

Australia's "Sorry Day"

On May 26 every year, ceremonies, marches, speeches and presentations are held around the country to mark Australia's ongoing regret for the historical treatment of Aboriginal people

■ **1997:** "Bringing Them Home" report chronicles past assimilation policies in which aboriginal children were forcibly taken from parents to be raised as white children. It calls for national apology and compensation to Stolen Generation

■ **1998:** First "Sorry Day" held

■ **1999:** Prime Minister **John Howard** leads parliamentary motion of "regret" for unspecified past injustices against Aborigines, but refuses to apologise, saying current generations should not be responsible for past actions

■ **2000:** More than 250,000 people march across Sydney Harbour Bridge to support apology to Stolen Generation

■ **2008:** Parliament apologises for historic mistreatment of Aborigines, with Prime Minister **Kevin Rudd** saying it will "remove a great stain from the nation's soul"

■ **2013:** Amendments to Australia's constitution, recognising Aborigines as country's original inhabitants and removing last clauses of state-sanctioned racial discrimination, expected to be put to national referendum

