

Acknowledgement of Country

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This Acknowledgement of Country resource has been compiled by the NSW Catholic Schools Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Parent Committee for use in Catholic School Communities.

An Acknowledgement of Country is a way of showing an awareness of, and respect for, the traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodians of this land. It also acknowledges the deep physical, familial and spiritual connections that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have to their land.

How is a 'Welcome to Country' different to an Acknowledgement of Country?

Only traditional custodians of the land, usually a respected Elder of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, can undertake the 'Welcome to Country' ceremony. The welcome ceremony can take many different forms and may include prayer, smoking and water blessings, dance and art according local customs/traditions. Elders should always be meaningfully involved in planning of any Welcome to Country. It is both a right and a privilege of the Elder to provide a Welcome. Anyone in the community, however, can provide an Acknowledgement of Country.

How can our community incorporate an Acknowledgement of Country?

Ideally, an Acknowledgement is given at all school and community gatherings and meetings. It can be used at assemblies, P&F meetings, school board meetings and special events. It is usually given once at the commencement of the gathering, either before or after the Prayer. Students as well as adults can Acknowledge Country. The tear off section of this card has a sample Acknowledgement for schools and communities to use.



CCSP

Council of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT
www.ccspp.catholic.edu.au



Aboriginal Nations and Language Groups

Find the name of the Aboriginal nation and/or language group that your school community falls within using this interactive map. Write the name on your tear-off *Acknowledgement of Country* card for future reference:

<http://www.abc.net.au/indigenous/map/>

All resources developed by the CCSP and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Parent Committee can be found at:
www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au

For more information on Protocols visit:

Reconciliation Australia: www.reconciliation.org.au

Dare to Lead: www.daretolead.edu.au/DTL08_CulEx_Main

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We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians, past and present, of this land of the people. Who long before us lived, loved and raised their children on this land. We also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait families in our community and acknowledge their physical and spiritual connections to their land.

We come together today to learn, to share and to journey together.

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