



**Australian
Human Rights
Commission**



**Wiyi Yani
U Thangani**

**Women's Voices
SECURING OUR RIGHTS
SECURING OUR FUTURE**

Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices)

Call for Submissions from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women

(please use this form if you are 18 years of age or older)

The [Wiyi Yani U Thangani \(Women's Voices\) Project](#) is led by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, June Oscar, AO. This project, conducted by the Australian Human Rights Commission (the Commission), is seeking input from Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander women about their challenges, priorities and aspirations for themselves, their families and their communities.

The Social Justice Commissioner and her team will travel throughout Australia to engage with a broad range of people, especially those with unique aspirations, needs and priorities, including linguistically diverse and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse and intersex (LGBTI) persons. It is hoped that hearing from a diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities will help to influence positive change for our children and the future generations.

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Project aims to explore:

- the needs, challenges and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls today;
- the key achievements in relation to the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls over the past 30 years;
- ways to enhance the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls so that they can lead happy, healthy and fulfilling lives;
- ways to promote and protect culture.

In order to receive as many perspectives as possible from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls, we encourage those who wish to contribute to this process to do so by making a submission to us.

Submissions are also open to individuals and groups who represent the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls.

The closing date for providing submissions is **30 November 2018**

Let us know your views, experiences and opinions:

By phone

If you would like to speak directly over the phone with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice team at the Australian Human Rights Commission, please contact us by **Telephone**: (02) 9284 9600

Write to us

You can write to us via email us at wiyiyaniuthangani@humanrights.gov.au or post to GPO Box 5218 Sydney NSW 2001.

Online

You can complete the Have your Say form online at <https://wiyiyaniuthangani.humanrights.gov.au/have-your-say/make-submission>.

Send us a video or other creative expressions (artwork, songs, a poem or any other creative expression you wish to use) and upload it via the website at <https://wiyiyaniuthangani.humanrights.gov.au/join-conversation>

If you have further questions about the submission process, please go to the Participant Information Form on the project website.

Disclosure of information

Unless you expressly give permission, we will:

- Ensure your confidentiality is maintained. This means that any collection of personal information (such as name, age and contact details) will be collected for internal record keeping purposes only and will not be published.
- Ensure anonymity is maintained. This means that while your story or experience may be included in the final report, you will not be identified.
- Enable people to share their story anonymously, ensuring confidentiality and anonymity.

The exception to anonymity and confidentiality is where information is disclosed by or about a child or young person where there is a risk to their safety. Where there is a current or future risk to the wellbeing of a child or young person it is necessary, for the protection of that person, that the relevant authorities be informed.

Support services

Speaking out about a traumatic experience can be distressing. If you decide to provide information to us but find, either during or after providing information, that relaying the experience(s) of trauma is causing you distress, you can access counselling support through:

- [1800RESPECT](#) (24/7 national sexual assault and domestic and family violence counselling service)
- Your local Aboriginal Legal Service or Legal Aid

- Your local Aboriginal Medical Service or local state/territory government health service
- Your local family violence prevention service

Mental health, crisis, suicide prevention and healing services

- [Lifeline](#) – 13 11 14
- [Beyondblue](#) – 1300 224 636
- [Suicide Call Back Service](#) – 1300 659 467
- [Kids Helpline](#) – 1800 551 800
- [The Healing Foundation](#) – (02) 6272 7500

If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any issues which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact the Commission by email: wiyiyaniuthangani@humanrights.gov.au or phone: 02 9284 9600.

Dealing with discrimination

The Australian Human Rights Commission is an independent organisation that investigates complaints about discrimination, harassment and unfair treatment on the basis of race, colour, descent, gender, disability, age and other grounds.

For free advice on discrimination and your rights, or to make a complaint, call our National Information Service on 02 9284 9888/1300 656 419 (local call) or 1800 620 241 (toll free). You can also email us at complaintsinfo@humanrights.gov.au

Information about making or responding to a complaint is available at <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/complaint-information>

Wiyi Yani U Thangani submission form questions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women

The closing date for providing submissions is **30 November 2018**

Send your submissions form:

by email to: wiyiyaniuthangani@humanrights.gov.au

by post to: Social Justice, Australian Human Rights Commission, GPO Box 5218, Sydney NSW 2001

The Social Justice Commissioner welcomes submissions from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Guiding questions have been provided below to help prompt you but they are only a guide and you are encouraged to write your own story.

The Australian Human Rights Commission will not publish or otherwise disclose confidential personal information provided throughout this national conversation or submission process.

However, where the information discloses that there is a current or future risk to the wellbeing of a child or young person, the relevant information will be reported to the appropriate authority.

In order to protect the identity of the participants in the project and/or third parties we will endeavor to ensure information provided to us is de-identified. Any personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).

Please be aware that whilst every endeavor will be made to ensure indemnity and confidentiality, there is a possibility that information provided within submissions marked confidential might be released, in whole or in part, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth).

Should you need further information on the use, publication and access to submissions, please see our submissions policy at <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/submission-policy>.

Where people have indicated that they would like their submission to be published, these will be made available on the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) website. Please see our submissions policy at <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/submission-policy>

There are four parts to this submission:

Part A: General questions about you/your organization

Part B: Your experiences and views as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander woman

Part C: Your recommendations for change

Part D: Your contact details (which will be kept confidential) and consent

Part A: General Questions about you/your organisation

Name of person making this submission: _____

This Submission is made on behalf of (if relevant): _____

Organisation or business name (if relevant): _____

Do you wish to your name to be kept confidential? Yes No

Do you want your submission to be kept confidential? Yes No

1. Do you identify as: an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person?

Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

2. If you are not an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, please state on whose behalf you are submitting this information?

3. If you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, do you speak an Indigenous language? Please state which language(s) you speak:

4. What is your gender?

Female Male X (Indeterminate/Intersex/Unspecified)

5. How old are you?

under 18 years 19-30 years 31-44 years 45-64 years 65+ years

6. What state/territory to you currently live in?

NSW
 ACT
 QLD

- VIC
- SA
- NT
- WA
- TAS

7. What is your postcode?

8. Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse and intersex (LGBTI)? Yes No

9. Do you have a disability? Yes No

10. If yes, please provide more details

11. Do you currently work or study? Please provide more details

Part B: Your experiences and views as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Woman

In this section, you can outline the issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in your community, in your family or yourself personally.

1. Sharing experiences and common ground

(a) Tell us about your experience growing up

(b) What are some of the key achievements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in your community?

(c) What role do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women play in your community?

(d) What role do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have in making decisions in the community and how can their decision-making roles be strengthened?

2. Barriers and strengths

(a) What are the most important issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in your community today?

(b) What is your community currently doing to promote the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women?

(c) What makes your community strong?

(d) What makes you feel unsafe in your community?

(e) Who do you go to for support in your community? For example, this could be family, friends, programs or services?

(f) What role does culture play in your community and how do you connect with others around culture?

(g) *What are some of the important activities that are organized by your community? Please explain*

(h) *Are there examples of good programs or services that are working well for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in your community?*

Part C: Recommendations for change

This section asks you to build on the answers that you provided in the previous section by telling us about what more could be done to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

(a) *What are your hopes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women for the future?*

(b) If you could change something about your own life what would it be?

(c) What more could be done to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in your community?

Additional information

If there is additional information that you would like to provide us about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls that is not already captured please do so in this section.

Part D: Contact Details

We will only use your name and email address if we need to contact you about your submission. We will not publish this information or provide it to anyone.

Name (*will not be published*): _____

Email (*will not be published*): _____

Phone number (*will not be published*): _____

Consent Declaration

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in the project: *Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women' Voices) Securing our Rights, Securing our Future.*
- I have read the Participant Information Sheet or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand;
- I understand the purposes and risks of the research described in the project;
- I understand that what I say will be used for the purposes of the inquiry and may be quoted or referred to in the course of the inquiry (for example, on the Commission's website or social media platforms) or in a public report produced during the inquiry. My name and personal information about me will not be published. If information I provide is included in a public report, it will be published under a Creative Commons license and the contents of the report will be able to be used freely for other purposes.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received;
- I freely agree to participate in this project as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the project and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members;
- I understand that I can download a copy of this consent form from <https://wiyiyaniuthangani.humanrights.gov.au>

I agree.