

ABST100 – Notes
(Overall Grade Received: **Distinction**)

Welcome to Indigenous Studies
Reading and Writing in Indigenous Studies
Identity
Indigenous People and the Media
Colonisation
Indigenous land and country
Indigenous People and the Law
Indigenous Education
Indigenous People and Health
Race and Racism

ABST100 TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Who are indigenous Australians in contemporary Australia
- The media and indigenous identities
- Colonisation and resistance
- Past government policies and practices (the stolen generations)
- Indigenous Australian's and the law with a case study of the 'northern territory intervention'
- Indigenous health and education
- Indigenous art pieces

Welcome to Country

- You will hear people speak of a 'welcome to country' and an acknowledgment to country'
- The difference between these is that those who belong to the country in question are able to welcome others to their country
- The rest of us must 'acknowledge country'

Acknowledgment to country

- It is a practice often adhered to in Australian institutions where the term 'country' refers to the land belonging to a specific group of aboriginal people
- 'I would like to acknowledge that the land we meet on here today is the traditional lands of the Darug people. I would like to pay my respect to elders past, present and future'
- It is not a 'mantra' we recite or a protocol we blindly pay attention to
- Acknowledging 'country' – the home lands of abo people – is a political act, and a linguistic act, that recognises and acknowledges the sovereignty of indigenous people
- When we acknowledge country we acknowledge that:
 - o There was prior ownership and stewardship of the land we are on – this place has a history that precedes us
 - o We are guests: guests have responsibilities. Understanding indigenous people as hosts and ourselves as guests requires a shift in thinking
 - o The sovereignty of indigenous people: the authority and autonomy to self-govern

Aboriginal peoples:

- Have the longest continuous living culture in the world
- Comprise diverse aboriginal nations, each with their own language and traditions
- 'Abo people' is a collective name given by Europeans, which does not emphasise the diversity of languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs
- This diversity is often acknowledged by the reference 'aboriginal peoples'

Language diversity:

- There are approx. 500 Aboriginal nations/clans across Australia, and over 250 unique languages
- Of the more than 250 languages spoken prior to colonisation, less than 50 are spoken fluently and regularly today
- Many abo people, speak more than one language including their traditional languages (Kriol) and English may be their 3rd or 4th language

Torres Strait Islander Peoples:

- The term 'Torres Strait Islander' has been initiated by non-islanders, and is used to describe the many different people from the various islands located in the Torres Strait extending from the tip of Cape York Peninsula to within 5km of the Papua New Guinea coastline
- Many Torres Strait Islander peoples prefer to be identified by their island of origin than this general term

Torres Strait Islands:

- The Torres Strait Islands are part of the state of QLD and are the only part of Aus sharing a border with another country
- QLD officially annexed the islands in 1879

- The Torres Strait Treaty (1979) is an agreement between Aus and Papua New Guinea which describes the boundaries between the two countries and how the sea areas may be used – the ‘protected zone’ takes into account the cultural activities including sea, land, trade, ceremonies and social/cultural gatherings

Aboriginal Flag

- Designed by Abo artist Harold Thomas, and was first flown at Victoria Square in Adelaide on ‘National Aborigines Day’
- The black of the flag represent the abo people of aus
- The red represents the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies, and abo people spiritual relation to the land
- The yellow circle represents the sun, giver of life and protector

Torres Strait Islander flag

- Designed by Bernard Namok of Waiben (Thursday Island)
- It was first flown at the Torres Strait Cultural festival
- The green upper and lower panels represent the land
- The blue panel represents the peoples of the Torres Strait islands
- The white feathers symbolise all Torres strait islander people
- The white of the star represents peace
- The five major island groups and the navigational importance of stars due to seafaring people of the Torres Straits



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags

Colonisation:

- In 1788, the British arrived in Botany Bay to begin the process of colonising what is now known as Australia