



Australia Long Weekend  
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Monday, 2 September 2024

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

**RE: AUSTRALIA LONG WEEKEND**

We the undersigned, wish to formally and publicly inform you and the House of Representatives of our Proposal to move Australia Day from 26 January to an Australia Long Weekend, that would take place each year over the second last long weekend in January.

We propose that the public holiday be declared on the Monday and be called Australia Day and that the three days embrace not only a celebration of all that is good about our diverse nation but provide an opportunity for reflection on the past and future, and for respect to be shown to our First Nations People, our institutions and our multicultural society.

The proposal has been informed by widespread community consultation.

The Monday of the proposed Australia Long Weekend will always fall between 18 and 24 January. The division and hurt that results from celebrating our nation on 26 January, occurs because this day marks the beginning of dispossession of our First People. The proposed long weekend will never fall on 26 January and is for many reasons the best time in January for such a celebration.

Our proposal is directed to all Australians, all communities and all elected representatives across the nation. We simply ask everyone to respectfully discuss and consider this proposal, and if they deem it of merit to support it and help make it happen.

We thank the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister The Hon Patrick Gorman for having met with two of the signatories in April to discuss the proposal generally and to be informed of our intention to place it before the Australian people.

When we have achieved sufficiently wide community support, we will engage equally and positively with all our elected representatives seeking their support in advocating for the necessary legislative changes. They will also be approached while discussions are taking place with communities.

We want all Australian citizens to be able to celebrate this great nation however they choose and at a time that is acceptable to all. The proposed long weekend in January offers an opportunity for unity and would be a powerful force for good.

*Make the Change for a Better Australia*

Yours faithfully,

James Woods  
Co-Convenor

Phil Jenkyn OAM  
Co-Convenor

Geoff Cousins AM

Elizabeth Elliott AM