

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS

The following Aboriginal protocols will provide a frame work for the Australian Museum during significant public events. The Aboriginal Heritage Unit and the Outreach Unit of CARR will provide further guidance and support when necessary.

Visiting Indigenous Dignitaries to the Australian Museum.

When the Australian Museum is visited by dignitaries from an Indigenous community, organisation or Government agency, the following is suggested:

- Opportunity is provided for an Aboriginal staff member to be part of the welcoming delegation for the Dignitary
- Opportunity is provided for the Dignitary to meet all Aboriginal staff members
- Opportunity is provided for the Dignitary to be escorted to a social event and/or meet representatives of the Sydney Aboriginal Community.

Welcome to Country

The *Welcome to Country* ceremony, which addresses the participants at the opening of the event, will be an aspect of any culturally significant event held at the Australian Museum. Where possible this will be undertaken by Elders who are recognised by the Sydney Aboriginal community to be appropriate spokespeople.

The *Welcome to Country* will also reflect the nature of the event and community practices and offer participants local Aboriginal history and cultural information.

Acknowledgement of Country

An *Acknowledgment of Country* is a way that the Australian Museum will show respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and the ongoing relationship of traditional owners with the land.

The Chair or Speaker of an appropriate event will begin by acknowledging that the meeting is taking place in the country of the traditional owners.

The statement should be as follows:

"The Australian Museum would like to acknowledge that we are standing on Gadigal land and recognise the strength and resilience of the traditional owners of Gadigal land."