
WA
CRICKET
RECONCILIATION
ROUND
13 – 15TH NOVEMBER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABORIGINAL PLAYERS

Cricket is not only a great game, it is one that has a rich history of Aboriginal engagement in Australia's favourite sport.

Historical records mention the involvement of Aboriginal people playing cricket over 220 years ago, in the early days of the European settlement at Sydney. Of note is the 1866 Boxing Day Match between an Aboriginal Team and the MCC, played at the MCG, the 150th anniversary of which was celebrated at the Test Match between Australia and Pakistan at the same venue in 2016.

The 1866 match was the precursor to the 1868 tour of England by an all-Aboriginal side, making it the first team of any sport to represent Australia internationally, 14 years before the first Ashes tour.

In the 1880s, the New Norcia Mission was home to an Aboriginal cricket team whose brilliant wins by huge margins earned them the nickname 'The Invincibles'.

In 1958 Faith Thomas became the first Aboriginal woman to represent Australia in any sport. In 2019 Ashleigh Gardiner became the second Aboriginal women to gain test match honours with the Australian Women's Team.

The 1988 bicentennial celebrations included a second tour to England of an all-Aboriginal team. It was captained by Western Australia's John McGuire, a well-respected batsman who scored over 10,000 first grade runs in WA Cricket Premier Cricket.

It was not until 1996 for the first Indigenous Australian male, Jason Gillespie, to play cricket for Australia.

Since then, Cricket Australia and WA Cricket have focussed on greater diversity in cricket and we now have increased numbers of Aboriginal people, women and girls, and people from diverse cultural and other backgrounds playing our great game.

WA CRICKET

Reconciliation Round

Across Western Australia clubs and associations are encouraged to use their matches at the beginning of December as an opportunity to demonstrate cricket's commitment to Reconciliation.

Our vision for reconciliation is Cricket Connecting Country, uniting and inspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians to find common ground and thrive through cricket. Cricket is a shared passion of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians. Having a national and global profile, Cricket Australia understands the sphere of influence we have in contributing to the nation's reconciliation journey. As a truly national sport, Cricket Australia plays a vital role in respectfully engaging with communities and stakeholders of many diverse cultural backgrounds right across Australia. Cricket also attracts thousands of International visitors annually to Australia to attend our major events. As a result, we have a responsibility to ensure those visiting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Countries are appropriately welcomed and informed about the planet's oldest living cultures (Cricket Australia, 2021).

WA Cricket can offer support for additional opportunities to demonstrate Reconciliation.

Acknowledgement OF COUNTRY

An Acknowledgement of Country is an opportunity for anyone to show respect for Traditional Owners and the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country.

> I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the <<insert people>> of the <<insert nation>> and pay my respects to Elders past and present.

RESPECT
Recognising the Traditional Owners of the land we meet on.

RECOGNISE
Recognising the ongoing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country.

RELATIONSHIP
Building respect and awareness of Aboriginal cultures and histories.

AWARENESS
An important step towards reconciliation and understanding.



Welcome TO COUNTRY

A Welcome to Country is a formal invitation to Country by Traditional Owners or Elders. It is a sign of respect and an opportunity to start proceedings in a good way.

A Welcome to Country should always be performed by an Elder, Traditional Custodian, or recognised spokesperson of the local Aboriginal community.

INVITATION
Invites visitors to Country by Traditional Owners.

TRADITION
A cultural protocol and spiritual responsibility.

HONOUR
Honours the Traditional Custodians and their deep connection to land.

OPENING
Opens proceedings in a respectful and culturally appropriate way.

For more information, check this link out:
https://cdn.truesport.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Welcome-to-Country-vs-Acknowledgement-of-Country-Guide.pdf

WA CRICKET

BAREFOOT CIRCLE

The one consistent act Cricket Australia and WA Cricket will encourage all clubs to do, is the pre-match barefoot circle and commitment to reconciliation statement.

The barefoot circle is a way for players and officials to take a moment prior to matches to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, connect to each other as opponents and pay respect to the country (land).

This is done barefoot, to connect to country, but also a moment to reflect that we are all on common ground, we are all human beings, and we need to stand strong with each other, for each other. The circle is a sign of support and commitment to walk together toward Reconciliation.

Clubs will be encouraged to share the image on social media.

A prominent member of the Aboriginal community can be invited to speak on behalf of the local Traditional Owners. Umpires, players or other officials could also read out the Reconciliation Statement (page 3).



INVITATION

A prominent member of the Aboriginal community can be invited to speak on behalf of the Traditional Owners.

Umpires, players or other officials could also read out the Reconciliation Statement.

Clubs are encouraged to share the image on social media.

WA CRICKET

BAREFOOT CIRCLE STATEMENT

EXAMPLE 1

Today we're taking off our shoes and standing in a circle so we're all together on this land thinking about the people who played cricket before us. We're especially thinking about the Aboriginal people who made up Australia's first ever international cricket team. We're doing this as our commitment to reconciliation. We," <<Club names>>,' acknowledge the <<insert people>> of the <<insert nation>> as the Traditional Owners of this country and its waters and that we stand here today. We pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

EXAMPLE 2

Today we are standing barefoot to connect to Country and acknowledge the <<insert people>> of the <<insert nation>> as the Traditional Owners of this country and its waters and that we stand here today, we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. As representatives of our club, we stand here today against racism in our game.

EXAMPLE 3

Both teams and umpires have removed their shoes and are forming a Barefoot Circle, a sign of Australian Cricket's commitment to reconciliation. We stand here today as brothers and sisters to acknowledge and pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and honour the legacy of the first Australian Cricket Team of 1868, and the feats of the New Norcia 'Invincibles' who made their mark on WA cricket in the 1880's. As representatives of the <<Club names>> we are proud to be standing on Aboriginal land today, making a commitment to reconciliation. As a united cricket family we will now walk together toward a connected country. We, <<Club names>>, acknowledge the <<insert people>> of the <<insert nation>> as the Traditional Owners of this country and its waters and that we stand here today. We pay our respects to Elders both past and present.



WA CRICKET

ADDRESSING RACISM

Cricket is a sport for all, and racism is not tolerated. It is important to understand what racism looks like, the effects it can have on people and how to report.

OUR COMMITMENT

- Cricket is a game built on respect, inclusion and fairness.
- Racism has no place in our sport, on or off the field.
- We all have a role to play in calling it out and creating safe, welcoming environments for everyone.
- If you see or experience racism, speak up. Support is available.

RESOURCES

Access helpful guides and frameworks to learn more, take action and support a safe and inclusive cricket community.

Racial Discrimination Policy Toolkit

https://cdn.truesport.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Racial-Discrimination-Policy-Toolkit.pdf

Racial Vilification Statement Support Framework

https://cdn.truesport.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Racial-Vilification-Statement-Support-Framework.pdf



WA CRICKET

SPORT WEST

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

True Sport

CULTURAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

WA CRICKET

CULTURAL EDUCATION

True Sport

- Central hub supporting culturally safe, respectful sport delivery across WA
- Provides WA-specific resources, tools & guidance for State Sporting Organisations, clubs & community organisations
- Delivered by ***SportWest***, supported by WA State Government funding
- Aims to build capability & embed culturally informed practices at all levels of sport
- Strengthens engagement & relationships with local Aboriginal communities & Traditional Custodians
- First Reconciliation Action Plan artwork unveiled — Guided by Country, United in Sport, by Noongar artist Jacinta Anderson

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

True Sport

True Sport

Mental Health & Wellbeing Initiative

- Central hub for consistent sport delivery standards across WA
- Provides WA-specific resources, tools & guidance for SSOs
- Built from 18+ months industry consultation - by sport, for sport
- Includes Mental Health & Wellbeing Initiative for club safety
- Free toolkits: Critical Incident, Sport Administrator, Club/Community
- Employee & Volunteer Assistance Program — confidential support
- Mental Health Champions Network & eLearning for admins/volunteers

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please follow this link:

https://www.thinkmentalhealthwa.com.au/think-mental-health/for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people/

THINK MENTAL HEALTH WA

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

WA CRICKET

True Sport
Respectful Relationships Initiative

Starick
Building futures free from violence

- Respectful
- Relationships
- Sport & Recreation

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS INITIATIVE

Championing Respect in Every Sport.

TRUESPORT x STARICK

Respectful Relationships

- Rising FDV rates in WA — sport has a role to play in prevention
- Significant issue in our community, WA Cricket proud to be an active supporter in creating safe and welcoming environments for all participants through our sport.
- WA Cricket delivering ***Starick's*** "Respectful Relationships" program
- Aim: build safe, inclusive, respectful club environments
- Supported by ***SportWest*** & True Sport Program
- Support is available at https://www.starick.org.au/

WA CRICKET

TRUE SPORT WA

Supporting a Positive Sport Experience for All

True Sport WA is a SportWest initiative that supports sporting clubs, organisations, coaches, volunteers, and athletes to create safe, inclusive, and positive sporting environments across Western Australia.



WHAT DO THEY DO?

- Provide education, resources, and support to the WA sport industry.
- Promote positive sporting cultures and behaviours.
- Work with clubs, communities, and partners to strengthen participation and wellbeing in sport.

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

- Child Safeguarding
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Positive Sideline Behaviour
- Respectful Relationships
- Cultural Education & Inclusion
- Inclusive & Positive Sporting Cultures

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the True Sport website for resources, tools, training and support for your club or organisation.

https://www.truesport.com.au/

WA CRICKET

OPPORTUNITIES

The aim of Reconciliation Round is to strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of Western Australian Cricket.

Activities WA Cricket may help support include:

- Pre-match Acknowledgement of Country or Welcome to Country.
- The commission of stumps painted by a local artist, pictured is an example with the WA Aboriginal Team and their stumps. These can be used during the game or on the boundary where players enter and exit the field.
- Club to commission uniforms designed by a local Aboriginal artist.
- Social Media - #reconciliationround, @waca_cricket
- Aboriginal Ambassador Program – Become an Aboriginal Ambassador for your region and help champion reconciliation, cultural awareness, and community engagement through cricket activities and events.



LEARN MORE / REGISTER YOUR INTEREST:

ABORIGINAL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM – Fill out form

Join us in building a more inclusive, respectful and connected cricket community across WA.

WA CRICKET

WHO CAN HELP?

WA Cricket currently works with the several different people and organisations for WA Cricket events, performances and designs.

We may be able to help you with ideas or support your initiatives. We can also each connect with key people in your local area.

Please note — artworks, performances, ceremonies etc. are considered intellectual property and therefore their usage normally incurs a fee that may vary depending on what is involved.

To get involved or for more information, please contact the WA Cricket.

Please fill out the Expression of Interest form and ask if your club need extra support.

Please register your club through the Expression of Interest form. This ensures Adam can get in contact with you. If your club is not registered, **we are unable to follow up or provide support.**



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WA CRICKET