

# SPEECH TEMPLATE

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- 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.
  - What today means to each of us depends on who we are, where we come from and how we came to be Australian.
  - It's a day to reflect on, and pay respect to, the cultures, stories, histories and people from all walks of life, from First Australians to those whose families travelled here centuries ago, and those more recently arrived.
  - Wherever you come from, we are all connected by a shared desire for unity, and the promise of safety, stability and prosperity that Australia represents.
  - We are all shaped by our own experiences. But we can celebrate being part of a proud, ancient, multicultural nation where everyone's views, beliefs and contributions are valued.
  - Let me tell you a little about myself and what has been my story... *[Include points on your background, focusing on contribution to Australia and what Australia Day means to you]*
  - Today is about so much more than the events of one day – it is about who we are as a nation and what we aspire to be.
  - Understanding and being part of the continuing story of Australia is a way we can all belong.
  - Today, I encourage everyone to share a bit about their life and listen to the personal experiences of others. Because we're all a part of this nation's story.
  - Thank you.
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