

Our commitment to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Queensland State Archives (QSA) acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of this land and recognises their ongoing connection to Country, community and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

We recognise that the historical information held in the archives relating to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples was often collected without consent and remains a source of pain for First Nations communities.

We also acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the custodians of their traditional knowledge and cultural expressions and have the right to protect and control that knowledge.

We commit to being an archive that respects this right and provides a culturally safe space for remembrance and healing for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

To achieve this, we support the 2019 Tandanya-Adelaide Declaration – the first international archives declaration on Indigenous people and matters. The declaration identifies the following themes and commitments for immediate action:

- Knowledge authorities
- Property ownership
- Recognition and identity
- Research and access
- Self-determination.

We commit to embracing First Nations worldviews and methods of creating, sharing and preserving valued knowledge.

We commit to building relationships with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, recognising that the needs, priorities and holders of knowledge vary across communities.

We commit to listening, learning and persevering in this reciprocal, respectful engagement to become a more comprehensive and inclusive record of the peoples of Queensland.

These commitments are part of our journey of change to welcome, involve and empower Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Queensland
Government