

# 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.
  - What today means to each of us depends on who we are, where we come from and how we came to be Australian.
  - From the First Australians, whose ancestors lived on these lands for tens of thousands of years, to the descendants of settlers, children of migrants and those recently arrived, Australia Day is a day to come together to reflect, respect and celebrate being part of our nation's story.
  - I believe we are all connected by a shared desire for unity, and the promise of safety, stability and prosperity that Australia represents.
  - And we are all shaped by our own experiences. But we can celebrate living in a nation where everyone's views, beliefs and contributions are valued.
  - Australia Day is also an evolving conversation about our identity. Today we come together as a nation to celebrate our diversity, respect what makes us unique and reflect on the Australia we aspire to be.
  - 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]*
  - 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 an important part of this nation's story.
  - Thank you.
-