



Aboriginal Engagement Framework at a glance

Vision

Sustained improvements in outcomes for Aboriginal people through culturally responsive engagement and increasing Aboriginal voices in decision-making.

Purpose

Guide culturally responsive engagement to facilitate genuine relationships and collaboration with all Aboriginal stakeholders.

Guiding principles



The Aboriginal Engagement Framework (AEF) guiding principles are depicted in a circle, representative of a holistic and balanced system where each principle holds equal importance and is interconnected. The strength of the system lies in the way the principles work together rather than in isolation.

The guiding principles shape and inform the way the Department of Communities (Communities) engages with Aboriginal people, organisations and communities:

- Aboriginal representation – Aboriginal stakeholders are represented in all areas of engagement relating to matters that affect their lives, through participation processes that support individual accessibility and inclusivity needs.
- Collaboration and partnerships – Authentic collaboration and partnerships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and Aboriginal communities is prioritised.
- Cultural safety – Cultural safety is embedded in practices, governance structures and service delivery, and responds to the diverse cultural needs and perspectives within Aboriginal communities.
- Empowerment – ACCOs and Aboriginal communities are empowered through capacity building initiatives and development of economic and socio-economic opportunities.
- Genuine relationships – Relationships with ACCOs and Aboriginal communities are developed and maintained through consistent and transparent engagement approaches.
- The AEF also embodies Communities' iCREATE values of Integrity, Courage, Respect, Empathy, Accountability, Trust and Empowerment as core principles that underpin our shared behaviour and guide our culture. They define how we work together, with our partners and with the people we serve.

Outcomes

- Culturally appropriate engagement behaviours and practices are embedded into Communities' systems and ways of working.
- Communities' employees are culturally competent, minimising the cultural load on Aboriginal employees.
- Improved coordination of engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders.
- Communities' employees are equipped with the tools and resources to guide culturally appropriate and responsive engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders.
- Involvement and empowerment of Aboriginal people in the identification and development of place-based priorities and solutions is increased across Communities.
- Relationships between Communities and the Aboriginal community continuously improve.