

WELCOME TO COUNTRY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Why are they even
a thing?

What are these?

The script is so LAME

Is it 'Aboriginal',
or 'Indigenous'
or 'First Nations'?

What if I say
the wrong
thing?



We have to do this
all the time, right?

LET'S FIND OUT TOGETHER!

This collaboration brought to you by:



Acknowledge This

Reconciliation WA

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

HISTORY

Welcome to Country's have been around since the dawn of man (probably). As a sign of respect, blackfellas have always had their own ways of honouring visitors on to their country. Welcome to Country in traditional ways were often quite ceremonial, meaning a lot of dance, music, song and connection to signify safe passage for visitors from the people of that place.

WHO?

Traditional Custodians with cultural authority can conduct a Welcome to Country. This is usually done by an Elder or people with the right permissions from Elders.

WHEN?

Welcome to Country are best for events of upmost importance. Remember our Elders are in demand, respect their time and energy!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

After introducing Welcome to Country into the modern culture in 1976, Acknowledgments soon followed. While the exact origin is up for debate, by the early 2000's we started seeing Acknowledgements at gatherings. Since then the popularity has increased and Acknowledgements have since become a regular part of our meetings, school, footy games and our shared culture.

Anyone can deliver an Acknowledgement of Country. Don't always expect blackfellas to do it! It is our shared responsibility.

Whenever you feel called to connect people and place! There is no set protocol for audience, what time of day, if mercury is in retrograde, or if the six speakers before you did one. Follow your good intentions.

WHAT AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY IS NOT:



a weaponised political statement to promote woke agendas and divide us as Australians



has to be done at literally every single team meeting, phone call, and drinks with the lads



something you HAVE to do otherwise you'll offend all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

IN REALITY, AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY IS:



a practice of connection, connecting people and place to the present moment



done when you feel called to prioritise relationships before the business



something you do when you want to or when there is an event of significance



rooted in love and connection

BUT HOW DO I DO AN AUTHENTIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY?

Do you want to do it?

Yeah

Nah

Do you have good intentions?

Do you want to connect people and place?

Are you sick of 'the script'?

Do you want to make positive change?

Have you attended the
Acknowledge This! workshop?



We get it. Acknowledgements can be boring, tokenistic, tick boxy, almost like housekeeping. We are so afraid of saying the 'wrong thing' that dismiss our authentic selves. It sucks.

We see Acknowledgements as an opportunity for Australians to step into their curiosity and connect with their local mob. Learning about traditional culture can benefit all of us.

Much love, Rhys and Emma

RWA members please contact our member & partner team at members@recwa.org.au to get two free tickets to a public Acknowledge This! workshop.



www.acknowledgethis.com.au



ReconciliationWA
www.recwa.org.au