



DTA Guide for Members

Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country

There is often some confusion about the difference between a Welcome to Country and an Acknowledgement of Country.

What is the difference between a Welcome to Country and an Acknowledgement of Country?

A Welcome to Country is a formal welcome onto Aboriginal Land given by an elder or person of that land.

An Acknowledgement of Country is a statement of recognition of the traditional owners of the land. An Acknowledgement of Country can be given by any person, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

If you have an elder or a person of the land where you are holding an event – they will have an appropriate welcome to country.

If you would like to include an Acknowledgement of Country at an event or meeting here is a suitable format:

“Before we begin proceedings, I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today (Include the name of the People and their Nation here). I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future and pay my respects to all Aboriginal People here today, wherever you may come from.”

Adapted from University of Sydney

<http://sydney.edu.au/koori/aboutus/acknowledgement.shtml> and

NTS Corp <http://www.ntscorp.com.au/our-services/welcome-to-country/>