

Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country



Introduction

DanceSport Australia acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

DanceSport Australia recognises the importance of acknowledging and respecting indigenous culture, especially when hosting DanceSport events. DSA recommends that all event organisers incorporate a Welcome or Acknowledgment of Country at the start of their event.

The below information has been extracted from <https://www.indigenous.gov.au> .

Welcome to Country

Only Traditional Owners/Custodians of the land on which the event takes place can deliver a Welcome to Country. To arrange a Welcome to Country for a DanceSport event, you can contact a Regional Network office – visit <https://www.indigenous.gov.au/regional-network> to find the contact details of your nearest office.

If A Traditional Owner is not available, an Acknowledgment of Country can be delivered instead.

Acknowledgement of Country

There are three types of **Acknowledgement of Country**:

Generic — this should be used if you don't know the name of the people on whose land you are gathered, or if there are disputes about the land (multiple Aboriginal peoples identify as Traditional Custodians for that area). The words are:

'I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we <gather/meet> today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.'

Specific — this should be used where there are no disputes and you know the name of the people on whose land you are gathered. The words are:

'I would like to begin by acknowledging the <insert name of people here (e.g. Ngunnawal)> people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we <gather/meet> today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.'

General (Australia wide – webinar / website / printed material) - The words are:

'In the spirit of reconciliation DanceSport Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.'