



## Songlines Pathways® Engagement Checklist

**Meaningfully engage and develop genuine relationships with Aboriginal communities with the Songlines Pathways®. This engaging pathway draws deeply from Aboriginal cultural heritage and wisdom.**

This checklist is designed to be read with 'Chapter 8 – Engagement and Cultural Protocols' of '**Practical Reconciliation**', by Munya Andrews and Carla Rogers. It is intended for any person or organisation designing a community engagement program.

### The ONE Thing

If we could only tell you one thing about community engagement it would be this:

**Involve those who you wish to engage with in the design of the engagement**

Or even simpler:

**Ask people who you want to hear from, how they would like to be involved and what will work for them - aka 'co-design'**

### The Checklist

#### WHAT?

- ☐ Is this really engagement or are we just telling people about what we are doing?
- ☐ Have we worked out what is on and off the table for discussion (the negotiables and non-negotiables)
- ☐ What are the project scope, budget, resource allocation and timelines?



## WHY?

- ☐ What is the best possible outcome for all of an effective engagement? (Why bother?)
- ☐ What values will we apply throughout?
- ☐ How much influence can the community have? Who is making the decisions?
- ☐ What do we wish to achieve? (Objectives)
- ☐ How will we know if we are successful? (Evaluation criteria)
- ☐ What challenges and risks do we anticipate and how do we overcome these?

## WHO?

- ☐ WHO do we want to make sure is involved and/or who WANTS to be involved?
- ☐ Are there key people in the community who can help?
- ☐ Have we done as much as we can to understand who we are engaging with and their unique needs, also the diversity of needs?
- ☐ What are the resources, skills and requirements of both the agency AND the people that we wish to involve?

## HOW?

- ☐ Given this information, along with what, why and who, what is the best approach(es)?
- ☐ Have you considered a mixture of approaches that cater for diversity in cultural background, learning and communication styles (auditory, kinaesthetic, verbal or visual)? Forget about our obsession with the written word and think about visual approaches (like a picture to stimulate discussion and storytelling).
- ☐ Will the approach generate useful data and outcomes relevant to the engagement?

## REALTIME & ACTION

- ☐ Do you feel you have covered the basic cultural competencies (the 7 Steps)?
- ☐ Do you have strategies to maintain and build the relationship?
- ☐ Will you get back to people and let them know how your conversations made a difference?
- ☐ Work out your success criteria at the beginning, and then stop to reflect, evaluate and adapt.