

National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week Activity for 2026

Wednesday, 25 February 2026
Reconciliation Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to communicate the City of Adelaide's (CoA) planned activities to celebrate:

- National Reconciliation Week (NRW), 27 May 2026 to 3 June 2026 ([Link 1](#)), and
- National NAIDOC Week, 5 July 2026 to 12 July 2026 ([Link 2](#)).

The theme for the 2026 NRW is *All In*. Action 2.6 of the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 (Stretch RAP) commits to organising at least one NRW event each year at the Adelaide Central Market and/or Rundle Mall. CoA's planned activities are two cooking demonstrations in the Adelaide Central Market, which will include a merchandising collaboration with the Aboriginal Artist Exhibition in the Adelaide Town Hall.

The theme for the 2026 National NAIDOC Week is *50 Years of Deadly*. CoA's planned activities are NAIDOC in the Mall and the annual Lord Mayor's NAIDOC Award event.

CoA also supports the SA NAIDOC Committee's annual march from Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga to Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14), Family Fun Day in Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14), and activities that showcase the city.

Implementation of CoA's NRW and NAIDOC Week activities deliver on the 'Relationships' and 'Respect' focus areas in CoA's Stretch RAP.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 10 March 2026 for consideration

THAT THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the City of Adelaide's proposed activities to celebrate the 2026:
 - 1.1. National Reconciliation Week, between 27 May 2026 and 3 June 2026, and
 - 1.2. National NAIDOC Week, between 5 July 2026 and 12 July 2026.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Community An inclusive, equitable and welcoming community where people feel a sense of belonging.
Policy	Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 Action 2: Build relationships through celebrating NRW. Action 9: Engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories by celebrating NAIDOC Week.
Consultation	Consultation occurred with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the Reconciliation Committee at Panpapanpalya on 11 February 2026.
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	CoA's Reconciliation Team is staying abreast of the SA NAIDOC Committee discussions regarding opportunities for collaboration.
25/26 Budget Allocation	CoA's Annual Business Plan includes \$20,000 for NRW 2026 activities. Delivery of the NAIDOC Week 2026 activities is funded through CoA's operating budget.
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	A budget proposal of \$30,000 to deliver NRW activities in 2027 will be considered as part of the 2026/2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget process, subject to Council decision.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The current report relates to NRW and NAIDOC Week activities and celebrations in 2026.
25/26 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2026

1. NRW is held annually from 27 May to 3 June and is a time for all Australians to learn about shared histories, cultures and achievements, and recommit to reconciliation and First Nations justice.
2. The week recognises two significant milestones in Australia's reconciliation journey: 1. the successful 1967 referendum; and 2. the High Court Mabo decision.
3. The NRW 2026 theme, *All In*, calls for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day ([Link 1](#)).
4. The theme reminds us that reconciliation and advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights is a collective responsibility.
5. Banners and flagpoles throughout the city will display designs provided by Reconciliation Australia, reinforcing a cohesive and visual message of the NRW theme.
6. The City of Adelaide's (CoA's) activities for NRW are summarised in the table below:

	Activity	Date (2026)	Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 Alignment
1	<p>Event details: Cooking Demonstrations</p> <p>Location: Adelaide Central Market (event) – Community Kitchen.</p> <p>Format: Informal, free event, no tickets required.</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Native • Cooee Native Superfood. <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>Prior to each event there will be a Welcome to Country, performed by a local Kaurna cultural leader.</p> <p>An Aboriginal musician (to be confirmed), will be onsite to provide entertainment between 7pm – 8:45pm Friday, 29 May 2026.</p> <p>The CoA will be developing supporting promotional and engagement resources as a gift with purchase, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postcards • Tea towels • Shopping bags. 	<p>Friday, 29 May 2026</p> <p>2 sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunchtime: 12:00pm – 1:00pm • Evening: 6:00pm – 7:00pm 	<p>2.6 CoA commits to organising at least one NRW event each year at the Adelaide Central Market and/or Rundle Mall.</p>
2	<p>Artist Exhibition</p> <p>Location: Adelaide Town Hall.</p> <p>Format: A photographic exhibition curated and organised by CoA with artwork to be displayed throughout NRW.</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Aboriginal artist Colleen Strangways. <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>The exhibition will run concurrently with NRW activities.</p>	<p>Wednesday, 27 May to Wednesday, 3 June</p>	<p>2. Build relationships through celebrating NRW.</p>

	Activity	Date (2026)	Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 Alignment
3	<p>Flagpoles and Banners</p> <p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> King William Street, Adelaide Currie Street, Adelaide Gouger Street, Adelaide Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga, Adelaide. <p>Format: CoA flagpoles and banners to be display NRW.</p>	Monday, 18 May 2026 to Sunday, 21 June 2026	2.1 Circulate Reconciliation Australia's NRW resources and reconciliation materials to all employees.
4	<p>Social Media</p> <p>External communication of NRW through social media posts.</p> <p>Internal CoA communication via CEO message, and internal communication in 'The Next Edition'.</p>	Commencing Wednesday, 27 May 2026	3.2 Communicate our commitment to reconciliation publicly.
5	<p>Reconciliation SA Breakfast</p> <p>Location: Adelaide Convention Centre.</p> <p>Format: CoA purchase of two tables at the Reconciliation SA Breakfast, Wednesday, 27 May 2026.</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>Invites for the CoA's hosted tables will be offered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconciliation Committee Members Council Members CoA Executive Reconciliation leaders. 	Wednesday, 27 May 2026	2.3 Encourage and support employees and senior leaders to participate in at least two external events to recognise and celebrate NRW.

National NAIDOC Week (NAIDOC Week) 2026

7. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
8. NAIDOC Week runs from Sunday, 5 July 2026 to Sunday, 12 July 2026.
9. The 2026 theme, *50 Years of Deadly*, is a marker, not just of time passed, but of the momentum still building. It's a tribute to the people who built this movement: the Elders who stood firm, the organisers who made space, the artists who turned resistance into expression, and the communities who keep showing up, year after year.
10. To embody the 2026 NAIDOC week theme, the CoA will embed the theme *50 Years of Deadly* in the delivery as follows:
 - 10.1. Activities, speeches and content across the week will highlight the vital role and voice of young people. Through storytelling, digital media, and public speaking, we will showcase young people's achievements, creativity, and connection to Country, ensuring their perspectives are heard and valued.
 - 10.2. Engaging a young First Nations artist to deliver an artwork that brings the theme *50 Years of Deadly* to life.
 - 10.3. Banners and flagpoles will feature designs that are supplied by NAIDOC Australia.
 - 10.4. Speeches throughout the week will reflect on how the NAIDOC Week theme resonates within our city, emphasising its local relevance and impact.

11. The 2024-2027 Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan commits to the following events during NAIDOC week:
- 11.1. Lord Mayor’s NAIDOC Award
- 11.1.1. Lord Mayor’s NAIDOC Award has been an annual event since 2019. The award is given each year to a respected member of the Aboriginal community who has made significant contributions towards reconciliation in the City of Adelaide.
- 11.2. NAIDOC In the Mall
- 11.2.1. NAIDOC in the Mall is a community event enabling the public to participate in NAIDOC week celebrations.
- 11.2.2. The 2026 event is scheduled for Tuesday, 7 July 2026, between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm under the Gawler Place Canopy in Rundle Mall.
- 11.2.3. The event will consist of various Aboriginal business market stalls, activities for all ages, light refreshments, and entertainment throughout.
- 11.2.4. CoA, with the support of an Aboriginal artist, will develop an artwork based on the NAIDOC theme to be displayed on the CoA website and publicly in Rundle Mall.
12. Events organised by the SA NAIDOC Committee will be held on Friday, 10 July 2026 as follows:
- 12.1. The NAIDOC March from Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga to Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14).
- 12.2. Family Fun Day (location to be determine).
- 12.3. CoA supports the SA NAIDOC Committee events through traffic and street management, flag waivers for the community and general NAIDOC resources on display through King William Street, Adelaide.
13. The table below details the NAIDOC Week activities.

	Activity	Date (2026)	Organiser	Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 Alignment
1	<p>Flagpoles and Banners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> King William Street, Adelaide Currie Street, Adelaide Gouger Street, Adelaide Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga, Adelaide. <p>Format: Format: CoA flagpoles and banners to be display NAIDOC.</p>	Sunday, 21 June 2026 to Sunday, 26 July 2026	CoA	Ongoing commitment.
2	<p>Social Media</p> <p>Social Media campaign including storytelling content that brings to life the 2026 National NAIDOC theme.</p> <p>External communication of NAIDOC through social media posts.</p> <p>Internal CoA communication via CEO message, and internal communication in ‘The Next Edition’.</p>	Sunday, 5 July 2026 to Sunday, 12 July 2026	CoA	3.2 Communicate our commitment to reconciliation publicly.
3	<p>NAIDOC in the Mall</p> <p>Location: Rundle Mall.</p> <p>Format: Community event with activities showcasing Aboriginal businesses and entertainment.</p>	Tuesday, 7 July 2026	CoA	<p>9.3 Deliver and support employees to participate in NAIDOC Week events in our local area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAIDOC in the Mall Lord Mayors NAIDOC Awards NAIDOC artwork.

	Activity	Date (2026)	Organiser	Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 Alignment
4	<p>NAIDOC Artwork Commission Location: Artwork to be displayed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoA website. • Publicly in Rundle Mall at the NAIDOC in the Mall event. <p>Format: CoA, with the support of an Aboriginal artist, will develop an artwork based on the NAIDOC theme.</p>	Tuesday, 7 July 2026	CoA	9.3 Support employees to participate in NAIDOC Week events in our local area, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAIDOC in the Mall • Lord Mayors NAIDOC Awards • NAIDOC artwork commissioning.
5	<p>Lord Mayor's NAIDOC Award Ceremony Location: Adelaide Town Hall, Banquet Room. Format: Morning tea and award presentation.</p>	Wednesday, 8 July 2026	CoA	9.5 Officially recognise the recipient of the annual Lord Mayor's NAIDOC Award on both the website and social media platforms.
6	<p>NAIDOC March Location: Commences Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga, Adelaide. Format: March from Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga along King William Street to Parliament House. Additional Information: CoA supports with street closures, permitted use of relevant spaces, and purchasing 3000 flag hand holders.</p>	Friday, 10 July 2026	SA NAIDOC Committee	9.4 Collaborate with the SA NAIDOC Committee to support celebrations in the CBD including the NAIDOC March and Family Fun Day.
7	<p>NAIDOC Family Fun Day Location: location to be determined. Format: community event with food, stalls and entertainment.</p>	Friday, 10 July 2026	SA NAIDOC Committee	9.4 Collaborate with the SA NAIDOC Committee to support celebrations in the CBD including the NAIDOC March and Family Fun Day.
8	<p>Flag Raising Ceremony Lord Mayor Flag raising ceremony with a potential video or ceremony.</p>	Monday, 6 July 2026 (Monday morning)	CoA	9.6 Provide an internal and external CEO NAIDOC week message.
9	<p>NAIDOC Ball Location: Adelaide Convention Centre Format: Formal dinner with entertainment.</p>	Thursday, 9 July 2026	SA NAIDOC Committee	9.4 Collaborate with the SA NAIDOC Committee to support celebrations in the CBD including the NAIDOC March and Family Fun Day.

Next Steps

14. The Reconciliation Committee will be updated on NRW and NAIDOC Week activities via email and at the next Reconciliation Committee meeting on Wednesday, 6 May 2026.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – [Reconciliation Australia website – NRW theme 2026](#)

Link 2 – [National NAIDOC Week | NAIDOC](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT -