



# Engaging with Aboriginal Communities

## How can you engage with your local Aboriginal community?

The most common question we get asked is, **'Where do we start?'**

The following information gives you a few ideas on beginning to make connections and where to start your journey.



### **Make contact with your local Aboriginal community**

Research your local community and develop a Local Aboriginal Organisation directory

Research through local Aboriginal organisations or local councils for significant events to add to your calendar and program

**For further information go to: [www.alc.org.au](http://www.alc.org.au) or [www.nswaecg.com.au](http://www.nswaecg.com.au)**

### **Find out who the traditional custodians of your area are, and the language spoken**

This can be researched through a Local Aboriginal Land Council or online  
You should also speak to local elders and community leaders

**To access an Aboriginal map go to: [www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/map.html](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp/map.html)**

### **Find out what land or nations your families have connections with**

Some families may have connection to local land through marriage or re-settlement, and so are connected to other lands or nations as well

### **Provide opportunities for families to identify with the Aboriginal culture in your care environment**

Provide obvious links for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families to connect to the environment eg: visual links like photo's and/or Aboriginal art.

### **Form links with your Aboriginal community**

Take your service to community events and begin to build relationships, hold open days and invite community to your services, advertise job and volunteers in Aboriginal community/organisations and job networks



☑ **Incorporate an “Acknowledgement of Country” or “Welcome to Country”**

Include this at ceremonies, official events and in daily proceedings, so the unique position of Aboriginal people in Australia’s culture and history is recognised.

**For further information:**

[www.aboriginaleducation.nsw.edu.au/welcomecountry.pdf](http://www.aboriginaleducation.nsw.edu.au/welcomecountry.pdf)

☑ **Reflect on your enrolment/orientation processes**

Reflect on service policies and procedures, do they suit all families, can Aboriginal families be enrolled in a supported orientation

☑ **Find out what community dates and community events are in your local area.**

Check your local council website for cultural events in your community, Koori Mail have a Calendar of cultural events happening around the Nation, other community organisations can also have information about local events



Engagement happens through the development of your own understanding and knowledge. It is important for you to begin a journey of discovery and actively seek out information and build connections.

You may also wish to participate in formal training if you are struggling to make the first step. Keep a look out for the ‘Indigenous Cultural Hub Yarnin Circles’ in your community run specifically for Early Childhood Services.

**For further information contact:**

**Indigenous Cultural Hub**

**ich@gowriensw.com.au**

**1800 450 472**