

This fact sheet is designed to provide tips and resources to assist with consulting and communicating with Aboriginal community members.

Consultation with Aboriginal people is an important component of working with the local community. Observing appropriate protocols when working with Aboriginal people and communities is critical to establishing positive and respectful relationships.

About Aboriginal people in Liverpool

The traditional custodians of the land in Liverpool are the Cabrogal Clan of the Darug Nation. It is also acknowledged that the land was accessed by peoples of the Tharawal and Gandangara Nations. There are many sites across Liverpool today, such as the Georges River, which are recognised as sites of Aboriginal historical significance.



Map of Western Sydney Local Aboriginal Land Councils
Source: Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council

In 2011, 2,677 people in Liverpool identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, making up 1.5 per cent of the population. The proportion is slightly higher than Greater Sydney (1.2%). Most of Liverpool lies within Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council boundaries, with some parts in the south within Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council.

These days the local Aboriginal community is made up of different groups and clans from across Australia. Many Aboriginal people can be easily approached when it comes to Aboriginal cultural matters.

Consulting Aboriginal Communities

Community consultation describes the ways we interact with the community and the processes and practices we use to listen to the community about their concerns and aspirations. Consulting with Aboriginal communities is important as it ensures the community is aware of Council policies and activities, and that they support these policies and activities.

Consultation with the Aboriginal community should be seen as a two-way process, with both parties learning together and from each other. Consultations should occur regularly throughout a project, particularly during the decision making process. This requires openness about how, why and when the community will be consulted and how much influence they will have over the decisions being made.

If you intend to consult with a particular Aboriginal group, it is useful to do some initial research and to invite Aboriginal leaders relevant to your consultation. For example, if you are consulting with the community about a playground upgrade, you should invite the Local Aboriginal Land Council and Kari Aboriginal Resources to participate.



Liverpool Aboriginal Elder, Uncle Stephen Williams

Some tips for effective consultation include:

- Seek advice from Council's Community Development Worker (ATSI)
- Do your research about the community
- Be respectful and use appropriate language
- Work with local Aboriginal organisations
- Build rapport with the community
- Foster and encourage participation
- Provide feedback to the group so they know their input had meaning
- Provide the group with the outcome

Local Aboriginal organisations and groups

Council's Aboriginal Consultative Committee
Contact: Community Development Worker (ATSI)
Phone: 9821 7758

Aboriginal Community Health Services
Woodward Crescent, Miller
Phone: 9607 8112

Aboriginal Day Care (Elders group)
596 Hoxton Park Rd, Hoxton Park
Phone: 9827 2234

Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council
103 Moore Street, Liverpool
Phone: 9602 5280
Website: www.glalc.org.au

KARI Aboriginal Resources Inc
Level 3, 131-135 George Street, Liverpool
Phone: 8782 0300
Website: www.kari.com.au

Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation (Medical Centre)
187 Riverside Drive, Airs
Phone: 4682 4837
Website: www.tacams.com.au

Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council
220 West Parade, Couridjah
Phone: 4681 0059
Website: www.tharawal.com.au



The Rainbow Serpent, Miller Square
Artwork by Uncle Stephen Williams

Useful resources

Liverpool City Council has an Aboriginal Consultative Committee made up of local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents who are interested in Aboriginal affairs within the area. Staff are encouraged to consult with this group in relation to their projects and initiatives. Contact the Community Development Worker (ATSI) on 9821 7758.

NSW Families and Community Services 2009, [Working with Aboriginal People and Communities, A Practice Resource](#).

NSW Board of Studies 2008, [Working with Aboriginal Communities: A Guide to Consultation and Protocols](#).

Community Cultural Development NSW 2003, [Respect, Acknowledge, Listen: Practical protocols for working with the Indigenous Community of Western Sydney](#).

Significant Dates

Keep these dates in mind when you are planning to consult to avoid clashes with any significant event for the Aboriginal community. Alternatively, there may be some events on these dates which provide opportunities for consultation

Yabun (Survival Day)	26 January
National Sorry Day	26 May
Reconciliation Week	27 May – 3 June
Mabo Day	3 June
Coming of the Light Festival	1 July
NAIDOC Week	First full week of July
National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day	4 August
International Day of the World's Indigenous People	9 August

For further information contact Council's Community Development Worker (ATSI) on 9821 7758.