

Protocols at PRIDoC 2024 on Kurna Country

Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country is a traditional welcoming ceremony that can include speeches of welcome, traditional dance and a smoking ceremony. A Welcome to Country will take place at the beginning of an event by an Elder or appropriate member of Community to welcome people who are visiting their traditional land.

Acknowledgement of Country

An Acknowledgement of Country can be delivered by anyone, Indigenous or non-Indigenous, and is a way for speakers to show respect to the traditional custodians of the land where a gathering is taking place. The Acknowledgement of Country involves recognising the traditional owners, expressing gratitude, and acknowledging the Peoples connection to the land. It is important that the Acknowledgement is sincere, culturally appropriate, and specific to the location, it is meaningful to speak from the heart.

PRIDoC 2024's Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kurna people, the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we will gather on.

We acknowledge and respect the Kurna people's cultural, spiritual, physical and emotional connection with their land, waters and community. We pay respect to elders both past and present. We extend that respect to other First Nations People and their Indigenous lands across the globe.

Pronunciation of Words

To assist you, here is a list of some words you may see at PRIDoC and how to pronounce them:

Kurna - Gar-nuh | the lands we are gathering on.

Igilyawa - Igg-ill-ya-wah | the name of the trip to the Torres Strait Islands that AIDA completed this year.

Karrawirra Parri - Karra-wirr-ah Pah-ree | the River Torrens.

Tarntanyangga - Tahrn-dan-yang-guh | the traditional name of Adelaide.

Kurna Lands

Kurna Country is the traditional land of the Kurna people, the First Nations custodians of the Adelaide Plains in South Australia. Kurna land spans from Cape Jervis in the south to Crystal Brook in the north and extends east towards the Mount Lofty Ranges, including what is now known as the city of Adelaide.

Elders

Elders hold a position of deep respect and authority. Being an Elder is not solely determined by age but is earned through wisdom, cultural knowledge, and contributions to the community. Elders are seen as the keepers of stories, traditions, and spiritual guidance, serving as teachers

and leaders who pass down cultural practices. Elders must be treated with respect, which includes acknowledging their authority in cultural protocols, listening to their guidance, and ensuring they are given priority at gatherings, meetings, and ceremonies. Elders may choose to lead the way through the smoke at a smoking ceremony.

Aunty and Uncle

The titles of Aunty and Uncle carry deep respect and signify more than familial relations; they are terms of honour given to Elders and community members who have earned respect through their wisdom, experience, and contributions. Becoming an Aunty or Uncle is not strictly related to age but comes through acts of guidance, teaching, and support within the community. These individuals are seen as cultural custodians who provide mentorship, share stories, and nurture younger generations, embodying important cultural knowledge and values. It may not be appropriate to refer to someone as Aunty or Uncle, it is best to only use these titles if instructed.

Elder Seating

At PRIDoC, we are committed to caring for our Elders and ensuring their comfort throughout the event. These arrangements reflect our respect and care for Elders, and ensuring they are supported throughout PRIDoC.

Plenary Hall (Hall C): Different types of seating will be provided at the front of the hall, including couches, tub chairs and tables and chairs. This variety ensures that different mobility needs and preferences are accommodated.

Hall D: Tables and chairs will be reserved for Elders to ensure seating available during breaks.

Cultural Sharing Night: For this outdoor event, tables and chairs that are located undercover will be marked with "Elder Reserved" signs to ensure comfortable and accessible seating.

Gift Giving Ceremony

Delegates are welcome to join the partner associations and leaders in Hall C for the Gift Giving Ceremony, a special event where associations present meaningful gifts in the spirit of connection and gratitude. Delegates are warmly invited to attend and witness this exchange, celebrating the unity and friendships fostered during the congress. We also encourage delegates to participate personally by sharing a token of appreciation with any fellow delegates they've formed special connections with during our time together at PRIDoC.