

Acknowledgement Of Country

“I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land [or country] on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today.”

Notes

What is a Welcome to Country?

A Welcome to Country is a ceremony performed by the traditional owners of the land, welcoming visitors to their community as a sign of respect and hospitality. Also known as a traditional welcome, it often takes the form of a speech by a local Elder or recognised member of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Dances and smoking ceremonies are also commonly part of a traditional welcome.

What is an Acknowledgment of Country?

An Acknowledgement of Country, which can happen with or without a Welcome to Country, is a way for people who are not the traditional owners of a particular area of land to show respect to those who are. It pays respect to the Elders of that area – both past and present.

Why give an Acknowledgement of Country?

Offering an Acknowledgement of Country at meetings or events recognises the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and custodians of their land. It promotes an awareness of the past and ongoing connection to place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

When is an Acknowledgement of Country appropriate?

An Acknowledgement of Country should be made at events and meetings.

