

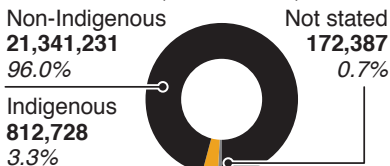
# Australia to hold Indigenous referendum

Australians will decide whether to amend the constitution to formally recognise Indigenous peoples through the creation of a body that would advise parliament on policies that affect their lives

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Have inhabited Australia for around 60,000 years. Comprise several hundred groups that have own histories, traditions and languages

## POPULATION (2021 census)



## IDENTITY



**Aboriginal**  
91.4%



**Torres Strait Islander:** 4.2%

**Both**  
4.4%

● Population plummets after British arrival in 1788, through dispossession, new diseases, slavery and killings

● Until as late as 1970s, one in three children forcibly removed from families for assimilation into White society.

**Government apologises for “Stolen Generations” in 2008**

## REFERENDUM

For it to succeed, majority of people need to vote yes. It also needs majority support in at least four of country's six states



## SOCIAL GAP

Indigenous people live around eight years less than non-Indigenous and suffer disproportionately high rates of suicide and imprisonment

## LIFE EXPECTANCY (2015-17)



## IMPRISONMENT

Around 15 times higher among Indigenous people



*Gamilaraay man preparing to perform at Sydney's 2023 Indigenous festival*