KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The following definitions have been identified by CEAC members as being key terms understood by Aboriginal people.

**Aboriginal**
The term Aboriginal refers to the original inhabitants of Australia and includes the Torres Strait Islander people.

**Welcome to Country**
An act by traditional owners or custodians that welcomes and gives blessing to visitors on to their Country.

**Acknowledgement of Country**
An act by visitors that demonstrates respect and recognises Aboriginal custodianship of the land.

**Country**
The term ‘Country’ is used to identify the language area in which a particular Aboriginal group belong.

**Diversity**
Aboriginal nations throughout Australia are unique and diverse with their own beliefs, languages, experiences and customs.

**Spelling and Pronunciation**
Spelling may vary as does oral language. Pronunciation is specific to a particular area, and as such there may be variations on how words are pronounced.

**Traditional Owner**
An Aboriginal person who is recognised, by the Aboriginal community and government, as having traditional relationships to a specific Country.

**Custodian**
A Traditional Owner that has custodial rights to cultural knowledge or a specific area within his/her country.

**Elder**
A person who is a senior member of the Aboriginal community.

**Historical Families**
Families which have been forcibly moved into an area due to past government practices and policies.

**Family**
There is no differentiation between immediate and extended family members. The term ‘family’ refers to both the immediate and extended family group.