

# NSW Aboriginal Languages Week

20 - 27 OCTOBER 2024

## Did you know...

**Aboriginal Languages are embedded in kinship, songs, stories and ceremony. These are considered a sacred expression of Country and Dreaming.**

Aboriginal Language Groups express their stories in their Languages through song and dance.

**Seven years ago, on 24 October 2017, the NSW Aboriginal Languages Act was passed through NSW Parliament.**

This notable legislation was the first in Australia to acknowledge the significance of First Languages and seeks to promote, nurture and grow Aboriginal Languages across NSW.

**From 1909 to 1969 government policies on Aboriginal education stopped Aboriginal children from speaking their Languages. As a result, many Aboriginal Languages in NSW fell silent.**

Today, Aboriginal Communities are reclaiming their Languages by sharing knowledge, teaching and learning, and accessing archived language materials like recordings.

**Aboriginal Languages are diverse and represent different lands and People.**

There are over 100 Aboriginal Languages and dialects\* that come from the land we now call NSW.

\*Source: AIATSIS Austlang database  
<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/search>

**Aboriginal Languages use different sounds and pronunciations to Australian English.**

For example, many Aboriginal Languages roll the letter 'rr' to make a trill sound. This is done by vibrating the tongue behind the top of the teeth. Other Languages use the 'ng' sound found in words like 'singer' at the start of their words.



**#LANGUAGESALIVECULTURETHRIVES**