The word ‘walkabout’ is no longer an accepted term. The word is considered an archaic colonial term, historically referring to a sacred rite of passage. It has taken on a pejorative (expressing contempt or disapproval) connotation that denigrates (criticizes unfairly) its deep spiritual meaning. The ritual refers to the process of Indigenous Australian adolescent males living away from their social group for months at a time in order to become a man. A recently coined label that is more respectful is temporary mobility.

“When describing Indigenous Australians, Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples are the preferred terms. Aborigine and Aboriginal are outdated terms and can often offend some Aboriginal people. Islander should only be used if preferred by local Torres Strait Islander peoples. The acronyms ATSI or A&TSI should never be used.”


Guugu Yimithirr, an Australian Aboriginal peoples’ language, the traditional language of the Guugu Yimithirr people of Far North Queensland.
