

Build

Sharing Knowledge

Country

Belonging

Celebrate

Learning Histories



PROTOCOLS

All cultures practice protocols. Protocols form an important and integral part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. There are some common, universal protocols and local to country protocols. Historical factors have impacted greatly on Indigenous processes and protocols. The practice of protocols is as varied as our histories. The Message sticks featured in the centre of the circle represent the significant protocols associated with the delivery of these traditional communication tools. The Message stick bearer was given safe conduct throughout the countries of travel. Protocols were observed to gain permission onto another's country. Other protocols were practiced during the visit. One or two countrymen accompanied the visitor to ensure safe passage and familiarity with expected behaviours. This ensured harmonious relationships and responsible stewardship for all involved. Walking gently and respectfully on another's land is an important protocol.