



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

*Australia Celebrating Australians*

## Torres Strait Islander Flag

The Torres Strait Islander Flag is an official flag of Australia, along with the Australian National Flag and the Australian Aboriginal Flag.

The Torres Strait Islander Flag stands for the unity and identity of all Torres Strait Islanders. It is widely flown during NAIDOC Week and National Reconciliation Week to celebrate and promote greater understanding of Indigenous peoples and their culture.

### About the Torres Strait Islander Flag

The green panels at the top and bottom of the flag represent the land and the central blue panel represents the sea. The black lines dividing the panels represent the Torres Strait Islander people.

The centre of the flag shows a white *dhari* (dancer's headdress) which is a symbol for all Torres Strait Islanders.

Underneath the *dhari* is a white five-pointed star. White symbolises peace and the star is an important symbol for navigating the sea. The five points of the star represent the island groups in the Torres Strait.

### History

The design of the Torres Strait Islander Flag was the winning entry in a competition organised by the Torres Strait Island Coordinating Council and is attributed to the late Mr Bernard Namok of Thursday Island.

The Torres Strait Islander Flag was adopted in May 1992 during the Torres Strait Islands Cultural Festival.

### Proclamation

The then Governor-General, Bill Hayden AC, proclaimed the Torres Strait Islander Flag a flag of Australia on 14 July 1995.

The proclamation is published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No. S258.

### Use of the Torres Strait Islander Flag

Permission is not required to fly the Torres Strait Islander Flag.



*The Flag has green panels at the top and bottom that represent the land and the central blue panel represents the sea. The black lines dividing the panels represent the Torres Strait Islander people.*

The Torres Strait Islander Flag is protected by copyright and may only be reproduced in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with the permission the Torres Strait Island Coordinating Council.

### Fast facts

#### FIRST FLOWN:

May 1992

#### DESCRIPTION:

The flag has green panels at the top and bottom with black lines dividing the panels. The centre of the flag shows a white *dhari* (dancer's headdress) on a blue background. Underneath the *dhari* is a white five-pointed star.

The colour references for the Torres Strait Islander Flag are: Blue PANTONE® 301 and Green PANTONE® 3288.

#### USE OF THE TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAG:

The flag can be flown every day of the year.