



CULTURAL PROTOCOLS

The Larrakia people have always welcomed people onto our land throughout the long struggle for the recognition of our land.

The Larrakia aim to foster partnerships according to the cultural protocols, which we ask you to understand and respect.

1. The Larrakia people are the Aboriginal traditional owners of all land and waters of the greater Darwin area including identified Aboriginal living areas.
2. Aboriginal law requires respect for the cultural authority of the traditional owners.
3. Larrakia speak for Larrakia country; other traditional owners speak for their traditional lands.
4. We have a mutual obligation to care for our country with our neighbours.
5. Visitors should be aware that we have a body of knowledge in our land and waters, which includes sites of significance.
6. Larrakia people expect visitors and service providers to be aware of Larrakia cultural obligations and to respect and acknowledge them.
7. Visitors have the right to be treated with respect and understanding.
8. All visitors are responsible for their behaviour and should respect guidance of Larrakia.
9. Learning about country is everybody's responsibility and it is also the responsibility of government and non-government agencies.
10. Inappropriate behaviour reflects badly on Larrakia people and we do not accept it.

“COMMUNITY HARMONY” PROJECT

The “Community Harmony” Project in Darwin and Palmerston is a joint initiative of the Larrakia Nation, peak Aboriginal organisations, the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments and City Councils to address long standing community concerns about the health and well-being of “itinerants” and the anti-social behaviour of some members of this group.

Strategy initiatives include:

- Development and promotion of the Larrakia Nation Cultural Protocols throughout Darwin and Palmerston
- Larrakia Nation Information and Referrals Office providing a proof of identification facility, referral service and return to home strategy
- Community Day Patrol for early intervention
- Day Facility and Day Time Activities such as music, arts and crafts to provide positive alternatives to the “itinerant” lifestyle
- Accommodation options including basic shelter and renal facilities
- Data Collection and Research including first language research
- Additional withdrawal and long term care options

The rationale behind these initiatives is to encourage “itinerants” in Darwin and Palmerston to find pathways out of the destructive cycle of alcohol and substance abuse towards either a return to home or a more productive lifestyle in town.

LARRAKIA CULTURAL AWARENESS PROJECT

The Larrakia Cultural Awareness Project intends to provide visitors to the NT Museum at Bullocky Point with the opportunity to meet with local Larrakia people and learn something of our culture through our art, crafts, storytelling, interpretative walks and traditional dancing. It is also an opportunity for our elders to teach our young people more about Larrakia culture, dance and traditions.

A changing program of events during the dry season will allow visitors to become involved in weaving, painting, storytelling and guided walks through Larrakia country. The program will be advised daily and is subject to change due to cultural commitments and the availability of guides, dancers and artists.

KARAWA

Karawa, the new premises for the Larrakia Nation on Murphy Road at the Darwin Airport provides a new presence for Larrakia people in Darwin. The facility includes office premises for the Larrakia Nation, Larrakia Aged Care, and the “Community Harmony” Project in Darwin and Palmerston. A range of cultural, social and economic initiatives are being developed at the facility including:

- CDEP and Work for the Dole Programs
- Certified training opportunities
- Tourism opportunities
- Cultural activities including canoe making, traditional arts and crafts and a retail art and craft outlet
- Larrakia nursery, landscaping and garden maintenance businesses
- Indigenous markets
- Event management, particularly hosting visiting dignitaries.



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THE LARRAKIA PEOPLE



Artwork: KOOTJI RAYMOND

“The Larrakia have been custodians of the Darwin area for thousands of years – they deserve our support and our respect.”

CLARE MARTIN, CHIEF MINISTER
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUGUST 2002