



# Aboriginal Culture

## What is a Welcome to Country and when should it be used?

A Welcome to Country is where an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander traditional owner, custodian or Elder welcomes people to their land. Protocols for welcoming visitors to Country have been part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for thousands of years.

Welcome to Country always occurs at the opening of an event and is usually the first item on the program. The local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander custodian or traditional owner conducts the ceremony and this may be done through a speech, song, ceremony or a combination of these things. It is important for the traditional owners to be comfortable with the arrangements. Organisers need to spend time talking with local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people to identify the traditional owners and explaining to them the type of public event which is being organised and how best to prepare for this. Organisers are advised to also seek advice on who should perform the Welcome to Country, according to cultural protocols and advice from local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people from that Country.

Source: [Reconciliation SA](#)

## What is an Acknowledgement of Country and when should it be used?

An Acknowledgement of Country is a way of showing respect and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owners of the land on which a meeting or event is being held, and of recognising the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to their Country. It is a demonstration of respect dedicated to the traditional custodians of the land or sea where the gathering of participants is being conducted. Government agencies and community organisations are adopting the practice of acknowledging the traditional custodians of country at events, ceremonies, meetings and functions.

Source: [Reconciliation SA](#)

## What is Reconciliation?

Reconciliation is about Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians talking, walking, and working together to overcome the reasons that there is division and inequality between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians.

Reconciliation is a nationally recognised approach to:

- Acknowledging the impact of the past for Aboriginal people
- Recognising and celebrating Aboriginal culture and contributions
- Building and strengthening our engagement with our Aboriginal community

“As Australians, we are all here, woven into this country. As part of our reconciliation journey, there are truths to tell, stories to celebrate, and relationships to grow. Reconciliation is at the heart of our nations’ future” –

*Reconciliation Australia*

## Who is Reconciliation for?

- Peramangk and Kaurna traditional Custodians
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live and work in our area
- Non-Aboriginal people who live and work in our area
- EVERYONE!