BASKETBALL VICTORIA

Welcome

to Country and
Acknowledgement of Country

Basketball Victoria is committed to reconciliation and the ongoing inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into basketball through associations and environments that are welcoming and culturally sensitive.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a rich history in the sport of basketball. It is important that this is recognised, celebrated and further built upon to ensure sustained pride and acknowledgement of First Nations peoples within the basketball community and shows your commitment to inclusion and diversity.

A Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Country is an opportunity to show respect for Traditional Owners and the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country. This resource has been developed to guide associations in the protocols regarding Acknowledgements to Country and provide further information as to why acknowledging Country is important.

Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Country

Welcome to Country

Only Traditional Owners/Custodians of the land on which the event takes place can deliver a Welcome to Country.

Acknowledgement of Country

If a Traditional Owner is not available to do a Welcome to Country, an Acknowledgement of Country can be delivered instead.

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Why is it important?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have experienced a long history of exclusion from Australian history books, the Australian flag, the Australian anthem and for many years, Australian democracy.

This history of dispossession and colonisation lies at the heart of the disparity between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other Australians today. Including recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in events, meetings and national symbols contributes to ending the exclusion that has been so damaging.

Incorporating welcoming and acknowledgement protocols into official meetings and events recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of land and shows respect.

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When should an Acknowledgement of Country be given?

The following guide has been developed to advise when an Acknowledgement of Country should be given:

Basketball Victoria Leagues

NBL1 – Big V, CBL, VJBL finals

When: At the beginning prior to Pregame player announcements and National Anthem (if applicable). If you are hosting multiple games it is encouraged to repeat the acknowledgement prior to each game but not a requirement

Generic example:
"Welcome to the [name] stadium for today's [name] game between [name] and [name] firstly I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we <gather/meet> today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today"

Significant/large participation events with presentations

Domestic Grand Final days, Tournaments, Hoop Time and School events

When: At the beginning of presentations and/or at the beginning as part of Welcome and Housekeeping.

Generic example:
"Welcome to [name] Basketball Association grand final day, before we begin the presentations for the [name] game I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we <gather/meet> today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today"

Significant/large internal meetings or meetings with external participants

Board/Committee meetings, Club delegate meetings, member meetings, AGM's etc.

When: At the beginning as part of Welcome and housekeeping

Generic example:
"Welcome to today's meeting/event I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we <gather/meet> today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today"

Camps, clinics, tryouts, development program, courses and training/development events

Coaching and officials' courses, Representative tryouts, State Development and Association Development Programs

When: At the beginning as part of Welcome and housekeeping.

Camps, SDP, Tryouts, Assoc Player Development programs etc: At the beginning of the program/camp as part of a welcome and introduction to the program, does not have to be repeated at each session/day.

Generic example:
"Welcome to today's meeting/event I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we <gather/meet> today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today"

Virtual Acknowledgment of Country

Webinars, Zoom Meetings, Video Presentations, website, printed materials etc

When: At the beginning as part of Welcome and housekeeping

Generic example:
Victorian audience: *"[organisation] acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We are respectful of the ongoing living cultures of Aboriginal Peoples from all of the Victorian Aboriginal Nations."*

Australia wide audience: *"In the spirit of reconciliation the [organisation] acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today."*

Formal Events

Award nights, Celebration events, fundraising events, singlet presentations

When: At the beginning as part of Welcome and housekeeping

Generic example:
"Welcome to the [name] event I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we <gather/meet> today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today"

Acknowledgement of Country

There are three types of Acknowledgement of Country:

Generic

This should be used if you don't know the name of the people on whose land you are gathered, or if there are disputes about the land (multiple Aboriginal peoples identify as Traditional Custodians for that area). The words are:

"I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we <gather/meet> today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today."

Specific

This should be used where there are no disputes and you know the name of the people on whose land you are gathered. The words are:

"I would like to begin by acknowledging the <insert name of people here (e.g. Ngunnawal)> people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we <gather/meet> today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today."

General

(Australia wide – webinar / website / printed material). The words are:

'In the spirit of reconciliation the [organisation] acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.'

Advice from Reconciliation Australia:

There are no set protocols or wording for an Acknowledgement of Country, though often a statement may take the following forms

General: *"I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today. I would also like to pay my respects to Elders past and present."*

Specific: *"I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the (people) of the (nation) and pay my respects to Elders past and present."*

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Welcome to Country is delivered by **Traditional Owners**, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have been given **permission from Traditional Owners**, to welcome visitors to their Country.

To find out more about Traditional Owners in your area and to arrange a Welcome to Country further information can be found at:

- The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies: //aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia
- Aboriginal Victoria: https://www.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/