

Aboriginal Inclusion Policy

The Law Society of Tasmania acknowledges the connection between the dispossession and exclusion of Aborigines, and Aboriginal disadvantage. Practices of inclusion including recognition of Aboriginal people at events, meetings and national symbols are a way of mitigating against the effects of such disposition and exclusion.

An Acknowledgement of Country is a way of showing awareness of and respect for the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land on which a meeting or event is being held, and of recognising the continuing connection of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people to their Country. It is a small but important gesture.

An acknowledgement of Country is an option for a speaker representing the Society to include during the Society's formal events of the type that the presence of dignitaries is acknowledged, for example, at the commencement of formal dinners

The following is suitable wording for an Acknowledgment of Country:

1. For an event held in Hobart
We pay respect to the traditional and original owners of this land the Muwinina (mu wee nee nah) people, and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are the custodians of this land.
2. For an event held in Launceston
We pay respect to the traditional and original owners of this land the Panninher or Leterremairrener (pronounced Par-nin-her, Letter-ramare- run-nah) people, and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are the custodians of this land.
3. For an event held in Burnie
We pay respect to the traditional and original owners of this land the Plairhekehillerplue (pronounced Pl-air-aka-hill-a-ploo) people, and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are the custodians of this land.

The following terms are appropriate:

- Tasmanian Aborigines
- Tasmanian Aboriginal community
- Tasmanian Aboriginal people

Tasmanian Aborigines prefer not to be referred to as 'indigenous' people.

Approved by Council 17 May 2014

This policy draws on the text of Reconciliation Australia's factsheet *Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country*, the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet webpage *Acknowledgment and Welcome to Country*, both accessed in March 2014.