

## THE POVERTY POLE CHARTER

The Poverty Pole Charter is a way to support **Make Indigenous Poverty History** through your personal commitment to equality for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of Australia.

Don't just sign a petition - sign the Poverty Pole Charter.

### What is a Poverty Pole?

A Poverty Pole is visible sign of your personal commitment to a more just Australia. Create your own, or come together with friends, relatives, classmates or church group and create a group one.

A Poverty Pole can be large or small, colourful, painted, with decorations, or just plain. Sign it, write comments on it, use your imagination and create a Poverty Pole that represents your understanding of Indigenous poverty.

You can display it to show that you have made a commitment to stand up and **Make Indigenous Poverty History**.

Send us your photos and stories about how you created your Poverty Pole and how it has helped educate and raise awareness where you live and we will put it on our web site.

If you need inspiration have a look at our website and see what other groups have created.

Don't forget if you are using a tree branch or log please make sure you harvest it carefully and sustainably, and remember to let it dry out before you try to paint it.

## OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED.

[www.makeindigenouspovertyhistory.org](http://www.makeindigenouspovertyhistory.org)

Check out the **Make Indigenous Poverty History** goals on our website. Learn more about the facts and figures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage and hear the personal stories and experiences of poverty from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Link to vital sources of information to gain a deeper understanding of Indigenous disadvantage.

### Learn more — hold a Forum

Invite Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander People to participate in a forum at your school or church group. Perhaps you can focus on one goal that has particular interest to your group and find out the most crucial issues in your local area and how you can work together to address disadvantage.

### Lobby your elected representatives

Make your opinions known to your representatives, at all levels of government. Ask them what they are doing about Indigenous poverty and will they commit to the **Make Indigenous Poverty History** Goals.

### Convert One Person

How often do we hear people make statements that are simply not true about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples? Go out of your way to engage people in a conversation and inform them of facts. If we all convert one person this year to a better understanding of the situation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples this will make a difference.

### Education Kits

Education kits and prayer resources are available from our website and are a valuable resource for schools, parishes and other community groups.

### Buy wrist bands

Help us raise funds for the campaign and show your support at the same time. Buy a wrist band and show your commitment to **Make Indigenous Poverty History**.



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**Indigenous**  
**MAKE POVERTY HISTORY.**

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Poverty Pole signed by the Martin's Community Church in Collingwood, Victoria



# Indigenous MAKE POVERTY HISTORY.

## REMEMBER



This country that we now call Australia always was and always will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land.

I remember that this country, home to many Indigenous

nations since the beginning of time, was colonized in 1788 and I remember all those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who have lost their lives since.

I remember all those that have gone before, defending Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands, waterways and cultures.

I remember all those who were taken away from their families and from their ancestral home lands.

I remember with sorrow the lost languages, the lost tribal laws and the desecrated sacred sites.

## RECOGNIZE

I recognize that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of Australia continue to suffer injustices.

I recognize that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are living in poverty.

I recognize that poverty is more than financial disadvantage; it is also social and spiritual.

I recognize that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples continue to suffer from colonization, exclusion and disempowerment.



I recognize that it takes effort and will from everybody - from governments to individuals, from Indigenous and non - Indigenous alike, to change the situation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

I recognize that unless we unite, with a common will, a poverty of spirit will afflict the entire nation.

## RECTIFY

By signing the Poverty Pole Charter:

I commit to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals specifically address the disadvantage suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

I commit to identifying achievable poverty reduction strategies with measurable and time bound outcomes to be achieved by 2015.

I commit to holding all elected representatives, and other leaders, accountable to achieving these goals.

I take personal responsibility to understand the causes and effects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' disadvantage and also to inform people when I encounter ignorance or lack of compassion.

I commit to justice for all and to Make Indigenous Poverty History.

