

USE OF TERMS - ABORIGINAL /INDIGENOUS

YEAR	STATE	PUBLICATION	TERMS USED	COMMENTS
1996	SA	Using the right words: appropriate terminology for Indigenous Australian studies	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person; Kaurna people (traditional land owners of Adelaide); Aboriginal; Indigenous Australian people(s); Aboriginal person; Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Communities; Aboriginal Nations; Aboriginal Countries	Notes less appropriate terminology: Aborigines; Aboriginals (used as a plural); Torres Strait Islanders (used as a plural); The Aboriginals. Note: this is very old documentation.
2004	NSW	Communicating Positively: A guide to appropriate Aboriginal terminology	Aboriginal - Individual/one person Aboriginal People - collective term X Indigenous - because Indigenous is not specific, some Aboriginal people feel that the term diminishes their Aboriginality and should be avoided. Torres Strait Islander/Person - should be defined when describing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People	This document highlighted some terms that WERE NOT to be used ATSI (Abbreviation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People) Native Mixed Blood Half-caste Full-blood Them Those people You people The above terminology is dated/inappropriate and should be avoided.
2006	VIC	Building better partnerships: Working with Aboriginal Communities and organisations, a communication guide for the Department of Human Services	Aboriginal; Aboriginal people; Torres Strait Islander; Torres Strait Islander people; First Nations People; First People; Aboriginality; non-Aboriginal Australians; Aboriginal Australians	Do not use Aboriginal as a noun; it should only be used as an adjective; because the term 'Indigenous' is not specific, some Aboriginal people feel it diminishes their Aboriginality and the term must be avoided.
2009	NSW	Working with Aboriginal People and Communities: A practice resource	Aboriginal; Aboriginal people; Torres Strait Islander; Torres Strait Islander people; First Nations People; First People; Aboriginality	Indigenous is generally used by the Commonwealth government; Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are opposed to the term 'Indigenous' being used as it generalises both culture (the document advises against using the term); You may use 'Indigenous' if you are quoting or referring to another source where the term is used;

2010	NSW	Protocols for producing Indigenous Australian Writng	Indigenous is used heavily in this document, however it refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people also.	<p>Relevant to people working in government agencies</p> <p>This guide is to be used as an initial point of reference in planning work with Indigenous writers</p> <p>Document refers to people working with Indigenous writers/artists etc</p> <p>Document states that Indigenous people have the right to self-determination in their cultural affairs and expression of their cultural material.</p> <p>This is a guide to be used in the Arts and Culture sector of any organisation working with Indigenous artists/writers/performers etc.</p> <p>The document makes use of the term Indigenous throughout</p>
2011	National	Woolworths Limited Reconciliation Action Plan	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; Indigenous communities; Aboriginal people	Higher usage of 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' with 'Indigenous' only being used 1/4 of the time throughout the document
2012	SA	Appropriate Terminology, Representation and Protocols of Acknowledgement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person; Kurna people (traditional land owners of Adelaide); Aboriginal; Indigenous Australian people(s); Aboriginal person; Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Communities; Aboriginal Nations; Aboriginal Countries	Notes less appropriate terminology: Aborigines; Aboriginals (used as a plural); Torres Strait Islanders (used as a plural); The Aboriginals
2013	National	Rio Tinto Indigenous Employment: Support for Indigenous Tertiary Students	Indigenous; Aboriginal	Higher usage of 'Indigenous' than 'Aboriginal'
2014	National	Monadelphous Reconciliation Action Plan 2014-2016	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; Indigenous Australians; First Australians; Indigenous people; traditional custodians	Very high utilisation of the term "Indigenous" throughout the plan. The term 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' was used by Fred Cheney AO from Reconciliation Australia in his address to Monadelphous
2016	National	Rio Tinto Reconciliation Action Plan	Aboriginal People; Indigenous Australians; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; Indigenous leaders; Indigenous communities; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; Traditional Owners; Aboriginal Traditional Owners; Traditional Custodians; Aboriginal Community;	<p>The terms "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people"; 'Aboriginal'; 'Indigenous' are all used equally throughout this document. No emphasis on one or the other, rather each term is used equally to describe Indigenous Australians.</p> <p>The term 'Indigenous' is not used alone, always has further clarification i.e.: Indigenous Australians, Indigenous people, Indigenous communities etc.</p>

2016	National	Woodside: Reconciliation Action Plan	Indigenous	There is a footnote at the beginning of this document that states: "When communicating with a wide audience, Woodside uses the term 'Indigenous', in keeping with accepted national practice. In this Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), the use of 'Indigenous' is intended to be inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. When communicating with a specific region, we defer to the protocols advised by the Traditional Owner groups"
Unknown	QLD	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Capability	<p>Appropriate Collective names - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders</p> <p>Appropriate terms for an Individual Aboriginal (always using a capital letter), Torres Strait Islander, Indigenous (capital)</p>	This document highlighted that the use of the term "Indigenous" is not specific and some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People feel it diminishes their identity and should be avoided, however in certain circumstances is acceptable but not preferred.
Unknown	WA	Working With Aboriginal People: A Resource to Promote Culturally Responsive Disability Services in Western Australia	Aboriginal person; Aboriginal people; Aboriginal communities; Torres Strait Islander; Aboriginal Australia;	This document does not use the term "Indigenous" when referring to an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander person.