A GOOD Engagement Story

The Old Aboriginal Man Under the Tree
In one Aboriginal community, an old Elder would sit under a tree in the middle of town and watch professionals, visitors and workers, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, visit his community to deliver their services.

They all noticed the old man and would often wave and nod their head at him to acknowledge him. The old man never responded or talked to any of them. All he would do was watch and observe what they were doing in his community. This went on for a number of years.

Then one day, the old man responded with a nod and waved back to one of the workers who had been working in his community for many years. This worker was very excited and asked a community member, "Why has he responded now after all these years?"

The community member said, "He has observed many people come and go in his community but you have continued to work in the community for a long time and he has seen you build up trust and relationships with his people. This commitment has shown him that you are helping his community, so now you have gained his approval".

The moral to the story is that community engagement in Indigenous communities takes time, commitment & understanding. Relationships are paramount!

Story shared by Kerry Major

Mount Isa Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group Members (MIATSIRG)

Ron Page  Frances Page
Leanne Parker  Fiona Hill
Nancy George  Kerry Major
Renee Blackman  Shaun Solomon
Stephanie King  Darren Walden
Catrina Walden  Elizabeth Dempsey
Dolly Hankin  Mona Phillips
Graham Page

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For further information, contact Ron Page — Kalkadoon Elder (07) 4744 5445
DON'T: "BAD ENGAGEMENT"  
- Force Western ways on us—try to be the Kakadu Elders.
- Display negative body language.
- Stand your ground, we are not deter.
- Speak loudly, that won’t make us understand.
- Be arrogant, do not question.
- Make promises you can’t keep.
- Disrespect people.
- Force ideas and agendas in short time.
- Get involved in community politics.

DO: "GOOD ENGAGEMENT"  
- Education, research, health workers, and cultural restoration.
- Wear appropriate clothing.
- Communicate openly and honestly.
- Understand our priorities may differ from.
- Understand cultural norms (time)
- Understand your anger and grief.
- History and people.
- Community, know the community dynamics.
- Respect the experience and knowledge of others.
- Listen to our story. It takes time to get to know us.
- Tell your story, to share connections and build relationships.
- Acknowledge and understand our spiritual.
- Elders—when meeting on country.
- Very clearly acknowledge and respect Traditional.
- Consent is required.

THANKS!  
Community service is separate from service with respect.
- Communicate your story and get different.
-花 THANKS! 
i’s if you have been to one or another.
- Be supportive for all Indigenous communities.
- Not a guide, and my not experience.
- This is not about what’s good or bad.
- The acknowledgement is a good start to assist.
- Who would find this paper use?
- A community study, cultural block engagement.
- Will STRIDE to develop.
- Engagement focused on Indigenous and Health a.
- The STRIDE model is about understanding community engagement with Indigenous communities to assist.

ABOUT US