

WIYI YANI U THANGANI: Framework for Action for First Nations' Gender Injustice and Equality – Submission

MEASURING CHANGE OUTCOMES

What change do you want to see for First Nations women and girls, in all their diversity, with their families and communities, to live their lives in the way they want? What would you feel, see, hear, sense or collectively understand if this change was happening?

Better support and understanding/education for women's health.

Things like periods, birth control, breast cancer. For First Nations women and girls, it is important that education around women's health is easily accessible. As above, information and support around periods, birth control, breast cancer ect, needs to be readily available and accessible for women and girls in Aboriginal communities. It is especially important in remote communities to have these services. Not only this but providing a safe and informal place for women and girls to meet, to yarn with and support each other is so important for wellbeing. **-Gamilaraay Woman, 22, Hobart, TAS**

I want to see an end to sexual violence amongst Indigenous women and girls. We know it's happening at incredibly high rates, and we need preventive and supportive methods in place. We need non-Indigenous people and community organisations to be educated about how sexual violence is different for mob. We need education for mob about how to get help, what supports are out there. -

Awabakal Woman, 22, Newcastle NSW

In your experience, what practices and approaches are most effective in collecting data, measuring and evaluating change?

Community surveys presented through an appropriate cultural framework. Talking to mob face to face is the best way to collect data. It is best to have these surveys and conversations done by mob for mob. **-Gamilaraay Woman, 22, Hobart, TAS**

How do you want to see local change practices and data collection inform national priorities and achieve systemic outcomes, and how could this relate to the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework for Action for First Nations Gender Justice and Equality?

Integrating local change practices and data collection into national priorities fosters a more nuanced understanding of the needs of Indigenous women. The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework's emphasis on First Nations Gender Justice can benefit from localised insights, ensuring policies resonate effectively on the ground (not just in theory or legislation), addressing unique challenges faced by different mobs. This approach enhances systemic outcomes by tailoring interventions to local contexts, fostering inclusivity, and promoting sustainable change. **- Wonnarua woman, 24, Wonnarua Country**

Do you have any additional thoughts, views or experiences about gender-specific data and outcomes that could be included in the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework for Action for First Nations Gender Justice and Equality and the First Nations Gender Justice Institute's work?

Considering gender-specific data within the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework is crucial. The framework could explore intersectionality, acknowledging the diverse experiences within First Nations communities. Incorporating qualitative data on lived experiences and storytelling can enrich the understanding of gender dynamics. Additionally, promoting community engagement in data collection ensures a bottom-up approach, empowering individuals to actively contribute to the conversation on gender justice. Balancing quantitative data with qualitative insights offers a comprehensive foundation for the First Nations Gender Justice Institute's work, fostering a more holistic and culturally sensitive approach to achieving equality. - **Wonnarua woman, 24, Wonnarua Country**

ENSURING A STRONG ACCOUNTABILITY AND EVALUATION APPROACH

Should government (and other stakeholders) be accountable to community determined outcomes? How can this be included in the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework for Action for First Nations Gender Justice and Equality?

Yes, accountability to community-determined outcomes is essential for effective governance. In the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework, a mechanism for ongoing community consultation and feedback can be integrated. This involves regular forums where community members actively participate in shaping and assessing gender justice initiatives. Establishing transparent reporting structures and feedback loops ensures that government and stakeholders remain responsive to the evolving needs and aspirations of First Nations communities, fostering a collaborative and accountable approach within the framework for gender justice and equality. - **Wonnarua woman, 24, Wonnarua Country**

What does the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework for Action for First Nations Gender Justice and Equality and First Nations Gender Justice Institute need to do to incorporate diverse lived experiences and to ensure that no one misses out on opportunities to contribute to and hear this work?

Data collection needs to cover a wide range of communities and cultures, and to be presented in an appropriate cultural framework, and an easily understandable way. Remote communities must be included. - **Gamilaraay Woman, 22, Hobart, TAS**

To incorporate diverse lived experiences, the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework and the First Nations Gender Justice Institute should actively engage with a broad spectrum of community members. This involves targeted outreach to different age groups, geographic locations, and cultural

backgrounds within First Nations communities. Utilising multiple channels, such as community meetings, digital platforms, and culturally sensitive surveys, can ensure a more inclusive representation of perspectives. Additionally, creating accessible forums for individuals with varied abilities and linguistic backgrounds promotes a comprehensive understanding of diverse lived experiences, ensuring that the work is inclusive and that no one is marginalised from contributing to or benefiting from these initiatives. - **Wonnarua woman, 24, Wonnarua Country**

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework and First Nations Gender Justice Institute should look to consult a wide range of people. Including First Nations, youth, queer and disabled is extremely important to ensure a diverse range of lived experience is covered. It needs to be spread throughout the community, through land councils and community organisations like WWYW that have Indigenous audiences. - **Awabakal woman, 22, Newcastle NSW**

We recognise that the process to implement change is just as important as achieving outcomes. How would you want to see implementation processes evaluated over time?

Evaluating implementation processes over time should involve a combination of quantitative and qualitative metrics. Regularly assess key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress toward predefined goals. Conduct surveys and interviews to gather qualitative insights from stakeholders and communities, capturing nuanced aspects of the implementation process. Additionally, feedback mechanisms and case studies can provide valuable narratives on the real-world impact of the initiatives. Continuous monitoring and periodic reviews, involving both internal and external perspectives, contribute to a dynamic evaluation framework that adapts to evolving needs and ensures the effectiveness and sustainability of the change process. - **Wonnarua woman, 24, Wonnarua Country**

Do you have any additional thoughts, views or experiences about accountability practices that could be included in the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework for Action for First Nations Gender Justice and Equality and the Institute's work?

Accountability practices within the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework should prioritise transparency to address intergenerational distrust stemming from systemic racism and historical corruption. Establish clear communication channels that keep communities informed about the progress, challenges, and decisions made throughout the implementation. Regularly publish accessible reports outlining financial allocations and project outcomes. Implement mechanisms for independent audits and evaluations to ensure accountability.

Engage in community-led initiatives for oversight, encouraging local participation in monitoring and decision-making processes. By proactively addressing historical issues and demonstrating transparency, the Institute fosters trust, empowering communities to hold stakeholders accountable for their commitments to First Nations Gender Justice and Equality. This approach aligns with principles of

accountability that are rooted in openness, collaboration, and community empowerment. - **Wonnarua woman, 24, Wonnarua Country**

PROTECTING AND STRENGTHENING DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND GOVERNANCE

What are your hopes and aspirations for what the First Nations Gender Justice Institute's database on First Nations women's and girl's lived experience and voices could look like? How can we ensure safe and considered access and use of the database?

I hope the First Nations Gender Justice Institute's database becomes a comprehensive repository reflecting the diverse lived experiences and voices of First Nations women and girls. To ensure safe and considered access, implement robust security measures, including encrypted data storage and restricted access based on defined criteria. Prioritise informed consent, allowing individuals control over how their stories are shared. Anonymisation and aggregation of data can protect privacy while still providing valuable insights.

Establish clear ethical guidelines and governance frameworks, involving community representatives, to guide the access and use of the database. Regular audits and reviews can ensure ongoing compliance with these principles. By prioritising privacy, consent, and community input, the database can become a powerful tool for advocacy, research, and policy development while respecting the dignity and agency of those contributing their voices. - **Wonnarua woman, 24, Wonnarua Country**

How do we ensure that this living database is used and owned by First Nations women and girls?

To ensure that the living database is used and owned by First Nations women and girls, prioritise community ownership and involvement in its development and management. Establish a governance structure that includes representatives from diverse First Nations communities, with decision-making power over the database's use and access.

Implement clear protocols for obtaining informed consent and regularly update contributors on how their data is utilised. Develop community-led initiatives for training and capacity building, ensuring that individuals within the communities have the skills to actively participate in the database's maintenance and utilisation.

Promote transparency about the database's purpose and potential impact, emphasising its role in empowering First Nations women and girls. This collaborative and community-driven approach helps build trust and ensures that the database serves as a tool for self-representation and advocacy, aligning with the vision of ownership by those whose voices it represents. - **Wonnarua woman, 24, Wonnarua Country**

How can the First Nations Gender Justice Institute support First Nations women and girls to access, contribute to and use the database? How can this help women and girls to make decisions about their own local priorities to measure what works on the ground?

The First Nations Gender Justice Institute can support access, contribution, and usage of the database by prioritising community engagement and empowerment. This involves:

1. **Community Workshops and Training:** Organise workshops to educate First Nations women and girls about the database, providing training on how to contribute, access, and utilise the information. Empower them with the skills needed to actively engage with the database.
2. **User-Friendly Platforms:** Ensure that the database is accessible through user-friendly platforms, accommodating various technological literacy levels. Design interfaces that are culturally sensitive and linguistically diverse to facilitate broader participation.
3. **Localised Outreach:** Implement localised outreach strategies to connect with communities, including those in remote areas. Collaborate with community leaders and organisations to promote awareness and understanding of the database's value.
4. **Inclusive Storytelling:** Encourage diverse forms of storytelling that resonate with different cultural and linguistic contexts. This inclusivity helps in capturing a wide array of experiences and local priorities.
5. **Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish channels for feedback and continuous improvement based on input from First Nations women and girls. This ensures that the database remains responsive to their needs and priorities over time.

By empowering women and girls to actively contribute to and use the database, the Institute facilitates a bottom-up approach to decision-making. This process enables them to measure what works on the ground and make informed decisions about their local priorities, fostering a sense of agency and ownership over the data that directly impacts their lives. - **Wonnarua woman, 24, Wonnarua Country**

Do you have any additional thoughts, views or experiences about strengthening data sovereignty and government that could be included in the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework for Action for First Nations Gender Justice and Equality and First Nations Gender Justice Institute's work?

Strengthening data sovereignty within the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Framework and the First Nations Gender Justice Institute's work involves:

1. **Community-Led Data Governance:** Promote community-led data governance structures that give First Nations communities control over the collection, use, and sharing of their data. This empowers communities to assert their sovereignty in determining how information is managed.
2. **Culturally Responsive Data Practices:** Integrate culturally responsive data collection methods that respect Indigenous knowledge systems and ways of knowing. This ensures that data practices align with cultural values and do not perpetuate harm or reinforce colonial approaches which have historically caused trauma.

3. **Capacity Building:** Invest in capacity-building initiatives to enhance data literacy within First Nations communities. This includes training community members in data management, analysis, and interpretation, fostering a sense of ownership and expertise.
4. **Interconnectedness of Systems:** Recognise the interconnectedness of data sovereignty and broader governance structures. Advocate for policy changes that acknowledge Indigenous governance systems and respect the autonomy of First Nations communities in decision-making.
5. **Legal Protections:** Advocate for legal protections that safeguard data sovereignty rights for First Nations communities. This includes negotiating agreements with external entities to ensure that data is used ethically and in alignment with Indigenous peoples' interests. - **Wonnarua woman, 24, Wonnarua Country**