

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP
Minister for Jobs and Industry
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples
Minister for Women



Tuesday, 9 July 2024

CELEBRATING FIRST NATIONS SPIRIT THIS NAIDOC WEEK

The Allan Labor Government is honouring the history, culture and achievements of First Nations Victorians at events across the state this NAIDOC Week.

Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Natalie Hutchins yesterday attended the Victorian NAIDOC Committee's Flag Raising Ceremony at Federation Square, marking the beginning of a week of events and celebrations.

On Wednesday, the Minister will join members of the First Peoples community and the Governor of Victoria to celebrate the outstanding contributions and achievements of First Nations Victorians at the NAIDOC State Reception at Government House.

Attendees include the 2024 NAIDOC Award winners: Elders of the Year Uncle Ricky Baldwin and Aunty Annie Nikkelson, Ms NAIDOC Kaleeah Hardy-Edwards and Mr NAIDOC Christopher George, NAIDOC Sportsperson Christopher Hume and LGBTIQ+ Pride winner Zee Pepper.

The Victorian NAIDOC Gala Ball will close out the week of events on Saturday. Featuring an exceptional line up of First Nations performers, the Gala Ball is an unforgettable evening of excellence, tradition, inspiration, and pride.

This year's NAIDOC theme – 'Keep the fire burning! Blak, loud and proud' – pays respect to the enduring spirit of First Peoples and encourages the ongoing preservation and sharing of the cultural heritage and wisdom that enriches all our lives.

The Labor Government continues to lead the nation in our work on Treaty, truth and self-determination. Treaty negotiations are scheduled to start later this year and will deliver long-term change by giving First Peoples control over the policies that impact their lives.

The Labor Government proudly funds the Victorian NAIDOC Committee. For more information on NAIDOC Week events this year, visit vicnaidoc.com.au or naidoc.org.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Natalie Hutchins

"I encourage all Victorians to check out what NAIDOC activities are happening in their local communities, to join in and walk with First Peoples as we 'keep the fire burning'."

"This NAIDOC Week, I'm excited to see events happening in local communities right across Victoria. This celebration of culture is great to see and I encourage all Victorians to get involved."

Quotes attributable to Vic NAIDOC Chairperson Marcia Galea

"NAIDOC week is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the unyielding spirit of First Peoples and their massive contribution to Victoria."