



# Did you know?



## **Language is a fundamental part of Aboriginal identity**

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

## **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 the use of Aboriginal Languages in schools**

*As a result, many Aboriginal Languages in NSW fell silent. Today, Aboriginal Communities are reclaiming their Languages from recordings and beginning to speak them again*

## **Most Aboriginal Languages use different sounds and pronunciations**

*For example, many Languages roll the letter 'R' by vibrating the tongue behind the top teeth, others use the 'ng' sound found in words like 'singer' at the start of their words*

## **Aboriginal Languages are diverse and represent different lands and people groups**

*In NSW alone there are over 35 distinct Aboriginal Languages that are spoken on different countries from the ocean, along the rivers, over the mountains and on the red dirt*