

WELCOME TO COUNTRY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY PROTOCOL

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Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country protocols

These protocols are to assist in appropriately and respectfully recognising Aboriginal custodianship of the country at events, ceremony, meeting function or conference.

Considerations when planning an event

1. Decide whether a Welcome to Country or an Acknowledgement of Country is most appropriate. Seek advice from local Aboriginal networks if required.
2. The time allocated to a Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Country should be reasonable in the context of the overall event proceedings and timeframe. For example, for an event of about one hour, the Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Country should be no more than five minutes. Discuss with the person performing the ceremony and the Master of Ceremonies to ensure the event is completed in the allocated time.
3. Be conscious of language barriers and cultural differences when liaising directly with Elders.
4. As a Welcome to Country is a cultural protocol based on the provision of intellectual property, a service fee normally applies. The fee may vary depending on whether a cultural performance (for example, a song, story or dance) is included as part of the Welcome to Country.
5. If appropriate, invite the Elder or representative to take part in the rest of the event and assign a Committee member to ensure they are looked after and feel comfortable during the event.
6. A written thank you is an appropriate and good practice after engaging someone to perform a Welcome to Country.

Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country occurs at the beginning of a formal event and can take many forms including singing, dancing, smoking ceremonies or a speech in traditional language or English. A Welcome to Country is delivered by Traditional Owners, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been permitted Traditional Owners, to welcome visitors to their Country.

Aboriginal Acknowledgement of Country

An Acknowledgement of Country is an opportunity for anyone to show respect for Traditional Owners and the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country. It can be given by both non-Indigenous people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Protocol

- To be delivered at the beginning of a community or public facing event/meeting or before giving a speech, or at a formal occasion.
- The statement will be as follows:

“I’d like to begin by acknowledging that we live and work on the land of Gunditjmarra people and surrounding clans, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship with this land.”

Authorisation

President
United Way Glenelg

Secretary
United Way Glenelg

Review Date

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