

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

We live, work and play on many different lands and an acknowledgement of country is an important part of Netball remaining an inclusive sport. We are already on our reconciliation journey but as a sport we must strive to learn more about the history, culture and practices of our First Nations Peoples.

Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country is delivered by Traditional Owners or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been given permission from Traditional Owners to welcome visitors to their Country. Traditionally, Welcome to Countries give safe passage and protection to people who are visitors to someone's land.

Acknowledgment of Country

An 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. It can be given by both non- Indigenous people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Why is it important?

Incorporating an Acknowledgement into official meetings and events recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of their land. It promotes an ongoing connection to place and shows respect for Traditional Owners. While many First Nations people may no longer be the title holders to their land, they are still connected to the country of their ancestors, and most consider themselves the custodians or caretakers of their land. Performing an acknowledgement shows that our netball community is conscious of this connection and that culture and identity are respected and welcomed.

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How can I do an Acknowledgement of Country

The accepted structure is usually:

“I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting today and pay my respects to their elders past and present.”

If you can, find out the names of the traditional owners. E.g. “I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting today, the **Turrbal and Yuggera** people and pay my respects to their elders past and present.”

Engaging your local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community

There are many meaningful ways associations can engage with their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. A strong starting point is connecting with local First Nations interagency or networking meetings, which often bring together community organisations, service providers and leaders to share information and strengthen partnerships.

Another valuable avenue is reaching out to local Elders groups or community hubs. These spaces are often central to community connection, cultural leadership and guidance.

If you are unsure where to begin, your local City Council website can be a helpful resource. Many councils provide information on local First Nations organisations, advisory groups and community contacts.

Interested in learning more?

You can find out more about your local Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander community projects, activities, operations by clicking the link: [Indigenous.gov.au](https://www.indigenous.gov.au/) | [Indigenous](#)