

County Koori Court Division – Melbourne

Procedures for the Judge to commence a Koori Court Sentencing Conversation Hearing

RV.....

Commence in the usual way with confirmation of plea to the charges and the consent to the koori court dealing with the matter.

(Said to all gathered)

1. I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which the County Court is located and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.
2. This is a Court which respects Aboriginal culture. At its launch this courtroom was smoked by a local Elder and this is very significant. What this means is that the room has been cleansed and this makes way for a fresh start for the future.
3. Beside me here at the table are: (Aunty/Uncle, or Respected Person)
4. The Elders (or Respected People) are here to assist me with the Sentencing Conversation. When I impose the Sentence, it will be my Sentence and they play no part in that process. They will speak to you to discuss your life, the offending and your future. It is important that you have a voice and will be heard.
5. People then introduce themselves.

** Please note that the Melbourne County Koori Court does not make any reference to any particular clan group in its acknowledgment to Country. The reason for this is that to date, no organisation/ group has been recognised by State or Federal legislation – the Native Title Act 1993, the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, or the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 – as an organisation representing Traditional Owners of the Melbourne CBD area on which the court is located. It is therefore recommended by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs that we do a general Acknowledgement, such as:

“We proudly acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which [this court] is located and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future”