



## Family Worker Training + Development Programme Inc

### Welcome to Country Protocol

In recognition and respect of Aboriginal people as the original inhabitants of Australia, FWT+DP strongly encourage this acknowledgement be form part of the beginning of all FWT+DP training events. The following information is provided for project staff, trainers and presenters to guide consistent practice in this area.

#### Definitions and Requirements:

- A **“Welcome to Country”** can only be delivered by a recognised local Elder from the tribal group of the area.
- An **“Acknowledgement of Country”** can be delivered by either an Aboriginal or non-indigenous person.
- For main events, such as major forums or conferences it is recommended that a formal **“Welcome to Country”** is arranged (NB: the local Elder will decide on the wording and format of the welcome). Ensure that an appropriate representative from the local Aboriginal community be engaged – consult local Aboriginal services / workers if required to identify the most appropriate person. Always arrange for financial recompensed for the person delivering the welcome (*at least* \$100 is recommended) and consider the need for transport support and invite them to stay for meals / celebrations etc that are happening as part of the event.
- Cultural performances (eg: dancers or Artists, etc) may also be engaged for major events. Consult with local Aboriginal services / workers to determine appropriate arrangements and payments, etc.
- For general training and other similar events an **“Acknowledgement of Country”** is sufficient and can be delivered by the Trainer / Presenter; FWT+DP staff or an Aboriginal person attending the event if appropriate and where they are happy to do so. No additional recompense is required in this case.

**Tribal Groups:** (*Acknowledge the tribal group(s) recognised in the region / area of the training venue location*)

Region	Tribal Peoples
Blue Mountains	Darug AND Gundungurra
Hawkesbury	Some areas - Darug AND Gundungurra / Some areas – Darug (Consult ‘Merana Aboriginal Community Association for the Hawkesbury’ for confirmation / advice phone: 4588 5144)
Blacktown, St Marys, Holroyd, Parramatta, The Hills, Auburn	Darug
Sydney / Inner City	Gadigal people of the Eora nation (Contact for traditional Welcomes: Metro Land Council 02 83949666)
Other Areas	Consult with a local Aboriginal Service for confirmation / advice

**‘Acknowledgement of Country’ – wording to be used at all FWT+DP events, ie: when delivered by a project worker or trainer**

Option 1:	Option 2:
I acknowledge we are gathered on <i>(name tribal group)</i> land. I pay my respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge with respect the Aboriginal people in the room.	I acknowledge we are gathered on <i>(name tribal group)</i> land. I pay my respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge with respect Aboriginal friends and colleagues in the room. I also recognise the impacts of past and present injustice and the role we can all play in working together towards a better future.