

Local government and Aboriginal partnerships

Statewide Principles

- Local government acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the area, and recognises, values and respects the ongoing cultural rights and responsibilities of Traditional Owners over their traditional country.
- Local government recognises the unique and significant contribution made by Aboriginal people* and organisations to the local community and to Australia's identity.
- Local government acknowledges the need to strengthen the voice of Aboriginal people in local decision making and the fundamental right of Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal community members including young people to engage about the matters that are important to their communities.
- Local government recognises the respected role of Elders and the important leadership role they have in guiding current and future generations of Aboriginal communities.
- Local government acknowledges that protection and conservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage is important for all Victorians.
- Local government acknowledges the need to create culturally safe and respectful environments and provide services in a way that demonstrates cultural understanding and ensures Aboriginal people feel respected and welcome.
- Local government acknowledges that Aboriginal health is holistic and that it encompasses the physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cultural wellbeing of individuals and the whole community†.
- Local government will actively work with Aboriginal people to respond to and address racism where it occurs to ensure that the cultural values and human rights of Aboriginal people are respected.
- Local government acknowledges the significant contribution to economic development that is provided by the unique skills of people within the Aboriginal community. It will partner with local Aboriginal people to create opportunities for employment and support local economic participation of Aboriginal businesses.

* the term Aboriginal people is used to refer to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;

†the Aboriginal health principle reflects the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation's statement on health.