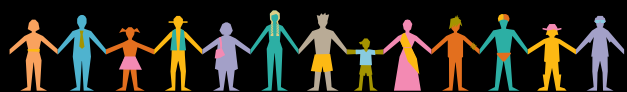


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What is HARMONY DAY?

Harmony Day is held each year on 21 March. It's a day to celebrate our cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

The message of Harmony Day is **everyone belongs**.

Schools have always been Harmony Day's greatest supporters. We have created this kit to help make celebrating Harmony Day easier for you.

Since 1999, more than 65 000 events and activities have been held across the country, from the smallest childcare centres to the largest businesses.

Harmony Day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This year marks 50 years since the declaration of the Day.

The best way for your class or school to celebrate is to hold an event and register it on the Harmony Day website.

For a school, an event or celebration can be as simple as a lesson plan with a diversity focus or something larger like a whole of school assembly or concert. These celebrations create opportunities for all of us to think, talk about and recognise how our differences make Australia a great place to live.

2016 Theme

This year's theme is **'our diversity is our strength'**.

Share the great things you can do when you come together by using #harmonyday and completing the sentence **'Our diversity is our strength, because together we...'**

This year we're focusing on three key areas that help to explore our theme:

- **coming together** to celebrate our cultural diversity
- sharing the economic benefits of our **productive diversity**
- highlighting how **innovation** in a multicultural Australia contributes to our shared future.

In your class or school, you might like to explore these areas to learn more about the many cultures that make our nation great, the economic contribution migration has made to this country and the innovations that have resulted from our diversity.

Did you know?

- Over the last 70 years seven million migrants have made Australia their home.
- Almost half of Australians were born overseas or have a parent who was.
- People from more than 200 countries make up our Australian community and 300 languages are spoken in our homes.
- Apart from English the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Italian, Arabic, Cantonese, Greek, Vietnamese, Tagalog/Filipino, Spanish and Hindi.



Let's get started

Celebrating Harmony Day can take any form you wish — big or small, simple or challenging.

Whatever you choose to do, an event should:



celebrate your school's cultural diversity



be held on or around 21 March



be registered on the [Harmony Day website](#).

Event ideas

In your classroom...

Spread the word

Ask your students to share the great things they do when they come together by using #harmonyday and completing the sentence

'Our diversity is our strength, because together we...'

There's a special frame in our [Resources](#) section for you to download and print. Ask your students to write their message in this and share your photos with us — see our xxx page for examples.

Cultural dress

Encourage your class to wear their traditional cultural dress for Harmony Day. Children who do not have a cultural dress or want another option can wear orange. Encourage parents to get involved and, with their child, speak to the class about their cultural background (e.g. the meaning behind the cultural dress, foods, greetings or sayings in other languages).

Focus on a country

Pick a country and encourage play-based learning by trying to learn a game, song and/or greeting from that country. Print pictures of the country's terrain, cultural dress and foods and discuss these with the class.

Decorate your classroom

Dress your classroom up in orange for the month of March. We have some great [online resources](#) in this kit that will work well with the promotional products you will receive when you [register your event](#) on the website.

Grandparents in Harmony

You might like to invite student's grandparents to visit your class and share their migration stories or family histories. Students could also be asked to write their own essays about their families' history.

Throw to the kids

Ask the class to break into small groups and brainstorm how their class or school can celebrate Harmony Day.



In your school...

Assembly

Hold a Harmony Assembly with your whole school. Recognise any students who have worked hard to be inclusive and live the 'everyone belongs' message every day. Check out the [Resources](#) section of this kit for certificates.

Art show

Invite local diverse artists (this can include painting, pottery, beading, etc.) to create artworks with children using techniques and styles from their background. Hold an art show one evening for the families to get involved.

Creative competition

Use this year's [theme](#) **'our diversity is our strength, because together we...'** and hold a competition with your class or school. Encourage students to explore the theme through a poem, short story or artwork. The [Resources](#) section of this kit has messages about the theme, and certificates that could be awarded to the winners.

School scavenger hunt

Set up a 2016 Harmony Day scavenger hunt in your school by identifying 10 items and places that represent the three key areas of this year's theme: coming together, economic benefits of diversity and innovation in multicultural Australia. Provide a map to your students and ask them to find items and places that represent something multicultural.

Make it official

Register your celebration on the Harmony Day [website](#). It's easy and you can receive free promotional products to help decorate your classroom and school e.g. balloons, posters, flags, ribbons, bookmarks, etc.

Our products run out fast, so register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



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HARMONY DAY

Sharing online

Download our web badge

Help to promote Harmony Day and have your school recognised by downloading our [Harmony Day web badge](#) and featuring it on your website. The web badge includes a code that allows you to upload the badge to your site and link straight through to the official Harmony Day website. Instructions are included.

The power of social media

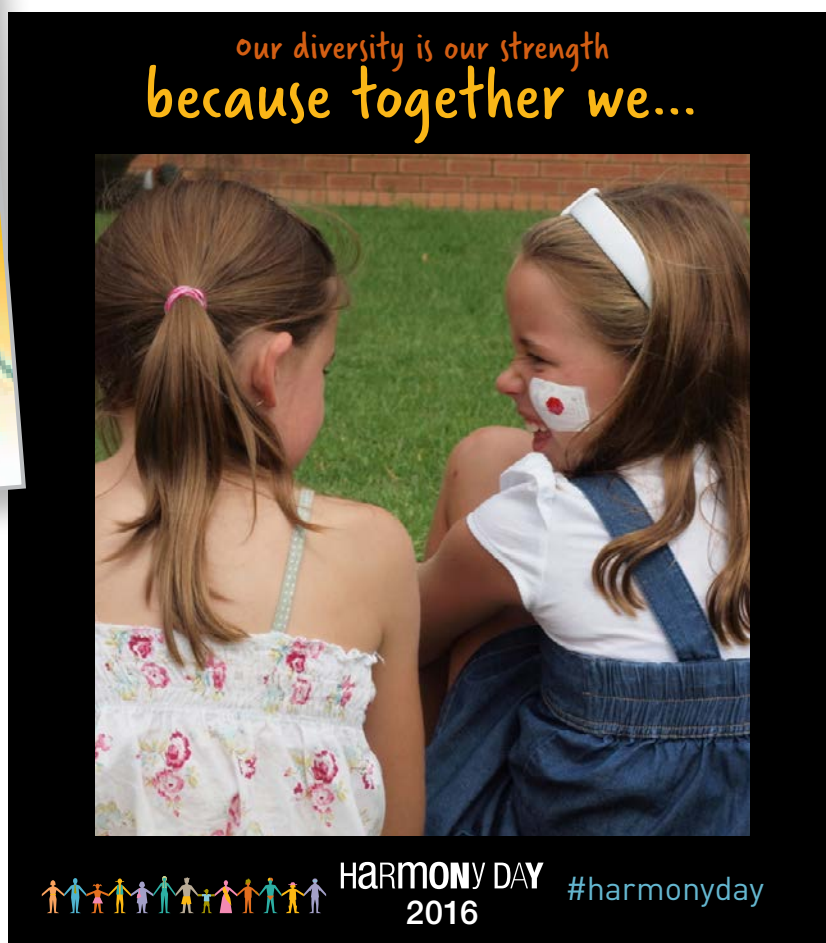
If you or your school are on social media it can be a really powerful way to spread the word about your school's diversity.

We are also on social media! You can connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (@harmonyday_au) and [Instagram](#) (@harmonyday_au). We love seeing how you celebrate the day so make sure you also share photos with us, or tag us in your posts and use **#harmonyday**.

You might even get some great ideas from other people by searching **#harmonyday**



[Download](#) the Harmony Day web badge



Resources

We have developed resources to help you celebrate Harmony Day. From videos and lesson plans to eBooks and certificates, check out the below when planning your Harmony Day activity.

Lesson plans, ideas and activities

- We have developed some [online lesson plans, ideas and activities](#) aimed at early childhood, primary and lower secondary schools. These resources are aligned to the [Australian Curriculum](#).

Recipes for Harmony

- [Recipes for Harmony](#) brings the world to children, introducing them to amazing people, cultures and foods in an interactive and educational way.
- The online resource features recipes, cultural profiles and personal stories from every-day and high profile Australians such as AFL player Bachar Houli and Masterchef contestant Alice Zaslavsky.
- A helpful [teacher's resource](#) provides example lesson plans, work sheets, ice breaker and other classroom activities.

Videos

- Over the years we have developed some short videos to help raise awareness of Harmony Day and the benefits of cultural diversity. You might like to share one or more of these videos with your class to help increase their understanding and reinforce their learning.

Do-it-yourself Harmony Day products for kids

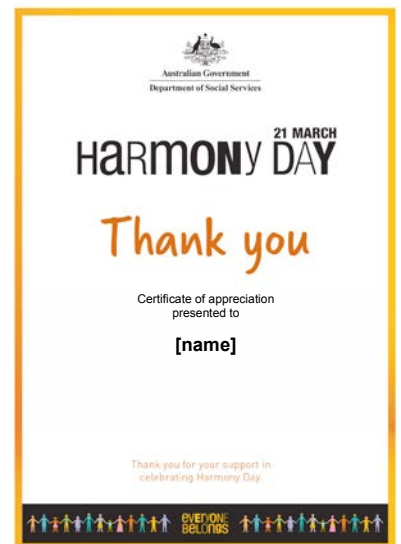
- The DIY Harmony Day products are great for early childhood and early primary school children. They are simple art and craft activities to help your class get excited about celebrating Harmony Day. For more products to help you decorate your classroom or school, [register your event](#) and receive balloons, posters, flags, bookmarks and more.

Certificates

- Certificates are a great way to recognise students who embrace newcomers and live the message of 'everyone belongs' every day. We've developed a fillable certificate that you might like to use and present students with at an assembly.

Infographics and shareables

- Infographics are a great way to visually share a message. Here are some infographics that you might like to use in class, in your school newsletter or in a social media post when promoting your school's celebration.



Key messages

- Join us on 21 March and celebrate Australia's cultural diversity this Harmony Day.
- Harmony Day is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.
- Our diversity helps makes Australia a great place to live.
- We enjoy different cultures, foods, ideas, minds, music and art that come from all over the world.
- The theme for 2016 is **'our diversity is our strength'**
- Share the great things you do when you come together by using #harmonyday and completing the sentence **'Our diversity is our strength, because together we...'**
- Explore how diversity makes Australia a more inclusive, cohesive and stronger nation through:
 - **coming together** to celebrate our cultural diversity
 - sharing the economic benefits of our **productive diversity**
 - highlighting how **innovation** in a multicultural Australia contributes to our shared future.
- Visit www.harmony.gov.au for more information.

Coming together

- This Harmony Day come together with friends and family, in schools, workplaces and our communities to celebrate our cultural diversity.
- Bringing communities together through sport, food, music and entertainment plays an important role in promoting our cultural diversity, helping to build acceptance and the understanding of other cultures.
- Recognising the importance of celebrating our cultural heritage and sharing it with others, builds our understanding of other cultures, our differences, our similarities and our shared values.

Economic benefits of our productive diversity

- Australia's diversity brings economic rewards alongside social ones.
- Our diversity means Australia can be more productive, invent new ways of doing business with the world, create new opportunities and boosts our trade and investment enterprises.
- Advances in technology and communications mean we are closer to our global partners than ever before, our diversity has given Australia an even stronger advantage.
- Diversity in our workplaces is a national asset. When different minds come together we improve social outcomes.

Innovation in multicultural Australia

- Our next generation of young Australians are not only celebrating our differences, but are helping to find innovative ways to improve our social cohesion and inclusiveness.
- Migration and cultural diversity contributes to Australia's ability to innovate by bringing together a range of different life experiences and points of view.
- By bringing together the minds of many cultures and experiences of people from all over the world, we are more innovative in the way we address economic, social and environmental issues.

Our welcoming nature we are able to attract the best and brightest from around the world to build Australia's innovative capacity.



Questions? Get in touch!

Questions about Harmony Day?

Email us at harmonyday@dss.gov.au

or call us on 1800 33 11 00.

Connect with us!

www.facebook.com/harmonydayAUS

www.twitter.com/harmonyday_AU or @harmonyday_au

[Instagram @harmonyday_au](https://www.instagram.com/harmonyday_au)

Subscribe to our [mailing list](#) for regular updates.

www.harmony.gov.au



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