



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: Indigenous Women's Sustainability Knowledge Exchange Program

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute for First Nations Gender Justice (the Institute) is now inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) from First Nations women (inclusive of cis and trans women) and gender-diverse people to our Indigenous Women's Sustainability Knowledge Exchange Program, taking place in Indonesia in late August/early September 2025.

About the Knowledge Exchange Program

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute for First Nations Gender Justice (the Institute) will facilitate a small delegation of First Nations women (inclusive of cis and trans women) and gender-diverse people to travel to Indonesia in **late August to September 2025** to connect Indigenous women across Australia and Indonesia to share deep knowledges of sustainability and climate justice. This Program is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

The Program builds on the comprehensive evidence of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Project that highlights First Nations peoples' extensive work and knowledge in caring for kin and Country. These knowledge systems and practices, passed down through generations, are vital for the healthy functioning of social, economic, cultural and environmental systems.

Indigenous women across the globe hold the largest collective knowledge systems crucial to sustaining communities, yet their expertise remains largely overlooked in climate and sustainability policies and frameworks. In the face of increasing climate threats which impact Indigenous women more than any other group, these knowledge systems are even more crucial.

There is an immense and urgent opportunity to incorporate Indigenous women's knowledges of care and sustainability into national and international responses to climate change. This Knowledge Exchange Program will enable collaborations and connections to ensure women's voices are recognised and mobilised in addressing the impacts of climate change in their communities and amplify First Nations gender just approaches to sustainability.





Why are we hosting a Knowledge Exchange?

The Institute is focused on connecting and amplifying Indigenous women's sustainable knowledges, actions and solutions across Australia and South-East Asia. This is a critical, but largely absent, lens when addressing climate change.

This work takes place in the context where Indigenous women face mounting threats as climate change and environmental degradation accelerate at a historic rate. Indigenous peoples' deep connection to the land and water makes them the first to experience the devastating effects of extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and biodiversity loss.

The climate crisis also exacerbates existing gender inequalities. In many communities, as the primary food providers, caretakers, and knowledge holders of sustainable practices, women are disproportionately impacted by droughts, deforestation, and resource scarcity, which threaten their livelihoods and cultural survival. Indigenous women are also more vulnerable to economic instability, food insecurity, and violence as they struggle to access land rights and decision-making power.

By bringing women together, we hope to deepen our collective knowledge of these impacts and strengthen our ability to support community-led responses that enable Indigenous peoples to adapt and thrive in the face of environmental change. This initial exchange represents a first step toward building stronger connections between Indigenous women across the Asia-Pacific region, ensuring their knowledge and leadership can effectively influence both domestic and international climate policy.

Purpose and objectives of the Knowledge Exchange Program

The purpose of the Knowledge Exchange Program is to explore and design a strategic approach to connect and amplify Indigenous women's sustainability knowledges, actions and solutions across Australia and Southeast Asia—elements critical to addressing climate change. The Program objectives are:

- To strengthen women-led initiatives integrating cultural preservation, social wellbeing, environmental protection, economic development, and Indigenous-led approaches to enhance Australia-Southeast Asia climate resilience and sustainable trade policy, and;
- To design mechanisms for Indigenous women's participation in international sustainability and climate forums, and inform global commitments, and establish ongoing exchange pathways across the region.

Additionally, the Program is intended to be the first phase of the Institute's long-term commitment to support First Nations gender and climate justice, including through:

- Broadening connections across the Southeast Asia and Pacific region to establish a regional alliance and collective voice, representative of Indigenous women and gender-diverse people in all their diversity;
- Coordinating and facilitating Indigenous women and gender-diverse people across the Southeast Asia and Pacific region to gather and represent First Nations gender justice at global forums;





- Increasing evidence and stories to re-shape narratives of sustainability to ones that are grounded in intersectional, gender-responsive and Indigenous-led ways of knowing, doing and being;
- Transforming local, national, regional and global sustainability and climate change frameworks; and
- Supporting women's caring and sustainability knowledges and practices to strengthen community-led action and resilience as critical to responding to climate change.

Program Agenda & Delegation

The Knowledge Exchange Program will be collaboratively designed and led by the Institute and Indonesian partners. **Over 14 days**, delegates will have the opportunity to connect with Indigenous women and organisations across Indonesia for:

- **Sense-making:** Engaging in deep sensing work to understand the values, needs and experiences of Indigenous women in Indonesia and Australia, and how different gender and Indigenous initiatives intersect with sustainability and climate change policy to improve responses and impact.
- **Knowledge gathering:** In conversation and site-visits with Indigenous women and stakeholders across Indonesia, explore Indigenous and gender initiatives that improve understanding of the varied impact of climate change on women, and how women's lives and work can enhance sustainability models and influence policymaking.
- **Documenting:** Through writing, art, sensing, and in dialogue, capture learnings to contribute towards a stronger evidence base of sustainability and climate just practices and stories. This will allow us to share Indigenous women's stories and experiences of how climate change impacts them and the ways in which they respond to mitigate impacts and/or create sustainable existences for themselves, and their families and communities.

The program will additionally hold space for yarning, workshopping, artmaking, and listening with various women's groups and communities to express and learn sustainability knowledges and practices in different ways.

The delegation will be led by Institute Chair, June Oscar AO, and supported by members of the Institute team. The program will also hold space for researchers and non-Indigenous partners to self-fund their participation in the Knowledge Exchange, at the invitation of the Institute.

Key Delegate Engagements

- **Pre-Travel Engagements:** Virtual meetings will be held with the Institute to provide information on the Knowledge Exchange Program. They will also be a space to set intentions for the program, ensuring delegates are aware of their roles and responsibilities, and to practice the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Ways of Working.
- **Knowledge Exchange Program (2 weeks: Dates TBC between late August to early September 2025):** Institute members and delegates will travel to Indonesia to engage with Indonesian stakeholders and community groups. The agenda will be developed within pre-travel





engagements and will involve in-country travel and various engagements, including cultural activities, meetings with stakeholders, and workshops.

- **Post-Trip Commitments (late September to October 2025):** Delegates will participate in post-program virtual engagement with the Institute to share reflections and findings, and develop ways of sharing learnings into spaces of influence. This may include:
 - Where relevant, integrate learnings into advocacy, policy, or community-led initiatives
 - Develop a community guide or report sharing learnings.

Key Dates

Stage	Date	Activity & Milestones
Co-Design	26 May 2025	EOI Opens for Delegates
	8 June 2025	EOI Closes for Delegates
	June 2025	Delegate selection process & delegates confirmed and contacted
	17 June 2025	Delegate Meeting 1 - This meeting will be a half-day workshop (4 hours) to introduce the team and program, and set intentions with the Ways of Working. Resources including a delegate information and travel pack, program agenda and a draft discussion paper will be shared within meetings and iteratively updated with feedback.
	1 July 2025	Delegate Meeting 2 - This meeting will be designed to engage delegates and a co-design partner in Indonesia to inform the program agenda and address questions
	July 2025	All flights, visas, accommodation and logistic bookings confirmed
	19 August 2025	Delegate Meeting 3 and additional meetings if needed - This meeting will act as a pre-travel briefing, answering any final questions.
	August 2025	Delegate Pack and all information and pre-reading provided to Delegates
In-country engagement	August-September 2025	Delegates and Institute team travel to Indonesia
	August-September 2025	Knowledge Exchange Program in Indonesia (agenda TBC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly into Jakarta • Engage in community visits, cultural workshops, tours and on-Country experiences • Return home via Denpasar
	September 2025	Team and Delegates return home
Post-Program Reflections and Communication	September	Post-program delegate reflections, evaluate impact and plan next steps with additional meetings as needed
	October	Project Wrap-Up and reporting



Join the Delegation: Expressions of Interest

The Institute is inviting expressions of interest (EOI) for 5-6 delegates via [Microsoft forms](#) from **Monday 26 May to 11:59pm Sunday 8 June 2025**.

Who should apply?

The Institute is inviting EOIs from First Nations women (inclusive of cis and trans women) and gender-diverse people who are engaged or interested in elevating their knowledges of care, sustainability and climate justice to drive impact within their communities and beyond. You don't need any formal qualifications or leadership role, the Knowledge Exchange Program is open to women and gender-diverse people who:

- Have deep knowledge of First Nations women-led caring and sustainability practices
- Are involved in First Nations women-led initiatives that integrate cultural preservation, social wellbeing, environmental protection, economic development, care and sustainability.
- Are engaged in cultural revitalisation and care work that supports intergenerational knowledge to care for both kin and Country
- Have lived experience of the impacts of climate change
Are interested in expanding understandings of sustainability and how gendered approaches can improve how we address climate change
- Are involved in developing approaches that elevate Indigenous voices into forums of decision-making, with a focus on ensuring diverse geographic and cultural perspectives
- Share a gendered and intersectional lens on sustainability and climate responses

To be eligible for the delegation, applicants must:

- Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Identify as a woman (inclusive of cis and transwomen) and/or gender-diverse
- Hold a current passport of at least 6 months from departure date
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have demonstrated experience and expertise in an area that contributes to sustainability and climate justice. This may include one or more of the following areas:
 - climate action
 - sustainability and/or Indigenous knowledge systems
 - environmental protection work
 - international policy and advocacy
 - Land/sea management and tourism
 - Infrastructure and design
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Education
 - Economic security
- Willingness to engage in virtual meetings pre and post-travel to Indonesia to support design of the program and dissemination of learnings (dates provided below).





- Adhere to the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute's 'Ways of Working' principles as a guiding methodology for engagement (linked in our [Change Agenda for First Nations Gender Justice](#))
- Be of sound health and are willing to comply with the responsibilities of travel suggested by the Australian and Indonesia governments. Delegates will be required to provide to an electronic health declaration before entering Indonesia, as in compliance with Indonesian travel requirements.

Please see the [Australian Government's health and travel advice](#) to ensure you will comply with responsibilities of travel into Indonesia.

How to apply

Applications open on **Monday 26th May 2025** and will close on **Sunday 8 June 2025 at 11:59pm (AEST)**.

To apply, please complete the below ONLINE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM:

[ONLINE EOI FORM](#)

If you cannot complete the online form, please contact the Institute team via wyyut@anu.edu.au for a word version of the form, or if you would appreciate assistance in responding to the questions.

Applicants will be required to provide some personal details, including any specific support needs for participation and engagement in the Knowledge Exchange Program, and to confirm your availability to attend the full duration of the pre and post-engagements and in-country program.

Accessibility & Inclusion: The Institute is committed to creating a safe, inclusive and accessible environment for all participants. If you have any support requirements, such as mobility or additional ability access, technology support, childcare or other caring responsibilities, we will work with you to ensure your full participation. All information shared will be treated confidentially. If you would prefer to discuss your accessibility needs with us directly, please contact wyyut@anu.edu.au.

Successful applicants

The Institute will notify successful applicants as soon as possible after the EOI closes in early June. The Institute will then provide further details about the Knowledge Exchange Program in the first Delegate meeting including planning for travel, logistics, and confirming activities.

Successful applicants will be supported by the Institute to attend the Knowledge Exchange Program and will cover the costs of:

- Return flights to Indonesia;
- Accommodation for the full duration of the in-country program;
- All meals and in-Country activities;





The capacity of the Program is limited to between 5-6 supported participants. We appreciate your understanding if you are unsuccessful for the EOI and encourage you to stay in touch for future opportunities.

Contact

For questions or further information about the application process or eligibility, please email wyut@anu.edu.au.

About the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute, based at the Australian National University (ANU) is Australia's first institute dedicated to advancing the rights, knowledges, and leadership of First Nations women, girls, and gender-diverse peoples as catalysts for systemic change. The Institute is founded by June Oscar AO, who led the landmark Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Project as the former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission. The Institute's purpose is to elevate First Nations women, girls and gender-diverse peoples' knowledges, lived experience and solutions as crucial to reconstructing more just, sustainable and enabling societies.

The Institute's core work includes:

- Co-creating First Nations gender-responsive models and initiatives;
- Collaborating with interdisciplinary researchers to grow evidence on what works;
- Elevating First Nations women and gender-diverse peoples' voices to inform policy and re-shape systems; and
- Uniting diverse system actors to drive change for First Nations gender justice.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need to be currently employed or working in a formal role to apply?

A: No. We welcome First Nations women who are making and contributing to change in both formal and informal capacities.

Q: What if my work doesn't seem directly related to "gender and climate justice" or "sustainability"?

A: Many First Nations women are doing important work that contributes to gender and climate justice, and sustainability even if they don't use those terms. If you're working in your community or other spaces to drive positive and meaningful action, we encourage you to apply.

Q: What happens if I can't attend the full 2 week program?

A: Due to the purpose and intention of the Knowledge Exchange Program, as well as the logistics involved in travelling to Indonesia, we ask that delegates attend the full 2 weeks and engage in pre- and post- activities.

Q: What should I bring to Indonesia?

A: Successful applicants will receive a detailed list of suggested items to bring. The Institute will provide all materials needed for program activities.

Q: Will there be support for travel from remote communities?

A: Yes. The Institute will cover return flights to Indonesia for all successful participants, as well as ground transportation needs.

Q: How will participants be selected?

A: The Knowledge Exchange Program aims to bring together a diverse group of First Nations women and gender-diverse peoples from different regions, Nations, age groups, and experience levels, and selection will aim to create a rich learning environment that draws on collective wisdom and experiences. Delegates will be selected by a panel chaired by June Oscar AO, including members of the Institute team.

Q: What will happen after visiting Indonesia in the Knowledge Exchange Program? Will there be ongoing support?

A: The Knowledge Exchange Program is the first step for the Institute in creating relationships and movement-building across the Asia-Pacific to support Indigenous women-led climate justice. The Institute is committed to ongoing engagement and support following the program to ensure that the work continues and grows.

Q: Can I bring people in my care with me?

A: The Institute recognises the importance of First Nations women as carers. However, due to logistical requirements, the Institute will only be able to support your attendance in travelling to Indonesia. Whilst the Institute will not be able to financially support additional attendance for people in your care, we will endeavour to create processes to support caring responsibility. Please contact the Institute for any further questions and any additional ways we may be able to support you.