

Right People for Country Program

Traditional Owner agreement making

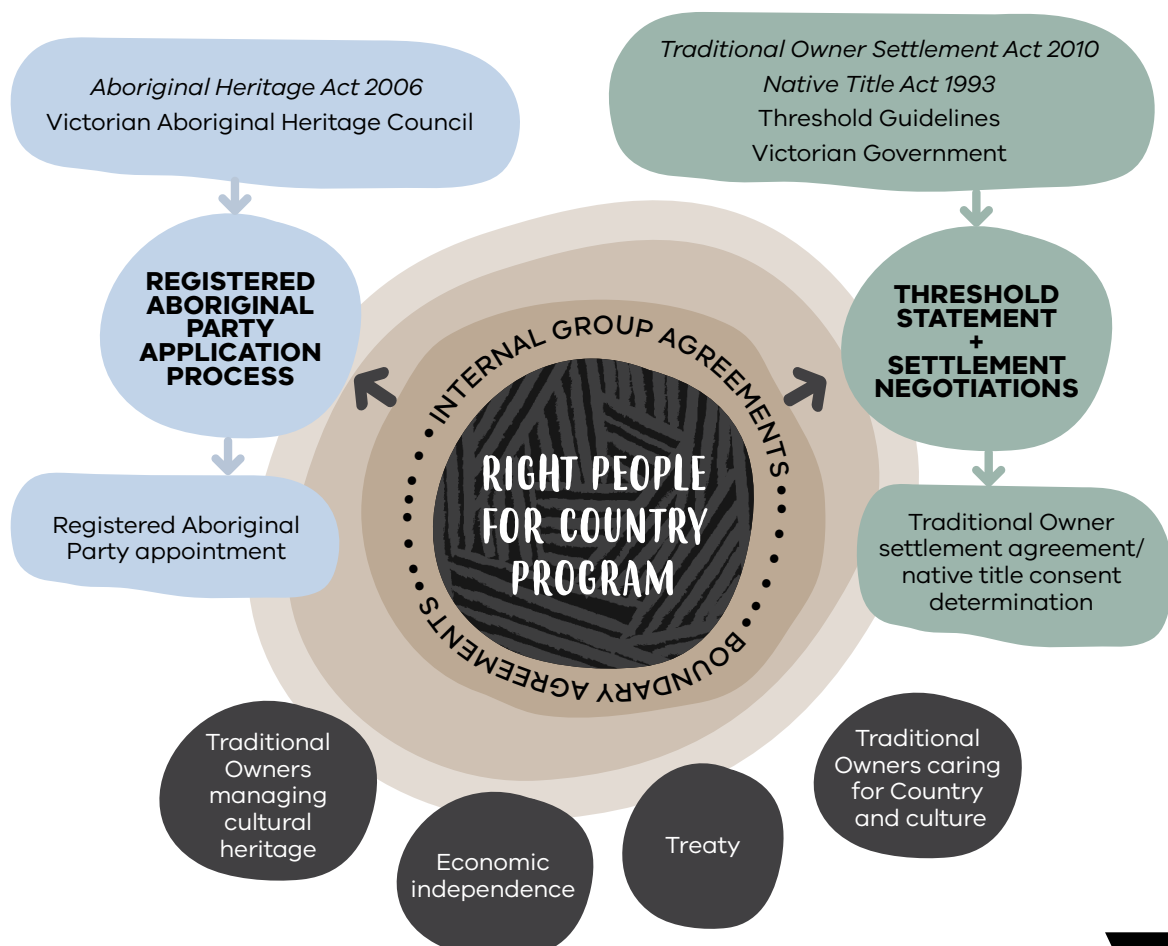
The Right People for Country program supports Traditional Owner groups to make agreements about:

- boundaries and extent of Country, and
- group membership, representation and engagement.

These agreements can assist Traditional Owner groups to apply to be a Registered Aboriginal Party under the *Aboriginal Heritage*

Act 2006 (Vic) and/or seek to negotiate a settlement with the Victorian Government under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic) or the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

The Right People for Country program moves away from governments and courts making decisions for Traditional Owners, by providing support to Traditional Owner groups to reach agreements about Country and Traditional Owner identity themselves.



Traditional Owners design and lead the agreement making process, and reach their own agreements about 'right people for Country' matters.

Support is matched to the needs of Traditional Owner groups. There is no set formula.

Training and resources in strategic negotiation, group facilitation, and managing disputes.

Focus on healing and strengthening relationships between and within Traditional Owner groups.

Traditional Owner led

Tailored and flexible support

Strengthening capacity

Relationships

Coordination

Confidentiality

Cultural respect

AGREEMENT MAKING PRINCIPLES

Agreement making is coordinated with formal recognition processes. Support is brokered from other agencies to assist agreement making.

Agreement making is conducted on a 'confidential and without prejudice' basis. Information is respected and protected according to the wishes of Traditional Owner groups.

Respect for cultural practices and values in agreement making.

Types of support

Support is tailored to the needs of Traditional Owner groups and is available to prepare for, and to make agreements, within and between Traditional Owner groups. Types of support include: planning workshops; negotiation and facilitation skills training; support to visit Country; independent facilitators; meeting resources; family engagement; cultural values recording; mapping and documentation of agreements.

Accessing support

Step one – Give us a call

If you are interested in your Traditional Owner group accessing support for agreement making, then phone us – we can have an initial conversation about agreement making and how the Right People for Country program works.

Step two – Have a meeting to discuss agreement making

We can meet with Traditional Owners to discuss agreement making. We can provide information about the Right People for Country program and examples of other Traditional Owner agreement making projects. We can also discuss your goals, how you want to achieve those goals and what support you need – from this discussion we can draft a project outline that you can use to make an Expression of Interest.

Step three – Talk with Traditional Owners who need to be involved

Traditional Owners need to talk within their own group to get broad agreement to seek Right People for Country program support. An Expression of Interest for support needs to be authorised in accordance with each Traditional Owner group's usual decision making process. Where agreement making involves two or more Traditional Owner groups, you need to talk with the other group(s) and agree to submit one joint Expression of Interest. We can help Traditional Owner groups talk to other groups or parties who need to be involved.

Step four – Submit an Expression of Interest

When Traditional Owner groups are ready, you can submit an Expression of Interest form to the Right People for Country program. A separate Expression of Interest form must be submitted for each agreement making project.

Find out more

Website:

www.vic.gov.au/rightpeopleforcountry

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