

The Aboriginal Flag

The Australian Aboriginal Flag was designed by artist Harold Thomas and first flown at Victoria Square in Adelaide, South Australia, on National Aborigines Day in July 1971. It became the official flag for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra after it was first flown there in 1972. Since then, it has become a widely recognised symbol of the unity and identity of Aboriginal people.



- ◇ **Black** represents the Aboriginal people of Australia.
- ◇ **Yellow** circle represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector.
- ◇ **Red** represents the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies, and Aboriginal peoples' spiritual relationship to the land.

Permission is not required to fly either flag. The Aboriginal flag is freely available for public use in all mediums, while reproduction of the Torres Strait Islander flag requires written permission from the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC).

The Torres Strait Islander Flag

The Torres Strait Islander Flag was designed by the late Bernard Namok as a symbol of unity and identity for Torres Strait Islander people. Adopted in 1992, it was the winning entry in a design competition run by the Island Coordinating Council, a Queensland statutory body representing the community councils in the Torres Strait.



- ◇ **White** Dhari (headdress) is a symbol of the Torres Strait Islander people.
- ◇ **White** five-pointed star symbolises peace, the five major island groups, and the navigational importance of stars to the people of the Torres Strait.
- ◇ **Green** represents the land.
- ◇ **Black** represents the Torres Strait Islander people.
- ◇ **Blue** represents the sea.

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