

## GUIDELINES FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

**Welcome to Country** and **Acknowledgement of Country** are two different ways in which we pay respect and recognition to the traditional custodians of the land the University is built upon.

**Welcome to Country** is a formal welcome onto Aboriginal land. Welcomes are conducted by recognised Aboriginal Elders of the traditional custodians/tribe at formal University functions such as graduation ceremonies, community engagement events and any event where dignitaries are in attendance.

To arrange a Welcome to Country, contact the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) for your campus. There may be a fee associated with having an Elder perform a Welcome to Country. Your LALC can advise what the fee may be.

**Acknowledgement of Country** can be conducted by any person at the University and doesn't require an Elder or Wollotuka staff to be present. Acknowledgements are conducted at less formal events and meetings.

### HOW TO ACKNOWLEDGE COUNTRY

- When a meeting or informal event commences, a Chair or Speaker begins by acknowledging that the meeting or function is taking place in the country of the traditional custodians.
- Where the name of the traditional custodians is known, it is specifically used. Where it is not known a general acknowledgement is given.
- There are two versions that can be used for Acknowledgement of Country on the Callaghan, Ourimbah and Port Macquarie campuses.

#### **For the Callaghan Campus:**

"We acknowledge and respect the Pambalong clan of the Awabakal people, traditional custodians of the land on which this campus of the University of Newcastle is situated."

OR

"The University of Newcastle respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians: the Pambalong clan of the Awabakal people on whose traditional land this Callaghan campus of the University of Newcastle is located."

#### **For the Ourimbah Campus:**

"We acknowledge and respect the Darkinjung people, traditional custodians of the land on which this campus of the University of Newcastle is situated."

OR

“The University of Newcastle respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians: the Darkinjung people on whose traditional land this Ourimbah campus of the University of Newcastle is located.”

**For the Port Macquarie Campus:**

“We acknowledge and respect the Birapai people, traditional custodians of the land on which this campus of the University of Newcastle is situated.”

OR

“The University of Newcastle respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians: the Birapai people on whose traditional land this Port Macquarie campus of the University of Newcastle is located.”

**REMEMBER:** Anyone can perform an Acknowledgement of Country. You don't require an Elder or staff from Wollotuka to do this.

FAQ's

- When should the Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country be performed at an event?  
If planning an event, consider including the Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement at the opening of the event.
- How do I contact the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) to request an Elder to perform a Welcome to Country?

LALC	Address	Phone
AWABAKAL	127 Maitland Rd ISLINGTON NSW 2296	02 4965 4532
BIRAPAI	Birapai Community Centre Ashton St PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444	02 6584 9066
DARKINJUNG	168 Pacific Hwy WATANOBBI NSW 2259	02 4351 2930

- What considerations should I make when an Elder is coming to campus?  
Ensure that you give at least 10 days' notice to the Elder to perform a Welcome to Country and allow enough time in your program for the Elder to do Welcome to Country.  
You may need to assist with arranging their transport and need to ensure they can easily access your event.
- What is the fee for having an Elder conduct a Welcome to Country?  
Contact the relevant LALC to discuss the fees associated with Welcome to Country.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Reconciliation Australia: 'Welcome To and Acknowledgement of Country'](#)

[The City of Newcastle: 'Guidelines for Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Custodians and Welcome to Country'](#)