

County Koori Court Division – Warnambool

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 Gunditjamara people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we meet today. I also 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.