



Dear colleagues

Mabo Day, recognised annually on June 3, holds great significance in Australian history.

The day commemorates the landmark High Court decision in 1992 that recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's land rights for the first time under Australian law.

This day also honours the legacy of Eddie Mabo, a Torres Strait Islander from Mer Island, who challenged the legal doctrine of *terra nullius*—the premise that the land belonged to no one before British colonisation.

Eddie Mabo's courageous fight led to the historic *Mabo v Queensland (No 2)* case, which overturned *terra nullius* and established the legal recognition of Native Title. Following the Mabo decision, Australia's Federal Parliament passed the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* which established a legal framework for native title claims throughout Australia by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Mabo Day highlights this pivotal step toward justice and reconciliation.

The day also serves as a reminder of the ongoing efforts to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equity, rights, land ownership, and cultural heritage.

As a hospital community, we should see Mabo Day as a day of reflection, education, and celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity and resilience and the continued critical role of their voices in shaping Australia.

**Kind Regards**

**Cang Dang**

Executive Director,  
Redcliffe Hospital

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our facilities are built. We also pay respect and acknowledge Elders past, present and the future.



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