

## Figure 5

### AUSTRALIA DAY KEY MESSAGES

#### Key message

On 26 January we come together as a nation to celebrate Australia and being Australian.

#### Sub messages

- Let's celebrate all the great things about Australia. For example, our people, land, diversity, sense of a fair go, lifestyle, democracy and the freedoms we all enjoy.
- Australia Day is a day to reflect on our national journey: acknowledge our past, rejoice in the present and look confidently to our future.
- On Australia Day let's recommit to making Australia an even better place.
- Australia Day is more than a public holiday.
- Australia Day is a day for all Australians.

### Convict Creations. Com

Due to the problematic nature of recreating the Convict spirit, few Australians use Australia day to reflect upon history, or tell yarns about days gone past. Instead, they engage in some kind of Australian pastime - for example, having a barbeque, going to the beach, or attending a music festival.

Although barbeques, beaches and music festivals are all very nice, for some concerned citizens, they are not sombre enough for a national day. As a consequence, they want the date of Australia Day to be changed.. *{The sentence I suggest deleting, which is not a direct continuation of the quote, is confusing. Federal Parliament first sat on 9 May, not 1 January. Federation took place on 1 January}*.

### Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE Aboriginal leader

... Australia Day is, I believe, the ideal opportunity to reflect on who we are as a nation and what values we collectively endorse and can celebrate.

And so, it is necessary, I believe, to think about our past, present and possible futures in order to embrace those things that we take pride in as a nation – and to recognise the things that we cannot condone ...

... Celebrations of special days are important. They symbolise for us the things that unite us as human beings. They are markers that help to define who we are and what we hold dear. They are part of the glue that binds a society together.

It is therefore very important that a national day of celebration be inclusive of all its citizens.

... I would ... make a strong plea for a change of date.

Let us find a day on which we can all feel included, in which we can all participate equally, and can celebrate with pride our common Australian identity.

Not a day of particular significance to any one group. But a neutral date – one on which first Australians, older Australians and more recent Australians can come together to tell our stories and share our dreams.