



**Black** - represents the Aboriginal people of Australia

**Red** - represents the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies and Aboriginal people's spiritual relation to the land

**Yellow** - represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector

The Aboriginal flag was designed by Harold Thomas, a Luritja man from Central Australia. It was created as a symbol of unity and national identity for Aboriginal people during the land rights movement of the early 1970s. Gary Foley took the flag to the East Coast where it was promoted and eventually recognised as the official flag of the Australian Aboriginal people.

- · The flag was first flown at Victoria Square in Adelaide on National Aborigines Day, 12 July 1971.
- · The flag was chosen as the official flag for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy and was first flown there in 1972.
- · In 1995, the Australian Government proclaimed the flag as an official 'Flag of Australia' under section 5 of the *Flags Act 1953*.
- · In 1997, Harold Thomas was recognised as the author of the artistic work under the *Copyright Act 1968*. was first flown there in 1972.

The Aboriginal flag should be flown or displayed with the black at the top and the red at the bottom. Any questions on how and when to display the Australian Aboriginal Flag should be directed to:

Commonwealth Flag Officer  
Awards and National Symbols  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
3-5 National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600  
Telephone: 02 6271 5629