

The role of Elders



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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were the first people to live in Australia.

This is why we call them First Australians.



First Australians have many **traditions** that they have followed for thousands of years.

Traditions are ways of thinking or acting that have been used for a long time.



Elders share these traditions with people in their community or group.

Different groups have different traditions.



An Elder is someone who is very respected in their community.

They can be any age.

They can be any gender.

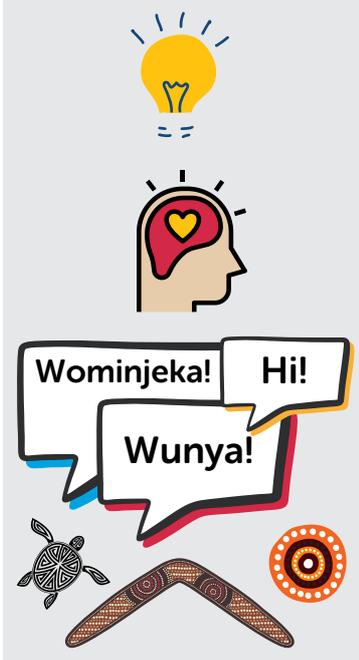


Elders teach their community about their **culture**.

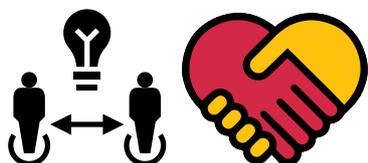
Culture is the way of life of a group of people.

Elders pass on:

- ideas
- beliefs
- language
- traditions



It is because of this respect that Elders are allowed to share their knowledge with others.

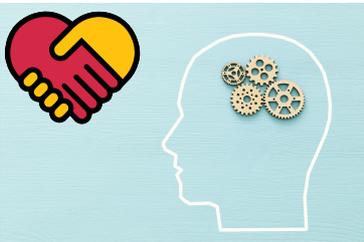




Elders are very supportive of their community.



Many people go to them for advice.



We can all learn a lot from Elders.

They show us to respect:



- the land we live on



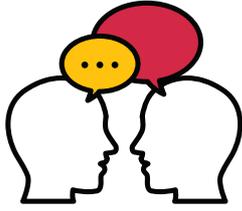
- the nature all around us



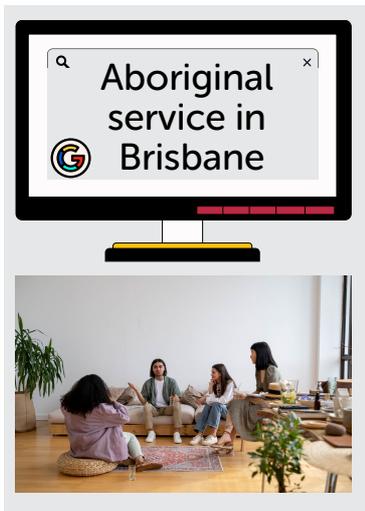
- people in our community



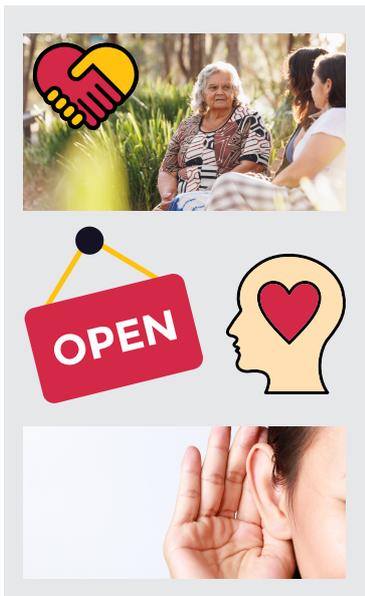
- the traditions First Australians have lived by for thousands of years



If you would like to connect with an Elder in your community you could:



- Ask an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander service in your area
- Ask Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people in your community



Just remember to:

- be respectful
- be open to learning
- listen to what they have to say



It is okay if you do not understand.

Speak to your Support Worker or Employment Coach if you need help.