

Recognising Country

1 Policy

As a sign of respect, BDGP programs may acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the location at which a public event is being held. It is preferably the first item when opening a public event.

2 Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that the correct protocols are used.

3 Scope

Welcome to country/acknowledgement of country is often considered a *right* not a privilege and this should be considered for each event when determining whether the ceremony is appropriate to that event.

2a Welcome to Country

A 'Welcome to Country' is a small ceremony where **traditional owners** welcome people to their land. This is a significant recognition and is made through a formal process.

During a 'Welcome to Country' the elders/appropriate representative of the local people welcome those in attendance to their country. It might be just a simple speech or a performance of some sort, like a song, traditional dance, a didgeridoo piece or any combination of these. The choice is that of the representative of the Kamilaroi people.

A staff member of the BDGP Aboriginal program may be the appropriate representative, providing they are individually recognised in the community where the event is being held. For larger events, an elder / local representative may be engaged to arrange a Traditional Welcome if considered necessary.

Read more: <http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/spirituality/welcome-to-country.html#ixzz107SwVnSc>

2b Acknowledgement of Country

An 'Acknowledgement of Country' is a way that **all people** can show respect for Aboriginal culture and heritage and the ongoing relationship the traditional owners have with their land.

Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people can perform 'Acknowledgement of Country'. It is a demonstration of respect dedicated to the traditional custodians of the land where the event, meeting or conference takes place.

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In the Barwon Division area, the people identify as part of the Kamilaroi nation. This is also pronounced as Gamillaraay.

“I would like to acknowledge the Kamilaroi people who are the traditional custodians of this land. I would also like to pay respect to the elders past and present of the Kamilaroi nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present.”

Document control

3.1 Source Documents and Cross References

www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture

Reconciliation Australia

www.shareourpride.org.au

3.2 Revision history

The following table shows the changes that have been made to this document.

Author	Version	Date	Reviewed by	Comments
Alicia Pratt	1	21.9.10	Aboriginal Health Team and staff meetings	Approved by Board - October 2010

QP: 1.15
Version: 1
Date: 21.9.10

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Authorised: Board

3.3 Update schedule

This document should be reviewed on the following dates: October 2013