

# Acknowledgment of Country

## Transcript of video

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This video is available from the [QCAA intranet](#).

### Warning slide

QCAA respectfully advises Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples that this video may contain names, images or voices of people who are deceased. We acknowledge that in some communities it is distressing and offensive to mention names and to show images of people who have died.

### An Acknowledgment of Country

Kerri Wenitong

Senior Project Officer for Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Education

Reconciliation Australia defines an Acknowledgement of Country as a way of showing awareness of and respect for the traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander owners of the land on which a meeting or event is being held, and of recognising the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to their Country.

### What is an Acknowledgment of Country?

Flo Watson

Wulgurukaba, Gunggandji and  
Western Yalanji Elder

It's acknowledging the Elders past and present and it is also acknowledging the ancestors that have gone before us.

### Why should we acknowledge Country?

Flo Watson

Wulgurukaba, Gunggandji and  
Western Yalanji Elder

We are very spiritual, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, very spiritual people. As Ann was saying, respect, responsibility and relationships are the basis of our culture. It is all about respect, so we acknowledge. We respect the Elders, we respect the Country we are on, so we acknowledge that Country that we are on.

Kerri Wenitong

Senior Project Officer for Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Education

We acknowledge Country and Place to develop shared respect for the land beneath our feet, pay respect to the people who are traditional owners and custodians of the land; pay respect to the Elders past, present; and emerging, and acknowledge the ancestors that have come before us.

We acknowledge Country and Place to develop shared responsibility for the environment.

By acknowledging Country we demonstrate the value of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples ways of knowing and working to continue building positive relationships within local communities.

Also by acknowledging the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout Australia we foster reciprocal relationships in the spirit of reconciliation.

## Who can deliver an Acknowledgement of Country?

**Flo Watson**

Wulgurukaba, Gunggandji and  
Western Yalanji Elder

In schools it can be done by teachers, principals and students.

**Ann Aspinall**

Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi Elder

We would like the kids to do it in the schools.

**Kerri Wenitong**

Wulgurukaba, Gunggandji and  
Western Yalanji Elder

The person holding the meeting should acknowledge Country and acknowledge the traditional owners, custodians and Elders, if present. School students can learn and be encouraged to deliver Acknowledgements of Country.