

A Blessing of the Four Directions

PLEASE NOTE

This ceremony applies to the Hunter Region only. If you would like to use a similar reflection you will need to find out the appropriate peoples and symbols. This is an idea only. Ask your NATSIAC delegate to help.

When we sit at our fires for gatherings we sit in a way where we pay respect to all creation.

*As we **face the oceans** we honour **where life begins**.
It is the place where the **sun rises** to greet **mother earth**.
We are reminded that it is here **where honesty and truth are born**.
It is where **wisdom and strength** of the **mind lives**.
It is where the **stories** of the **people** of the **Awabakal** are spoken.
The **elders sit** here.*

*As we face the lakes area it is where the sacred ceremonies were danced and sung.
This place represents the animals, plants and trees and their sharing and caring.
It is our responsibility to honour them as they provide us with the food, shelter and clothing.
Our children sit here. The spirits soars on the breath of warm winds.*

*As we face the mountains, Mt Sugarloaf, the Wattagens and the Wollombi ranges, where many of the Awabakal sacred sites exist, they are there to remind the Awabakal of their identity and existence
For this the Awabakal will have balanced emotions.
It is here where the women sit.*

*As we face the northern people, Worimi, Gattang and Wonnaruah the Awabakal are reminded that kindness is important.
That is here we are reminded of the **Creator who created all things**.
It is here where we are reminded **that physical life will be sustained** through the aroma and smoke of the fires.
It is here where our men sit.*

Developed by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council, 2006.