ACPSEM Website Content and Guidance

Purpose

This content has been synthesised from the references listed below and is intended to support ACPSEM in providing educational resources about recognising First Nations peoples in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. It is written from the perspective of a bi-national professional college and is not intended to replace local cultural advice, organisational policies, or community-led guidance.

ACPSEM's Role

ACPSEM is a professional college representing physicists and engineers in medicine across Australia and New Zealand. ACPSEM can support awareness, learning and respectful professional practice by providing information and resources. It is not the role of ACPSEM to prescribe cultural protocols for employers, health services, universities or other organisations.

Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country (Australia)

A Welcome to Country is delivered by a Traditional Owner, or an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person authorised by Traditional Owners, to welcome visitors to Country. An Acknowledgement of Country can be delivered by anyone and recognises Traditional Custodians and their continuing connection to Country.

There is no prescribed wording for an Acknowledgement of Country. Acknowledgements are generally most meaningful when they are sincere, reflect the context of the event or activity, and correctly identify Traditional Custodians where known. Further information about Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country, including suggested wording, can be found on the Reconciliation Australia website [1].

Aotearoa New Zealand

In Aotearoa New Zealand, cultural welcomes and acknowledgements are guided by tikanga Māori. Practices vary according to place and community. For significant activities in New Zealand, ACPSEM encourages organisers to seek local advice from hosts, iwi, Māori partners or appropriate cultural advisors.

When ACPSEM May Consider Welcome and Acknowledgement Practices

ACPSEM may consider incorporating welcome and acknowledgement practices that are appropriate to the local context into major meetings, conferences, ceremonies and webinars. The intent should be respectful recognition rather than compliance with a mandatory process.

References

1. Reconciliation Australia. (n.d.). *Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country*. Retrieved 22 October 2026, from
2. AIATSIS. (n.d.). *Map of Indigenous Australia*. Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. Retrieved 22 October 2026, from https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia
3. Australian Government. (n.d.). *Indigenous.gov.au*. Retrieved 22 October 2026, from https://www.indigenous.gov.au/
4. Te Kāhui Māngai. (n.d.). Directory of iwi and Māori organisations. Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry for Māori Development). Retrieved 22 October 2026, from https://www.tkm.govt.nz/

5. Te Puni Kōkiri. (n.d.). Te Puni Kōkiri | Ministry for Māori Development. Retrieved 22 October 2026, from https://www.tpk.govt.nz/en