

SPEECH TEMPLATE

- Acknowledge VIPs
 - Acknowledge Country – see the [Welcome to and Acknowledgment of Country](#) for sample wording.
 - Australia Day is a time for all Australians to reflect, respect and celebrate.
 - Our story is one that began more than 65,000 years ago.
 - It is a story that continues today.
 - Just as there are those who are concerned about the date and what it means for First Nations people, there are those for whom the day holds great meaning.
 - Australia Day is a day to reflect on our history and learn from the experiences of others. We are privileged to live in a nation where we can all have our views, values and beliefs.
 - Changing the date will not change history – we need to change how we observe the day.
 - We reflect on our past, accept the truth of our history and respect that we all have a contribution to make to the Story of Australia. And we celebrate being part of a diverse and multicultural nation.
 - Let me tell you a little about my story
 - *[Include points on your background, focusing on contribution to Australia and what Australia Day means to you]*
 - Today, I encourage everyone to share a bit about their story, listen to the stories of others and celebrate with the people around you.
 - Because we're all part of the story.
 - Before I go, I encourage you all to take some photos today. The Australia Day Photography Competition is looking for images from the community that show how you reflect, respect and celebrate – your way.
 - Three finalists from each state and territory will be selected with the national winner chosen by the National Australia Day Board.
 - There are cash prizes to be won. Visit australiaday.org.au > Get involved for more info.
 - Thank you.
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