honour our Elders/elders. The most important element will always be building respectful relationships. Make time and space for our Elders/elders to share their stories.

- Host a morning tea
- Include an honouring segment in your meeting
- Create an honour wall
- With their permission, include the story of an Elder in your newsletter
- Purchase a place for an Elder to attend an event such as your local Red Shield launch

