

Cultural Resources: How to be an ally

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Please note that this information is coming from my lived experience as an Aboriginal man. Being an ally can take many forms. I hope these suggestions provide a foundation to help you to become an ally, or that they allow you to build upon your existing support for Aboriginal Australians.

- **Come** with an open mind and heart to our culture and perspectives. It seems simple, but some media and the use of statistics have created a negative image of what an Aboriginal person looks like.
- **Engage** in your own research regarding Aboriginal affairs in Australia, using sources written by Aboriginal academics.
- **Stand** next to us or behind us – our voices must be heard first on our issues.
- **Understand** that as Aboriginal people we have diverse experiences and differing opinions.
- **Approach** questions with sensitivity regarding our identity. Offer information about yourself first as a way of building rapport.
- **Care** for the land you are on – we are all operating professionally and personally on stolen land. By way of positive contribution, be considerate with recycling and the like. Reduce your footprint.