

# FIRST NATIONS PERSPECTIVES

*Landcare Australia is proud to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which we live and work. We value and respect their deep and continued spiritual and cultural connections to the land, waters and seas, and pay our respects to their Ancestors, and Elders past, present and future.*

## Understanding Key Principles and Protocols

For First Nations communities across Australia, there are many diverse and complex Traditional customs alongside more contemporary practices that are intrinsic to cultural values and standards being closely observed and adhered to by those communities. These customs consist of protocols and principles that follow traditional lore that define and govern the ways in which to live, the social, cultural

and spiritual 'rules' and the relationships between people and all beings within Country. Fundamentally, these protocols and principles centred on mutual respect towards all beings within Country as well as the enacting proper conduct, which are the foundations of constructive cultural interactions. Demonstrating respect and showing inclusiveness are in essence the foundation of healthy relationships.

The concept of reciprocity is another important aspect of the right conduct



being a key factor to maintaining open and continual working relationships with others.

Overall, understanding all features of protocols and conduct is key to forming partnerships with Indigenous communities.

Collaboration and recognition of the right to 'speak for Country' are key aspects

to creating relationships and through this, meaningful partnerships with First Nations peoples can occur. Therefore, it is important to recognise the key factors for interacting and communicating in a positive manner. Understanding key terms and knowing the appropriate ways in which to use these are important to assisting this process.

**For other useful resources please visit this Landcare Australia web page:  
[www.landcareaustralia.org.au/culturallandmanagement/](http://www.landcareaustralia.org.au/culturallandmanagement/)**

*Source: Appropriate words & terminology for First Nations topics - Creative Spirits <https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/media/appropriate-terminology-for-aboriginal-topics>*

*Source: Demonstrating inclusive and respectful language – Reconciliation Australia Plan <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/inclusive-and-respectful-language.pdf>*

*Source: Narragunnawali - A Guide to Using Respectful and Inclusive Language and Terminology*

*The content for First Nations Perspectives was developed for Landcare Australia. The purpose of this information is to provide a useful introductory resource for educators using Junior Landcare resources, for landcare groups and other environmental community groups, and for individuals. This is dynamic content and we understand that some information may change from time to time. Please contact us if you would like to provide additional information that we can include in this important resource.*