



NDIS and Psychosocial Disability Quality and Safety Forum

TRANSCRIPT 1 of 10 Welcome to Country *Aunty Donna Ingram*

Forum held on 29 April 2021, 11:00AM – 12:00PM

TRANSCRIPT

HOST:

Yes, welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to the NDIS and Psychosocial Disability Quality and Safety Forum brought to you by the Mental Health Coordinating Council as part of the Embracing Change Project. We open with a Welcome to Country Address from Aunty Donna Ingram, followed by a Lived Experience Address from Sam Brhaspati Stott.

AUNTY DONNA INGRAM:

Good morning, everybody. It's my great pleasure to be here with permission from my elders to offer you a Welcome to Country for the NDIS and Psychosocial Disability Quality and Safety National Form. It gives me pride to represent my community in this important cultural protocol. It shows respect for and recognition to the unique position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australian culture and history.

We are gathered on the traditional land of the Gadigal, who are one of 29 clans of the Eora Nation, which is bordered by the Hawksbury, the Georges and the Nepean rivers. I'm an Aboriginal woman who proudly identifies with the Wiradjuri nation through my family connections from



Central West New South Wales. I was born on Gadigal land, and I've had the privilege to live, work and raise my four children on this land for most of my life. My family has grown, and I'm now a proud grandmother to Aleah, Elijah, Khalilah, Lakota and Jake Junior. My wish for my grandchildren is to grow up happy and healthy in a safe and inclusive society that offers them quality health care, both physical and mental.

I acknowledge the Gadigal and all nations represented today. Their spirits and ancestors will always remain with the land Mother Earth, and I thank them for their ongoing custodianship. I pay my respects to our elders, both past and present, and we must never forget the sacrifices made by our leaders to create a better future for Aboriginal people. I do this as a reminder and as a tribute to elders and those who have gone before us to fight for land rights, justice, and equity for our communities.

I extend my respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from all clans and nations who are present this morning. I also recognise our non-Aboriginal sisters and brothers who walk beside us to support effective health and wellbeing programs. I now offer you a warm and sincere welcome to the land of the Gadigal of the Eora nation. I wish you a safe stay on the land and safe travel from the land.

On behalf of my community and the Gadigal, I wish you all an enjoyable and productive time at this forum that is designed to support the work that you do and showcase a national perspective on NDIS psychosocial disability equality and safeguarding issues at the intersection of mental health and disability.

In closing, we remember that this is, was and always will be Aboriginal land. Thanks everyone, have a great day.