



Australian
Human Rights
Commission



WIYYANI U THANGANI NATIONAL SUMMIT

WE ARE THE CHANGE



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Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) National Summit Program • 2023

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Human Rights Commission (the Commission) acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional custodians of Australia's lands, waters and skies including those whose lands we meet upon for this momentous occasion—the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples.

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani project has travelled across the continent and spoken to women and girls from many nations. We give special acknowledgement to our Matriarchs—the first mothers of this land—we pay our respects to them and all our Elders past and present who watch over us, our Countries, waters and skies.

The Commission recognises First Nations' peoples continuing connection to their traditional lands and waters—a connection that has existed since time immemorial—and acknowledges the impacts of colonisation which continue to obstruct First Nations people's full enjoyment of individual and collective rights.

The Commission supports and celebrates the leadership of First Nations women and girls in Australian society and recognises that women and girls' participation in decision-making is essential to addressing intersectional discrimination, lifting the wellbeing of our communities, and to achieving reconciliation in this country.

We welcome to the Summit all First Nations women who identify as women, including cis and transgender women, First Nations people who are LGBTIQ+SB (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual, Non-Binary, Sistergirl and Brotherboy), and those who are gender diverse and non-binary.

Participants have travelled from Countries across Australia to be at the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Summit. We acknowledge you, your ancestors and the diverse and interconnected languages, cultural practices and laws you carry.



Welcome

June Oscar AO

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this once-in-a-generation National Summit for us as First Nations women to come together and raise our collective voice. As Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, it has been my priority to champion the voices and human rights of our women, girls and communities.

The last time our women were consulted as a collective, at a national level, was in 1986 when the Women's Business Report was published. 34 years later the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Report was tabled in Federal Parliament.

Your participation at this Summit adds to the thousands of stories of our women and girls, which bestow vital learnings for the way forward. As First Nations women we hold matriarchal wisdom and imaginings for the future, which speak to vibrant existences of intergenerational care and responsibility. Our inherited and lived knowledges matter, every day, to the health and wellbeing of our children, families, and communities. They matter to the making of effective policy, legislation and the structures that form thriving societies. Together, we can and will chart a visionary course and turn our stories into lasting change.



Michelle Deshong

Wiyi Yani U Thangani Summit Co-Host and Facilitator

I am pleased to be able to co-host and facilitate this important event bringing together our Indigenous sisters from all around the country. As we gather matriarchs, mothers, aunties, sisters and friends we can expect to share great yarns, insights and knowledge. This is a once in a generation opportunity allowing us to collectively celebrate successes as Trailblazers, Change Makers, Agitators and Advocates.

We will also look to shaping a future where we are no longer silenced by the systems and institutions around us, but by our very intention leading these processes, and improving these structures for greater prosperity, equity and inclusion. Having dedicated most of my career to the advancement of Indigenous women, creating pathways for political representation, reclaiming cultural governance roles and seeking reform for gender equality, I am pleased to see this gathering as a culmination of our collective sisterhood. This Summit is a gateway for us as Indigenous women to change the course of history. To position ourselves and our voices louder, stronger and united for our future.



Carla McGrath

Wiyi Yani U Thangani Summit Facilitator

Carla McGrath is a proud Torres Strait Islander woman and independent consultant with a wealth of experience in Indigenous public policy, community engagement and consultation, for-purpose organisational strategy and sustainability, program design and development, and facilitation. Carla previously held executive roles at the Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity, the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) and Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME). Her current governance roles include Board Chair at GetUp, Chair and Co-Founder of Native Foodways, Board Director at Blakdance, member of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research reference group: Thiitu Tharrmay (Australian National University) and member of the Advisory Group for Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC).

Together, Michelle and Carla form Turnstone Collective.

Thank you to our Summit Design Committee



**Stacey
Campton**
GUNGGARI



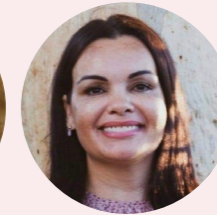
**Shonella
Tatipata**
WUTHATHI,
KULKALGAL,
AND PANAI



**Jude
Ketchell**
ERUB, KEMER
KEMER MERIAM,
WAKAID AND
KOEDAL



**Jade
Thompson**
WILMAN
NOONGAR



**Catherine
Satour**
PERTAME
ARRERENTE
MIRNING



**Calli-Rose
Woods**
KIJA AND
NOONGAR

In October 2021, the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Summit Design Committee was established to provide advice on the design and delivery of a First Nations women and girls National Summit. The Design Committee was selected through an expression of interest (EOI) process, and collectively these deadly women have broad ranging expertise in governance, systems change, culturally-informed policy, research and evaluation, community development, and legislative reform. We thank the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Summit Design Committee for their generous outpour of time and advice, critically informing the design and delivery of this week's gathering.



Thank you to our Partners and the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Summit Team

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Project is led by the Australian Human Rights Commission (the Commission), in partnership with the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

The Commission is an independent statutory organisation, established by an act of Federal Parliament. We protect and promote human rights in Australia and internationally.

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Summit Team members are part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Team at the Commission. Since 2017, the Commission, NIAA, and the many individual and collective efforts of employees have driven the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Project and made this Summit possible.

We give special thanks to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, June Oscar AO, who has led this project since 2017, Summit Co-Host, Michelle Deshong, and Summit Facilitator, Carla McGrath, and the following staff from the Commission who have worked to bring this summit together: Michael Badorrek, Allyson Campbell, Ariane Dozer, Catherine Duff, Monique Duggan, Ellie Baldwin, Erin Ronge, Jane Pedersen, Jordan Tedeschi, Molly McDonald, Kia Devine, Kimberley Hunter, Layla Phillips, Leah Pitt, Libby Gunn, Niamh Kealy, Nick Devereaux, Pola Cohen, Rachelle Singleton, Shikierra Thorne, Shay Dowling, Sophie Spry, Terri Reid and Zara Pitt.

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Summit would also not be possible without the generous contributions from Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG), the Healing Foundation, Supply Nation, R U Ok?, and the Australian National University, the First Nations Portfolio and the Global Institute for Women's Leadership, and all Summit volunteers.

Many First Nations women's voices have contributed to the design of the Summit. The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Team thanks the Action Coalition multistakeholder groups for their collaboration on the Summit program, and acknowledges all First Nations women and girls engaged throughout the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Project.

About the Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit

The Summit is the first of its kind in Australia to bring First Nations women together (cis, trans women, and non-binary and gender diverse people) into an arena of decision-making with a diverse range of private and public stakeholders. The Summit builds on the landmark work of the **Wiyi Yani U Thangani Report (2020)** and **Implementation Framework (2021)**, which Commissioner June Oscar AO has led at the Commission, during her term as the first woman to be the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner.

The Summit comes at a pivotal time as Australia considers significant structural reforms to recognise First Nations unique rights and interests. Over three days, participants will engage in workshops and dialogues, listen to inspiring keynotes and panels, and together determine the way ahead and inform the development of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Framework for Action to achieve First Nations Gender Justice.

The Summit will be a space for showcasing and decision-making with multisectoral stakeholders from governments, academia, business and more. At the Summit, lasting relationships will be formed, and commitments made to invest in the vital work identified through Wiyi Yani U Thangani to drive systemic change now and over the long-term.

The Summit will be action based and solution orientated. Each day of the Summit, four sets of concurrent sessions will be run in the afternoons. The concurrent session talks, presentations and workshops are based on the major thematic areas of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Report and Implementation Framework. The four sets of concurrent sessions are as follows on the next page.



Concurrent session: Leadership and decision-making for self-

determination—This set of concurrent sessions will explore what leadership and self-determination is through the eyes, and ancestral learnings and responsibilities, of First Nations women. The presenters are developing the approaches, mechanisms and initiatives to ensure First Nations women and girls are actively involved in the decisions that impact their lives, have their voices constantly elevated, feel powerful and ready to self-determine the way ahead for themselves, their families and communities.

Concurrent session: Language, land, water and cultural rights—

Over three days these sessions will elevate the depth and significance of First Nations women's knowledges, cultural practices and the immense teachings they carry within their words and the transference of language. The sessions will interweave discussions about the revival and maintenance of women's law and culture and languages, the fight for climate justice and its interlinkages with songlines, ceremonies and belonging to and speaking with Country.

Concurrent session: Societal healing and intergenerational wellbeing—

This stream will highlight how intergenerational care and the transference of knowledge, from elders to youth, forms cohesive and thriving societies. It will consider the importance of dedicated healing spaces that reconnect to culture and reaffirm identity and how healing happens right from birth. It will finish with a powerful set of presentations on transforming education, and putting culture at its heart and how truth-telling in learning is critical to whole of societal recognition of trauma and healing.

Concurrent session: Economic justice and empowerment—These

sessions will construct a vision for the economy through the lens of wellbeing, care, connection and culture. They will begin and end with the fundamental need to place care work and knowledge at the heart of economic models. They will also delve into emerging economies on Country and in communities, practical actions to engage in meaningful and dignified employment, and new ways of investing to bring prosperity and social, ecological and culture returns for entire communities.

Principles

The Summit is designed as a culturally safe, secure, reflective, inclusive and respectful space that is in line with the Wiyi Yani U Thangani principles and ways of working. The Summit upholds human rights and a strength-based approach, it practices and recognises intersectionality and the right to all participants having a voice, being able to speak and be heard.

All speakers, presenters and participants are asked to engage with one another in kindness, and in the spirit of generosity, care, reciprocity and non-judgement.

At its heart, the Summit is a gathering for First Nations women (inclusive of cis and trans women, and gender diverse and non-binary people), to come together in the first national gathering space of its kind, to be accepted by one another and to share freely with courage and without fear.

When engaging in discussions everyone should have the ability to contribute once before anyone speaks twice.

If you are a non-Indigenous participant, you are here as an invited guest, ally and observer. When in attendance we ask that you listen deeply and speak only when invited, to centre the knowledge and contributions of First Nations women. We further ask that you be mindful of your presence in spaces, and where workshop places are limited, preference the attendance of First Nations women.



Safety and Wellbeing

The Summit is designed to be a space for decision-making, innovation and celebration, however we recognise the serious nature of Summit discussions and acknowledge that some topics may cause participants distress. We encourage all participants to take care of their safety and wellbeing.

There will be a dedicated Quiet Room located in the Derwent Room on Level 1 and a dedicated Wellbeing Room run by the Healing Foundation, located in the Fitzroy Room on Level 1 (see Venue Map below).

These rooms are intended to be safe spaces for any participant who may be feeling overwhelmed and need some time to themselves or to access supports. Please feel welcome to use the space as you need.

The Healing Foundation is a national First Nations organisations that provides a platform to amplify the voices and lived experience of Stolen Generations survivors. We work with communities to create a place of safety, providing an environment for survivors and their families to speak for themselves, tell their own stories, and be in charge of their own healing.

You can also access the below resources for support, at any time:

13YARN – 13 92 76

Free and confidential 24-hour crisis support.

If you, or someone you know needs support, contact 13 YARN, and safely talk with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter.

iBobbly – free self-help app

iBobbly is a free social and emotional wellbeing self-help app for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 15 years and over.



Download the Summit App

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit App will keep you up to date and engaged with everything happening at the Summit, including all recent program changes, additional information about speakers and presentations and interactive features.

Instructions for downloading

1. To access the app in the app store, search for Ignite Event Launcher – available on both Apple and Android.
2. Download the Ignite Event Launcher from the app store.
3. Open the launcher and enter the code 'WYUT'.
4. Register your personal details to gain access to the app.
5. Enjoy! Browse through event and venue information, program, speaker bios, summit questions and more!

If you have any questions, please see the friendly staff at the registration desk.



Program

Monday 8 May

YOUTH FORUM

8.30am: **Registration desk open**

9.00am: **Welcome**

5.00pm: **Close**

Complete program provided on site and via the app.

In collaboration with Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG), the Youth Forum will bring together First Nations women between 18 and 29 years of age for a series of keynote speakers, panels, breakout sessions and innovation workshops. Youth Forum participants will contribute to forming a Youth Statement to deliver at the broader Summit.

Welcome Event

Times		
5.00pm	8.00pm	REGISTRATION DESK OPENS MAIN FOYER
6.00pm	8.00pm	Canapés
6.00pm	6.15pm	Welcome Address June Oscar and Michelle Deshong
6.15pm	6.35pm	Welcome to Country Dr Matilda House
6.35pm	6.45pm	Screening Yajilarra nhingi, mindija warrma (from dreams, let's make it reality)
6.45pm	7.00pm	Address from the Australian Human Rights Commission President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM, CEO of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Leanne Smith, and former Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Kate Jenkins
7.00pm	8.00pm	Networking and Live Music Kee'ahn
8.00pm	8.05pm	Close of Evening Michelle Deshong



SUMMIT DAY 1 – Tuesday 9 May

WE ARE THE CHANGE. We are Connected: *Sensing and seeing a system grounded in our wisdom and knowledges.*

Being connected is about grounding and uniting Summit participants in all our diversity. Together, through connection, commonality can be found of belonging to country, kin, spirit and the ecosystems that interconnect across the continent. Everyone and everything is connected, and together in our connections we can create healthy systems and flourishing societies.

The Summit is about building momentum to progress and achieve First Nations gender justice and equality in Australia, and the opening theme of connection is a reminder that this movement is a millennial one, with origins at the beginning of time. It is our deep and intimate connections, and ancestral wisdom and knowledges, which means a movement for First Nations gender justice and equality is distinct from a mainstream understanding of gender equality.



Times			
7.30am	8.00pm	REGISTRATION DESK OPENS MAIN FOYER	
8.30am	8.40am	Opening and Housekeeping Michelle Deshong	Royal Theatre
8.40am	9.00am	Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony Dr Matilda House	Royal Theatre
9.00am	9.15am	Performance Yukkembruk Dance Group	Royal Theatre
9.15am	9.30am	Performance Mungu Koekaper Dance Troupe	Royal Theatre
9.30am	10.30am	Plenary Activity Grounding Ourselves In Place Opening Address June Oscar AO Opening Address Michelle Deshong	Royal Theatre
10.30am	11.10am	MORNING TEA EXHIBITION HALL	
11.10am	12.20pm	Panel Ancestors Lay the Foundations for Tomorrow: what will our legacy be in driving generational gender equality and justice? Moderator Michelle Deshong Panelists Cecilia Cox, Community Advocate Michelle Adams, Big hART Sinsa Mansell, Pakana Kanaplila	Royal Theatre
12.20pm	1.30pm	LUNCH EXHIBITION HALL	



Summit Day 1 • Tuesday 9 May

1.30pm – 3.00pm Concurrent sessions			
Concurrent session	Leadership and decision making for self determination	Language, land, water, and cultural rights	Societal healing and intergenerational wellbeing
Room	Royal Theatre	Bradman Theatrette	Menzies Theatrette
Chair	Stacey Campton	Jade Thompson	Jude Ketchell
1.30pm – 3.00pm	Change Making and Political Engagement Michelle Deshong and Carla McGrath, Turnstone Collective	Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Strategic Plan for Language, Law and Culture Merle Carter, Annette Kogolo and Aggie Pigram, Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre	Butterfly Dreaming Leanne Saunders and Cheryl Penrith, Visual Dreaming
	Indigenous Governance Excellence Jessica Bulger, Australian Indigenous Governance Institute	My Grandmother's Lingo Angelina Joshua, Ngukurr Language Centre	Telling Our Story Laurel Sellers and Dawn Wallam, Yorgum Healing Services
	BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation: nurturing, supporting, affirming, and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+SB Communities Associate Professor Corrinne Sullivan, BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation	Ngketya Nwernaka Ilkerta Mparetyeka (Making Our Language Strong): Pertame Master-Apprentice Project (MAP) Doreen Abbott, Leeanne Swan and Josaphine Ferguson, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	Healing Forum priority actions informed by Zenadth Kes women Aletia Twist, Mura Kosker, Sorority Inc and Fiona Cornforth, Healing Foundation

Economic justice and empowerment	Claiming your place	Creative Space
Nicholls Theatrette	Swan & Torrens Gallery Room	Ballroom
Shonella Tatipata	Catherine Satour	
Caring about Care Marcia Gerrard (MG Corporation), Kayla Glynn-Braun (The Equality Institute), Diane Collins, Tracey Harris (Sisters in Spirit) and Shirleen Campbell (Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group) with Janet Hunt, Elise Klein (Australian National University) and Zoe Staines (The University of Queensland)	Warrior Heart: Self Defence for the Spirit, Mind and Body Shantelle Thompson OAM	The Creative Space provides an opportunity to engage with cultural, creative workshops led by First Nations women. Places are limited, pre-registration on the day is essential.
Indigenous Women's Financial Wellness Larisha Jerome, First Nations Foundation		



WIYIYANIU THANGANI NATIONAL SUMMIT WE ARE THE CHANGE

Summit Day 1 • Tuesday 9 May

3.00pm	3.30pm	AFTERNOON TEA (GRAB & GO) EXHIBITION HALL	
3.30pm	4.30pm	<p>Panel</p> <p>What Happens Next? How young voices are paving the way ahead, on their own terms and in their own way</p> <p>Moderator Semara Jose, Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Tonii Wajayi Skeen, Youth Advocate Samara Fernandez-Brown, Social Justice Activist Leah House, ACT Human Rights Commission, Victims of Crime Unit</p>	Royal Theatre
4.30pm	5.00pm	<p>Video Message Reem Alsalem, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences</p> <p>Closing Activity Michelle Deshong</p>	
5.00pm		Close Day 1	
MAIN FOYER			
5.00pm	8.00pm	<p>Evening Event (optional)</p> <p>5.00pm – 6.00pm Canapés and Connection Networking event sponsored by Indigenous Business Australia</p> <p>6.00pm – 8.00pm Djäkamirr Caretaker of Pregnancy and Birth Documentary Screening and Q+A</p> <p>Dr Elaine L̄awurrpa Maypilama, Ms Rosemary Gundjarran̄buy, Evelyn Djojtja Bukaltji, Maria Gurriwiwi, Professor Yvette Roe and Dr Sarah Ireland, Molly Wardaguga Research Centre</p> <p>Djäkamirr is a privileged insight into the aspirations of remote First Nations communities to reclaim their birthing culture from the stronghold of Western medicine; and be part of the solutions to improve health.</p>	<p>Main Foyer</p> <p>Royal Theatre</p>





SUMMIT DAY 2 – Wednesday 10 May

WE ARE THE CHANGE. We are the Future: *Envisioning what we want and calling it into being.*

On day two, all Summit participants are asked to look to the future and think about the way forward for Wiyi Yani U Thangani and what a movement for First Nations gender justice and equality really looks like.

The day will pose questions and considerations about the future, such as, what do we envision it to be? What's happening today that's helping us understand what the future has in store? How do we collectively construct a future we want, and not one that just happens? How do we work together, across diverse spaces, to create a determined pathway toward a future that belongs to us all and realises First Nations gender justice and equality?

Times			
7.30am	8.00am	REGISTRATION DESK OPENS MAIN FOYER	
8.30am	8.45am	Welcome and recap priorities Carla McGrath	Royal Theatre
8.45am	9.45am	Plenary Keynote Address Hon Linda Burney MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians Video Message Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand Keynote Address Associate Professor Hannah McGlade, Human Rights Lawyer, Social Justice Advocate and Expert Member of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues	Royal Theatre
9.45am	10.40am	Lightning Talks Renay Barker-Mulholland 'Selfies / Determination' Renay's yarn will speak to her experiences with representations of Blakness, of femmeness, of fatness, in the media and in her own life. She will discuss the impact of representation in a move towards self-determination.	Royal Theatre

9.45am	10.40am	Lightning Talks (continued) Marlikka Perdrisat <i>Living with Country</i> First Nations people have spent tens of thousands of years customising laws, culture, and language, specific to their Country. Knowledge gained through generations of communication, not domination. In this moment of time, we can use the wisdom of the past, in the present, to create a better future, and create our own dreaming. Laniyuk <i>Writing the Future, Remembering the Past</i> Following in the footsteps of her late grandmother Laniyuk believes that through the arts, reclamation of language, culture and land can be written into our futures. In this crucial moment of climate damage, spiritual desecration and systemic violence, return to land and our ancient practises of care are more imperative than ever.	Royal Theatre
10.40am	11.10am	MORNING TEA EXHIBITION HALL	
11.10am	12.20pm	Panel Building Alliances – what relationships are needed to reach the future we want? Moderator Dr Janine Mohamed, Lowitja Institute Panellists Senator Dorinda Cox, Greens First Nations Lead Donna Murray, Indigenous Allied Health Australia Dalassa Yorkston, Torres Shire Council	Royal Theatre
12.20pm	1.30pm	LUNCH EXHIBITION HALL	



Summit Day 2 • Wednesday 10 May

1.30pm – 3.00pm Concurrent sessions			
Concurrent session	Leadership and decision making for self determination	Language, land, water, and cultural rights	Societal healing and intergenerational Wellbeing
Room	Royal Theatre	Bradman Theatrette	Menzies Theatrette
Chair	Dawn Wallam	Sarah Bolt	Ariane Dozer
1.30pm – 3.00pm	Minymaku Way Margaret Smith, Lynette Ross and Liza Balmer, Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council	Strong Women for Healthy Country Network Jasmin Daly and Sheila White, Strong Women for Healthy Country Network (Mimal Land Management)	Djakamirr Caretaker of Pregnancy and Birth A/Pro Dr Elaine Lăwurrpa Maypilama, Ms Rosemary Gundjarranbuy, Evelyn Djojtja Bukaltji, Maria Gurriwiwi, Proffessor Yvette Roe and Dr Sarah Ireland, Molly Wardaguga Research Centre
	The Yorga Djenna Bidi Aboriginal Women's Leadership Program Jahna Cedar and Johanna Ward, Western Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute	Our Islands Our Home Nazareth Fuid, Torres Strait 8 claimant and Lala Gutchen, Ailan Ambassador	Anwernneke mape apurtele arrintetye-ileme: Together, healing our people Tisha Carter and Amelia turner, Akeyulerre Healnig Centre
	I am Yanalangami Dr Belinda Russon, Bernice Hookey and Deb Edwards, Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd	Mirring-nga – social and cultural importance of Women on Country Rachel Cavanagh, Balunbudjabin Consulting	Kiilalaana Tidida's Program Shantelle Thompson, Kiilalaana foundation

Economic justice and empowerment			Claiming our place	Creative space
Nicholls Theatrette		Swan & Torrens Gallery Room		Ballroom
Kia Dowell		Anupa Butcher		
Building a Future of Reciprocity to Address Economic Injustice Rona Glynn-McDonald, First Nations Futures		Passing the Message Stick: a guide to changing the story on self-determination and justice Larissa Baldwin-Roberts, GetUp!		The Creative Space provides an opportunity to engage with cultural, creative workshops led by First Nations women. Places are limited, pre-registration on the day is essential.
Redefining Reinvestment Alanna Reneman and Mekayla Cochrane, Justice Reinvestment Network Australia				
Yapa kuja kalu wangkami pirrijirdi jintangka: Warlpiri speaking up strongly together, The story of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) Fiona Gibson and Nickita Kelly, Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT)				



WIYIYANU THANGANI NATIONAL SUMMIT

WE ARE THE CHANGE

Summit Day 2 • Wednesday 10 May

3.00pm	3.30pm	AFTERNOON TEA (GRAB & GO) MAIN FOYER	
3.30pm	4.45pm	Plenary Designing the Framework for Action and Institute for First Nations Gender Justice June Oscar AO, and opening remarks via video message from the Hon Julie Bishop, Chancellor of the ANU and the Hon Julia Gillard AC, Chair and Founder of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership ANU	Royal Theatre
4.45pm	5.00pm	Closing Activity Carla McGrath	
5.00pm		Close Day 2	
5.30pm	7.30pm	Our Voices on the Voice Moderators Carla McGrath and Michelle Deshong The Uluru Statement from the Heart outlines a significant reform agenda informed by many decades of advocacy and activism by First Nations people in Australia. A referendum on a Voice, the first reform as per the statement, is now imminent, scheduled for later this year. In this session we have the opportunity to hear about the Voice and the upcoming referendum from the perspective of First Nations women.	Royal Theatre



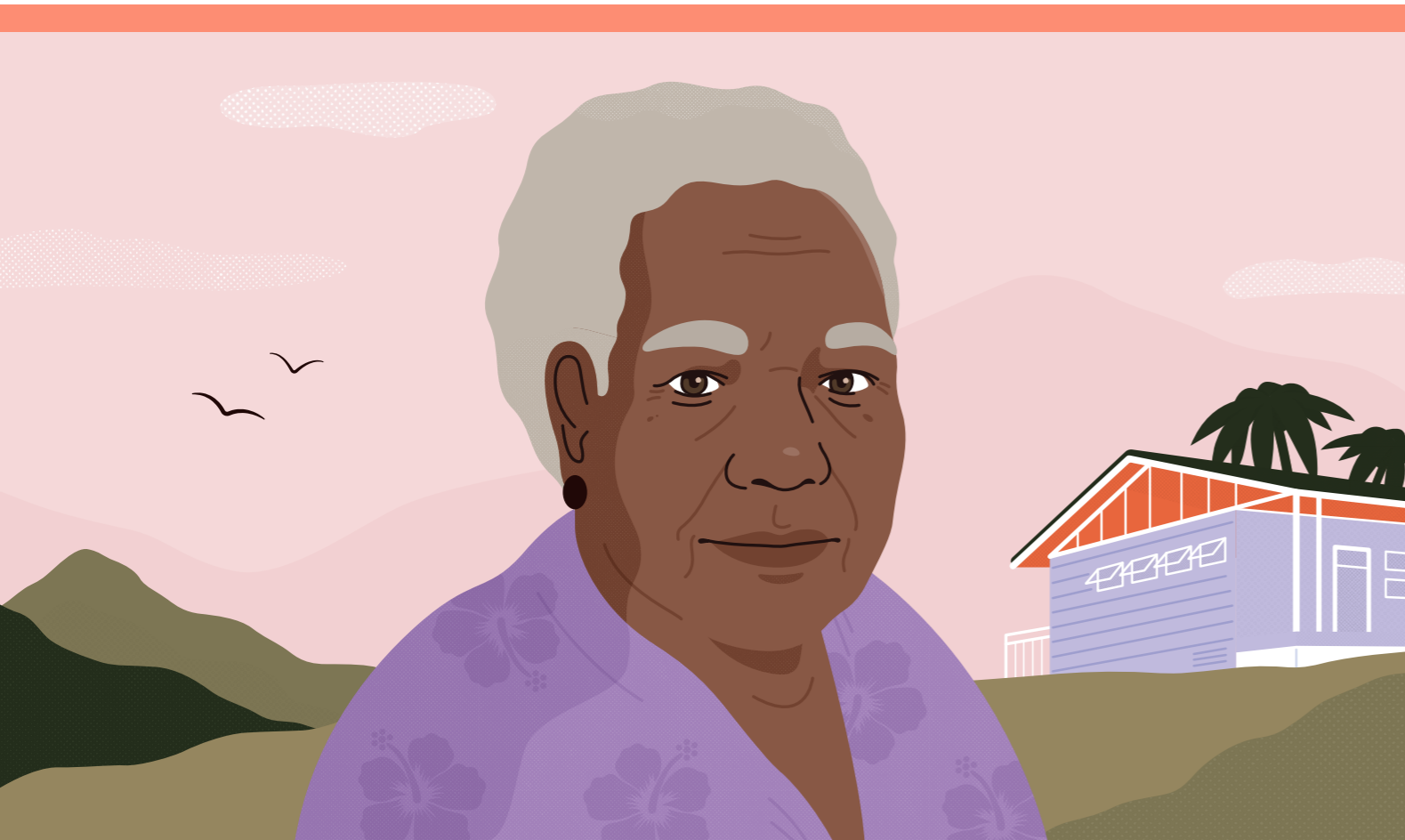


SUMMIT DAY 3 – Thursday 11 May

WE ARE THE CHANGE. We Innovate: *How to make change happen and achieve First Nations gender justice.*

The last day of the Summit is all about innovation and transformative change. Innovation is inherent to First Nations cultures and knowledges. The day will consider how First Nations people are the first innovators, adapting and responding to changing conditions over tens of thousands of centuries.

Innovation is not an abstract thing that exists only in the spaces of tech or corporate environments. The day will remind all summit participants that innovation is an active process that can fuse ancestral knowledge with contemporary methods. The discussions of the day will explore the many sides of innovation, and that to innovate is to confront some of the most entrenched problems of our times to make serious and lasting change happen.



Times			
7.30am	8.00pm	REGISTRATIONS OPEN MAIN FOYER	
8.30am	8.45am	<p>Welcome and Review of Priorities June Oscar AO and Michelle Deshong</p> <p>Video Message Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Social Services</p>	Royal Theatre
8.45am	9.20am	<p>Youth Forum Delegate Statement DIYDG and Youth Forum Delegates</p>	Royal Theatre
9.20am	10.30am	<p>Panel</p> <p>First Matriarchs, First Innovators: How First Nations women's knowledges and practices are the key to a vibrant future for all</p> <p>Moderator Mandy Downing, Curtin University</p> <p>Panellists</p> <p>Tamina Pitt, Software Engineer Rachel Perkins, Filmmaker and Producer Karlie Noon, Astronomer</p>	Royal Theatre
10.30am	11.10am	MORNING TEA EXHIBITION HALL	
11.10am	12.20pm	<p>Plenary</p> <p>Keynote Address Dr Jackie Huggins AM</p> <p>Keynote Address Estelle Clarke, BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation</p>	Royal Theatre
12.20pm	1.30pm	LUNCH EXHIBITION HALL	



Summit Day 3 • Thursday 11 May

1.30pm – 3.00pm Concurrent sessions			
Concurrent session	Leadership and decision making for self determination	Language, land, water, and cultural rights	Societal healing and intergenerational Wellbeing
Room	Royal Theatre	Bradman Theatrette	Menzies Theatrette
Chair	Jenny Wardrop	Ebony Hickey	Ashlee Donohue
1.30pm – 3.00pm	Leadership, Our Way Cleone Wellington, Lisa Wellington, Hayley Longbottom and Kristine Falzon, Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation	Punkaliyarra: Sister-in-Law Dreaming Story Michelle Adams and Genevieve Dugard, Big hART	Education Goals for this Generation Hayley McQuire, National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition
	Empowerment with a ripple effect Janine Dureau and Jodie Bell, Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council	Contested Ground Dr Danièle Hromek, Djinjama	Country is our Classroom – the Children's Ground Approach Veronica Turner, Felicity Hayes and Stacey Campton, Children's Ground
	Desert Divas Dr Shellie Morris, Cassandra Williams, Genise Williams and Liz Archer, Music NT	From Governance to Government: local level approaches to building self-government and political representation of Indigenous Nations Dr Janine Gertz, University of New South Wales	Baya Gawiy Buga Yani Jandu Yani U: Intergenerational Learning Emily Carter and Patsy Bedford, Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre

Economic justice and empowerment	Claiming our place	Creative space
Nicholls Theatrette	Swan & Torrens Gallery Room	Ballroom
Corinna Theodossio	Laurel Sellers	
The Morning Sky Initiative Carol Vale, Hazel Vale and Dr Rieko Fukushima Byrom, Murawin	Creative Catharsis: Artmaking and Mindfulness Kirli Saunders OAM	The Creative Space provides an opportunity to engage with cultural, creative workshops led by First Nations women. Places are limited, pre-registration on the day is essential.
Investing for impact: driving change through targeted investment in our women Kia Dowell and Stella de Cos, Indigenous Business Australia		
Women's Business Second Chance (WBSC) Hub Christianna Cartwright, Melissa Fernando, Oneeva Tuuhetoka, Tracey Tonga, Vanessa Kelly Real Futures		



WIYIYANU THANGANI NATIONAL SUMMIT WE ARE THE CHANGE

Summit Day 3 • Thursday 11 May

3.00pm	3.30pm	AFTERNOON TEA (GRAB & GO) EXHIBITION HALL
3.30pm	4.00pm	Closing Remarks Commissioner June Oscar AO
		Royal Theatre
4.00pm	Close Day 3	

Narelda Jacobs



BARKAA



Janty Blair



Rochelle Pitt

WYUT GALA DINNER

6.00pm – 10.30pm

Welcome to Country

Dr Matilda House

Master of Ceremonies

Narelda Jacobs

Performances

Janty Blair, BARKAA, Rochelle Pitt





People

Welcome to Country



Aunty Matilda House

Dr Matilda Williams-House, Ngambri/Ngunnawal/Wiradyuri Elder who has dedicated her life to the pursuit of social justice for Indigenous people. One of ten children, she was born and raised on Erambie-Cowra Aboriginal reserve, Hollywood Aboriginal reserve at Yass and Ngambri-Kamberri Country and has multiple Wiradyuri, Walgalu and Wallabalooa ancestries. In the early 1960's Dr House married and began raising her family of four children on Ngambri Country.

In early 1970's she began working as an Aboriginal liaison/social officer at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in Canberra, assisting Aboriginal people with health, education, welfare and employment.

A tireless supporter of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy since its founding in 1972, she helped found the ACT/NSW Aboriginal Legal Service, Ngambri Local Aboriginal Land Council in Queanbeyan in the 1980s.

She had a key role in establishing Winnunga-Nimmitjah Aboriginal Medical Service and the Australian National University's Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre in 1989, which provides support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

In 2006, Dr House was named Canberra Citizen of the Year. On the eve of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations in February 2008, she became the first person to perform the Welcome to Country at the 42nd opening of Federal Parliament. Her contribution to her community was recognised by the ANU with the conferral of the Degree of Doctor of the University in 2017.



Yukembruk Dreaming Dance Group

Yukembruk is the Black Crow Wak Wak Dreaming a messenger of the Ngunnawal peoples

The Yukembruk dance group is made up of Ngunnawal Custodians and have been performing cultural ceremonial dances on Ngunnawal Country. This group is made up of Elders, Emerging Elders and young Ngunnawal women and girls.

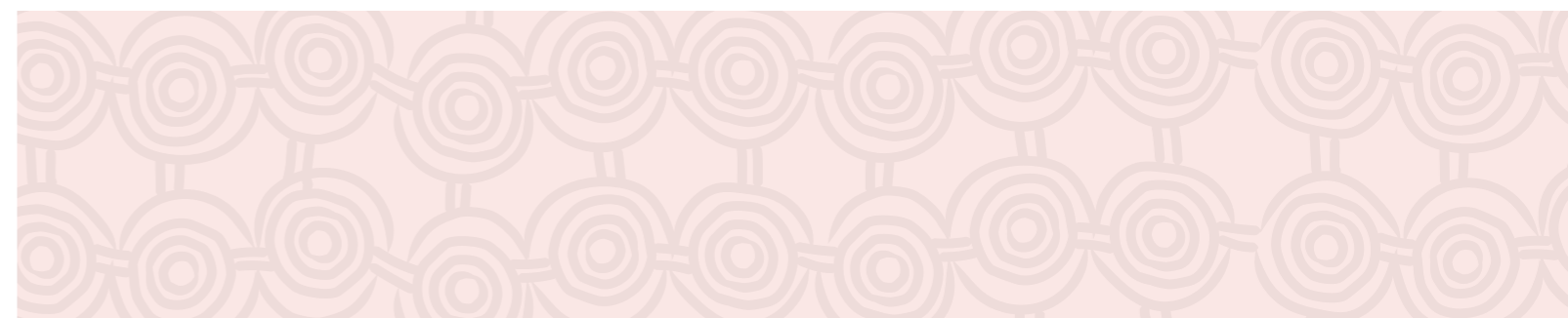
Yukembruk perform the Welcome to Country dances.

Yedda Mura – Welcoming people onto the land of Ngunnawal– hello, come, I'll sweep the lands for you to leave your footprints.

Nadjun – Represents the water on the land of the Ngunnawal. This represents a cleaning dance to be cleansed.

Mulleun – Is the Wedgetail Eagle. This is the totem of the Ngunnawal people and Mulluen protects, which guides and oversees you on your journey on Ngunnawal country.

This group comes together as proud Ngunnawal traditional custodians to pay respect to Yukembruk dreaming and to honour our Elders past present and future.





Plenary Keynotes



Keynote Address

Hon Linda Burney MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians

Linda Burney is the Minister for Indigenous Australians and represents the Sydney electorate of Barton in Commonwealth Parliament. As a proud member of the Wiradjuri nation, Linda was the first Aboriginal person to be elected to the NSW Parliament and the first Aboriginal woman to serve in the House of Representatives. Her commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues spans more than three decades.

Prior to entering Federal politics, Linda served 14 years in NSW Parliament as the Member for Canterbury and held a number of senior portfolios including Family Community Services.

At a Federal level Linda has been the Shadow Minister for Human Services, Shadow Minister for Preventing Family Violence and Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services.

Linda began her career as a teacher in western Sydney. After working on education policy, in 2000 she was appointed Director General of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. She received an Honorary Doctorate in Education from Charles Sturt University in 2002. Linda has also held senior positions in the non-government sector and served on a number of Boards including SBS, the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, and the NSW Board of Studies.



Video Message

Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs New Zealand

As a mother, and a constituent MP with 20 plus years' experience who has come from 'flax-root' politics, Hon Nanaia Mahuta remains connected to the aspirations of people from all walks of life. Those who work hard for a living so that their children can do better, kaumatua, tradespeople, those who aspire to own their home, those who own small businesses and those who lead a range of services and organisations and huge iwi entities.

During her time in Parliament, Nanaia supported policies and initiatives that built the capacity of communities, especially social service organisations, greater investment in education, employment and training opportunities particularly for young people, supported the continuation of the Treaty settlement process and supported specific initiatives that lift the wellbeing and opportunities for young mums and those who are vulnerable and victims of abuse.

Nanaia is a tribal member of Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Maniapoto and Ngāti Manu and her parliamentary experience has enabled her to contribute to the collective aspirations of Maori and all New Zealanders.

In the 2020 Labour Government, under Jacinda Ardern's leadership, Nanaia became the first woman to hold the Foreign Affairs portfolio. She was also Minister of Local Government, and Associate Minister for Māori Development.



Keynote Address

Associate Professor Hannah McGlade, Human Rights Lawyer, Social Justice Advocate and Expert Member of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues

Associate Professor Hannah McGlade is from the Kurin Minang people of Western Australia and her career has focused on justice for Aboriginal people, race discrimination law and practice, Aboriginal women and children, family violence and sexual assault. Her Ph.D book 'Our Greatest Challenge, Aboriginal children and human rights' received the Stanner award for excellence in Aboriginal research. Hannah has been closely involved in advocating for Aboriginal self determination in child protection and is a member of the Noongar Council for Family Safety and Wellbeing. Hannah is also appointed to the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues as an expert Indigenous peoples member of the Pacific region.



Video Message

Reem Alsalem, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences

Ms. Reem Alsalem was appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences in July 2021 by the UN Human Rights Council for a three-year tenure. She started her tenure on 1 August 2021.

Reem Alsalem is an independent consultant on gender issues, the rights of refugees and migrants, transitional justice and humanitarian response. She has consulted extensively for United Nations departments, agencies and programmes such as UN-Women, OHCHR, UNICEF and IOM, as well as for non-governmental organizations, think tanks and academia. Previously, she worked as an international civil servant, serving with the UNHCR in thirteen countries. During her service, she has planned, implemented, and monitored programs that served to protect persons that were survivors of gender-based violence, particularly women and girls.



Video Message

The Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Social Services

Amanda is the Minister for Social Services. She previously held the positions of Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education and Development, Shadow Minister for Youth, and Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel.

Amanda graduated with a Bachelor of Psychology Honours from Flinders University and a Masters Degree in Psychology from Adelaide University. After graduating, Amanda practised as a psychologist working with General Practitioners in the delivery of mental health care to the community.

Amanda is passionate about improving the lives of Australian families, and ensuring children get the absolute best start to life. Amanda is a strong advocate on issues such bringing down the cost of high-quality early learning for families, ensuring healthcare is affordable and accessible for all, and creating and protecting secure, well-paid jobs.

Plenary Opening remarks

Designing the Framework for Action and Institute for First Nations Gender Justice



Video Message

The Hon Julie Bishop, Chancellor of the ANU

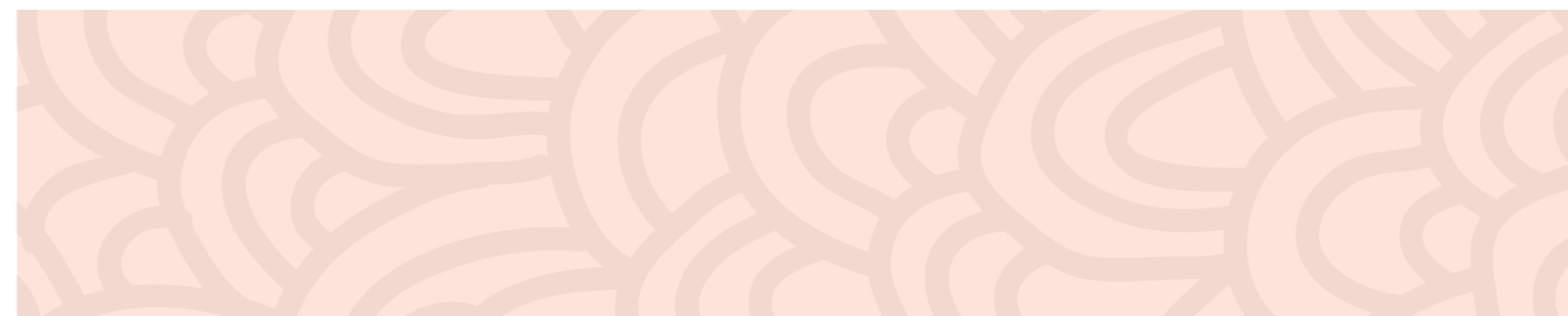
The Hon Julie Bishop is Chancellor of the Australian National University, appointed in 2020.

Ms Bishop served as Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2013 until 2018. She was the first female to hold the role as well as the first female Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, serving for 11 years. In a political career spanning over 20 years, Julie also served as Minister for Education, Science and Training, Minister for Women's Issues and Minister for Ageing.

Prior to entering politics, Ms Bishop was Managing Partner of the National law firm Clayton Utz in Perth.

Julie is Chair of the Board of Prince's Trust Australia, Trustee of Prince's Trust Group Company, Chair of the Board of Telethon Kids Institute, Member of the International Advisory Board of Council on Foreign Relations, Afiniti and the Human Immunome Project.

She has also established a boutique consultancy, Julie Bishop and Partners, offering strategic advisory services.





Video Message

The Hon Julia Gillard AC, Chair and Founder of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership, Kings College London and the ANU

Julia Gillard was the 27th Prime Minister of Australia and the first, and only, woman to serve in that role. Since leaving office, she has dedicated her time to advocacy, governance roles, and writing.

In 2021, Julia was appointed Chair of Wellcome, a global charitable foundation based in the UK, which supports science to solve urgent worldwide health challenges. Julia is also the founder and inaugural Chair of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at Kings College London and Chair of its sister Institute at the Australian National University. GIWL strives for a world where being a woman is neither a barrier to becoming a leader in any field, nor a contributor to negative perceptions of an individual's leadership.

In 2014, Julia joined the Board of Beyond Blue, one of Australia's foremost mental health awareness bodies, and has served as Chair since 2017.

As a life-long advocate for increasing access to education, especially in developing nations, Julia was Chair of the Global Partnership of Education from 2014 to 2021. She now leads the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care in South Australia.

Julia wrote 'My Story', a memoir based on her experience as Prime Minister. Her second book, 'Women and Leadership: Real Lives, Real Lessons', coauthored by Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, explores the challenges women face in leadership. Her third book, Not Now, Not Ever – 10 years on from the misogynist speech, was released on in October 2022.



Keynote Address Dr Jackie Huggins AM

Dr Jackie Huggins AM FAFA is an historian and author. She is a Bidjara and Birri Gubba Juru woman from Queensland. Former Co-Chair National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, Reconciliation Australia, Treaty Advancement Committee for Qld, previous Commissioner for the national Inquiry Into The Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children From Their Families, among many other titles. She has worked in Aboriginal affairs for over four decades including academia, government, non government and community.

She is currently Elder in Residence for Australia Progress, POU Atlantic Fellows, Melbourne University, Honorary Professor ANU, Director National Centre for Reconciliation, Truth and Justice, Federation University Vic., Referendum Working Group. One of her greatest achievements was achieving gender representation in Indigenous organisations which now is commonplace. Expertise has been writing Aboriginal women's history and place since the 1980s. She has authored "Sister Girl" and exploration of women's issues in 2022 and other books.



Keynote Address Estelle Clarke

Estelle is a Yorta Yorta, Wemba Wemba Trans Woman or Sistergirl. She was born in Boorloo on Noongar Whadjuk but has resided on Gadigal Country since 2015. In 2014 she was the Western Australian Young Person of the Year as well as a National Young People's Human Rights Medal finalist. She now works at BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation as the Programs and Training Coordinator based at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Redfern.



Plenary Moderators and Panelists



Panel Ancestors Lay the Foundations for Tomorrow: what will our legacy be in driving generational gender equality and justice?

Moderator Michelle Deshong

Michelle Deshong is a proud Kuku Yalanji woman from Townsville, North Queensland. She has a strong passion for women's rights and is recognised globally for her efforts in the gender justice space, transforming gender power relations and norms through her efforts in both academia and professional roles. Michelle has advocated and support the capability and pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders women's participation in public and political life. This has included leading the Straight Talk Program and Indigenous Leadership and governance development across Australia. Michelle has previously been the CEO of the Australian Indigenous Governance Institution and Interim CEO of Supply Nation. Michelle manages her own consultancy business (Deshong Consulting) and holds Directorship on Boards across various sectors. Michelle was awarded the 2015 NAIDOC Scholar of the year and a Fulbright Scholarship to undertake a comparative studies of First Nations women's leadership opportunities.

Panellists



Michelle Adams

Michelle Adams is a Yindjibarndi woman and emerging Elder from Ieramugadu (Roebourne) WA. A passionate advocate for change and an innovator in her community, Michelle shares a wide range of skills and knowledge with whoever is willing to walk and talk respectfully with Indigenous people, and more importantly willing to pass those skills and knowledge onto the next generations, to support young people to maintain their culture and heritage.

Michelle believes that one of Australia's greatest challenges is to ensure that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in every generation have life opportunities in an ever advancing world. Michelle has also been a senior government adviser in Indigenous Affairs and the Department of Communities and is a trained language specialist with over 20 years' experience in community development and education. Michelle is a Cultural Advisor to Big hART, working with the organisation for many years to ensure the program is safe culturally, and Co-Creator of the *Punkaliyarra: Sister-in-Law Dreaming Story* project, supporting visibility and critical voice for Aboriginal women leaders.



Sinsa Mansell

Sinsa is a proud Trawoolaway women from Irapuna the Northern region of lutruwita Tasmania. She is program producer and project officer, as well a co-founder, performer, and choreographer with the successful pakana kanaplila a traditional/contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal dance troupe. Working nationally and internationally, Sinsa has been pioneering ways to reclaim ancient cultural traditions, as well as being involved in broad range educational experiences. Sinsa's work generates critical awareness of the rich cultural heritage and continuing practices of her ancestors. She is committed to opening opportunities for the broader community to engage with the local First Nations peoples.

Sinsa is a member of the State Growth Ministerial Arts Industries Cultural Advisory Council. Appointed as advisor to the Arts Minister Tony Burke as a member of the 2023 National Cultural Policy Advisory Group.

First Nations Advisory Group member for Australia's Performing Arts Market in addition to advisory panels for the Moonah Arts Centre, Ten Days on the Island Festival and the Walantanalinany Palingina (WaPa) Program. She's also been a member of the assessment panels for Arts Tasmania, Australia Council of the Arts and Constance ARI.

Sinsa is a Mentor and support for a range of organisations and many of the palawa arts opportunities for her community come through her roles with the Situate North Program, the Tarraleah Residency and Moonah Arts Centre Seed opportunity.



Cecilia Cox

Cecelia is a Wirangu, Western Desert women living in Ceduna on the Far West Coast of South Australia.

Her advocacy in Aboriginal Affairs started at a young age at 17 with her first job in Yalata Community Incorporated and then at 22 when she joined the local peak Aboriginal organisation Far West Aboriginal Progress Association board of management in Ceduna.

She has participated in various boards and committees in her community. She is the Chairperson of the Far West Aboriginal Women's Council which represents the 5 Aboriginal Communities (Oak Valley, Yalata, Scotdesco, Koonibba, Ceduna and its surrounding Homelands) on the Far West Coast of South Australia.

The past 24 years of her working career has been working in the Australia Public Sector with a focus in Indigenous Servicing covering a radius of 900 kilometres of coastal and remote outback communities and towns.

She recently took a career change and is now in the position as the Family and Community Connections Coordinator of Connected Beginnings in Ceduna based at Ngura Yadurirn Children and Family Centre in the Department of Education.

She is strong advocate for her Aboriginal community through her work, grassroots connections and local community involvement.

"Being able to practice daily my cultural beliefs enables me to be a stronger person to protect and preserve my culture, our history and the environment."



Panel What Happens Next? How young voices are paving the way ahead, on their own terms and in their own way

Moderator

Semara Jose, Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG)

Semara Jose is a proud Gudjula, Kuku Yalanji, Erub woman she is committed to creating a more just and equitable society for all Australians. She is a passionate advocate for equality and justice. She works to ensure Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Voices are heard in decisions that affect their lives and communities. Semara's leadership journey started in High School alongside for 40 Indigenous students from across the Far North Queensland Region.

Later, alongside Program Manager Kerry Hollingsworth, she spent the following 7 years employed by the Department Education and growing the school-based leadership program to regional flagship program that spanned 18 schools, more than 1200 students from Year 5 to post-secondary. Semara now is the Co-founder and Chair of DIYDG, she has been delivering and building capacity of young people to lead change their way. With over 12 years' experience facilitating leadership development for First Nations young people, Semara has seen the power and potential of those young leaders affecting change in our communities.

She believes everyone should have the opportunity to have their say, be heard and have grassroots solutions actioned. Semara is currently the Co-Chair of the King and Wood Mallesons' First nations Youth Voice Council and is a Director of Wuchopperen Health Service. As an advocate for the Yes23 Campaign, Semara believes that a First Nations systemic response is the foundation of our success, and it requires our young leaders to learn, grow and rise above.



Panelists



Tonii Wajayi Skeen

Tonii Wajayi Skeen is a respected, young, community change-maker and stands proud as descendent of the Yawuru, Jabirr Jabirr, Bardi Jawi, Nyikina, Ngarinyin, Bunuba and Jaru peoples of the Kimberley region. Tonii passionately advocates for First Nations young people to have a voice when it comes to decision making on all levels. Nothing about us without us". Tonii uses her own life experiences growing up, to enact the changes she endeavours to see.

Extensive, varied experience in Aboriginal Affairs and Community Development has seen Tonii employed at various local and peak Aboriginal organisations. In 2018 she was the youngest member who undertook a Jawun Indigenous Corporate Leadership 'reverse secondment' at Commonwealth Bank Australia in Sydney.

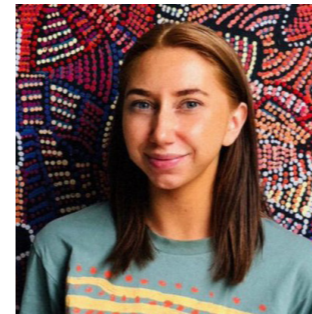
Tonii specialises in Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB), suicide prevention, youth leadership, child protection and family support. She champions a grass roots approach, where she is currently establishing a governance structure across the Kimberley aiming to empower young First Nations people through succession planning and leading generational change.



Samara Fernandez-Brown

Samara Fernandez-Brown is a proud Warlpiri woman from Yuendumu, located three hours north-west of Alice Springs. Samara is an incredible advocate for her people and has become a social justice activist following the shooting and death of her cousin, Kumanjayi Walker in 2019. She has become a vocal activist, coordinating the "Justice For Walker" campaign, liaising between Warlpiri Elders and the police, judicial system and the media, organising rallies, fundraising to cover the case's legal fees all while remaining a peaceful, thoughtful and impassioned spokesperson for her family, community and the broader deaths in custody movement.

She is a board member of the Dhadjowa Foundation, a national grassroots organisation that's been established to provide strategic, coordinated and culturally appropriate support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families whose loved ones have died in custody.



Leah House

My name is Leah Matilda House, I am a Ngambri Ngunnawal woman, I live, work and raise my sons here on my Ancestral lands in Canberra.

I work at the ACT Human Rights Commission with Victims of Crime working with First Nations men, women and children who have been impacted by crime.

I am on the working group for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy which is a privilege to be a part of such a significant site that has held space for over 50 years now.

I am the vice president of the Black Peoples Union, I love working alongside Mob who are passionate and working hard towards collective change. I am a mum throughout all of this and that's the most important role I carry.





Lightning Talks

Renay Barker-Mulholland

Renay Barker-Mulholland is a Blak of all trades. She is a writer, speaker, artist, model, activist and proud First Nations yinarr. Renay's work spans a variety of mediums, her artistic passions include fashion design, wearable art, digital and multimedia art to name a few. Whatever the medium, Renay's work always comes from a Blak, disabled, feminist perspective, driven by a staunch belief in decolonisation.



Marlikka Perdrisat

Marlikka Perdrisat is a Nyikina Warrwa and Wangkumara Barkindji woman and has attained her Juris Doctor in Law and Bachelor of Commerce. Marlikka works across academia, film, and law to spread awareness of First Law, the guiding principles that First Peoples generated from living with a specific place for thousands of years. Marlikka is employed with the University of Sydney, within the Sydney Law School. However, Marlikka is based on Nyikina Country, and volunteers for the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council, an alliance of Traditional Owners who have come together to stand with One Mind and One Voice to manage the Fitzroy River Catchment collectively and holistically.



Laniyuk Garcon-Mills

Laniyuk is a Larrakia, Kungarakan, Gurindji and French writer and performer. She has been published nationally and internationally in poetry collections such as Solid Air (2019) and Fire Front (2020), in the 2022 speculative fiction anthologies Unlimited Futures and This All Come Back Now as well as in literary and culture magazines online and in print. She has been awarded multiple writers residencies and was shortlisted for Overland's 2018 Nakata-Brophy poetry prize. Laniyuk runs poetry workshops, moderates panel discussions and has given guest lectures at ANU and The University of Melbourne. She is currently completing her first collection of work to be published through Magabala Books.



Panel Building Alliances – what relationships are needed to reach the future we want?

Moderator Dr Janine Mohamed

Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed is a proud Narrunga Kurna woman from South Australia. Over the past 20 years, Janine has worked in nursing, management, project management, research, workforce and health policy in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector. Many of these years have been spent in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector at state, national and international levels. This includes the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA), the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM), where she was the CEO from 2013 – 2018.

Janine has been based on Wurundjeri Country in Melbourne since 2019 as the CEO of the Lowitja Institute – Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research. She was awarded an Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity Fellowship in 2019 and a Doctorate of Nursing honoris causa by Edith Cowan University in January 2020. In 2021, Janine was awarded a Distinguished Fellowship by The George Institute for Global Health Australia. She is a regular spokesperson on key topics in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, such as cultural safety, the social and cultural determinants of health, workforce and Indigenous data sovereignty.

Panellists



Senator Dorinda Cox

Dorinda Cox is a Yamatji-Noongar woman with a strong record of working for social justice locally, globally and nationally. Dorinda has over 20 years' experience working in government and non-government sectors and has made significant contributions to policy and advocacy in the areas of domestic violence, child protection and Aboriginal Justice. Dorinda joined the Federal Parliament in 2021 and holds the First Nations, science, trade and tourism, and resources portfolios for the Australian Greens. Dorinda was instrumental in establishing the ongoing Senate Inquiry into Murdered and Missing First Nations Women and Children.



Donna Murray

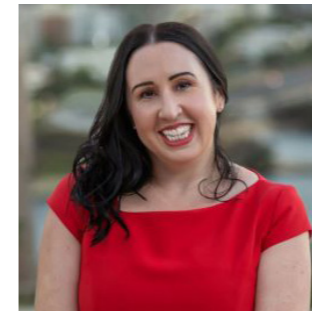
Donna is a proud Wiradjuri and Wonnarua nation citizen. Donna is the Chief Executive Officer at Indigenous Allied Health Australia, holds an Adjunct Associate Professor role at the University of Technology Sydney and has formal qualifications in Community Development, Management, and Indigenous Governance. She is a 2021 Impact 25 Award winner with Pro Bono Australia, the Chair of PwC's Indigenous Consulting, Chair of Thirriili Ltd and Board Director of Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia.

She is a committed Indigenous Community Development Practitioner working to support and assert the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by recognising and reigniting cultural governance and leadership that embed Indigenous nation-building principles to shape a future of our own design now and for generations to come.



Dalassa Yorkston

Dalassa Yorkston is a Torres Strait Islander woman and Chief Executive Officer of the Torres Shire Council. She is the first Indigenous local woman to hold this position. Ms Yorkston has been a member of the Executive Management Team within Council since 2008, and has long experience working with local government.



Panel First Matriarchs, First Innovators: How First Nations women's knowledges and practices are the key to a vibrant future for all

Moderator Mandy Downing

Mandy Downing is a Yindjibarndi woman identified through maternal lineage to the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people of the Lerrumugudu (Roebourne) area. However, as the granddaughter of a Stolen Generation survivor, she was raised off-Country on Wadjuk Noongar Boodjar.

Mandy is the Dean of Indigenous Futures, responsible for ensuring Australia's Indigenous futures across the nation's culture and economy are supported and considered in the learning, research and partnership activities of the Faculty of Humanities at Curtin University. Mandy is an applied scientist in Indigenous Australian research with research interests in institutional racism and the first Aboriginal person appointed as a Dean in the Faculty of Humanities at Curtin University.

Nationally, Mandy is the Senior Indigenous Facilitator for the National Environmental Science Program Sustainable Communities and Waste Research Hub and is the Co-Chair of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies National Research Ethics Committee. In the community, Mandy co-designed an emerging leadership program through the Western Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and has voluntarily facilitated this since its inception in 2019.

Dean Downing is a 2023 inductee into the Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame for her contributions to education for more than 20 years.



Panellists



Tamina Pitt

Tamina Pitt is a Wuthathi and Meriam woman who was born and lives on Bidjigal country in Sydney. She is a software engineer at Google where she develops Google Maps. Prior to that, Tamina earned a bachelor degree in computer engineering from the University of New South Wales in 2019. She was awarded the NAIDOC Youth of the Year award in 2018. Tamina is passionate about Indigenous inclusion in the technology sector and in the digital world.



Rachel Perkins

Rachel Perkins is an Arrernte and Kalkadoon woman, a multi-award-winning filmmaker, a signatory to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and with Danny Gilbert, Co-Chair of Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition. AIRC is the organisation co-ordinating the Yes Alliance to secure a majority Yes vote at this year's referendum.



Karlie Noon

Karlie Noon is a Gamilaraay astronomer and science communicator working with audiences around the country for the past ten years promoting Indigenous astronomical knowledge. Karlie is the first Indigenous woman to graduate with combined degrees in mathematics and science. She has an advanced Masters of Astrophysics and is currently undertaking a PhD.

Performers and Gala Dinner

Master of Ceremonies Narelda Jacobs



Narelda Jacobs is Whadjuk Noongar journalist at Network 10. She's the co-host of Studio 10 and presenter of 10 News First: Midday.

She's also a regular at NITV and SBS as co-host of The Point, Going Places with Ernie Dingo and the network's January 26 coverage.

Narelda has appeared on Q+A, The Drum and The Project and countless podcasts and stages across Australia.

She's an Ambassador of ALNF, MND Assoc WA, leadership organisation WAALI and Football Australia.

Janty Blair



Janty is a proud Butchulla, Mununjhali and Woppaburra woman; a Saltwater woman currently based in Naarm (Melbourne). After nearly three decades in the workforce as a nurse and midwife, Janty has taken her life experience of understanding diverse people, improvising, and rolling with the punches and paired it with her infectious and uplifting energy to make herself a powerhouse on the stage. In April 2022, she won the Deadly Funny Grand Final 2022 at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Over the years Janty has organised forums and workshops, facilitating education sessions, hosted, and participated in NAIDOC and reconciliation week events. With a love for creative industries and a passion for social justice, Janty uses her stage presence and platform in comedy and keynote speaking to bring joy as well as empower individuals and communities to action. Janty is a burgeoning playwright who loves poetry and singing, she has one year left of her Bachelor of Fine Arts (DRAMA) and aims to create and develop stories that celebrate and showcase First Nations people through media and art.

Joella Warkill

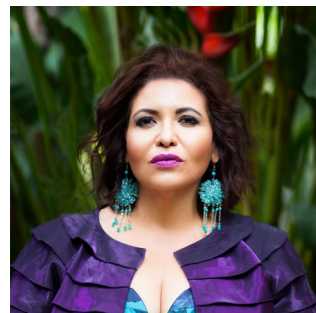


Joella is a proud First Nations and South Sea Islander woman; descending from Yidinji people and Pentecost and Ambrym Island/s in Vanuatu. Aside from being the Associate Producer at BlakDance, and being a full-time University student, Joella has a strong passion for spoken word poetry, and working with youth and communities in the performing arts field.





Joella's poetry has been performed in various spaces including QLD Parliament, Plantation Voices exhibition at State Library of QLD, National Young Writers Festival 2019 and Commonwealth Games 2018. More recently Joella has commissioned pieces for local online magazines, SBS First Nations takeover series 2020 and BIGSOUND Festival 2020.



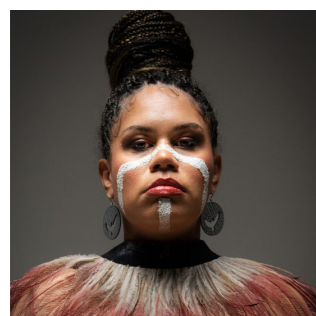
Rochelle Pitt

Rochelle Pitt is of Quandamooka, Kabikabi, Meriam Le descent and started singing and performing at a young age in the churches and choirs of Far North Queensland.

Her long journey has forged a powerful voice that celebrates the strength, beauty and love within all of us. In her early twenties, Rochelle had breakout success with her original tracks "Too Deadly My Sister" and "Black to Reality" from her seminal EP Black to Reality, an uplifting and inspirational ode to her First Nation people. The conviction of her live performances leaves audiences breathless, and in recent years Rochelle has found mainstream success as she went from nurse and mother, to star on Australia's The X factor.

Rochelle's newest EP, Soul Mumma was released in December 2017, and today she continues to enjoy performances across Australia at music festivals, community events and across the corporate sector.

She is also proud ambassador for APRA AMCOS advocating for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander singer/songwriters, and passionately supports organisations such as Kidney Health Australia.



BARKAA

BARKAA is a Malyangapa, Barkindji woman from Western New South Wales, now living in South West Sydney on Gandangara land. Music to BARKAA has been part of her journey to express herself, the truth and issues impacting First Nations people. Since her 2020 debut single, "For My Tittas", BARKAA has swiftly climbed to the top as one of the most respected voices in (so-called) Australian hip-hop. From numerous live performances (including the Sydney Opera House) to appearances on Rage, being awarded 2020 PUMA Rookie Of The Year Award for Acclaim Magazine, featured in GQ, named one of the top rappers in the country by triple j and Red Bull respectively, and most recently announced as part of The #YouTubeBlack Voices Class of 2022, appearing on billboards across Times Square and Los Angeles, BARKAA's star power is fast rising.



Kee'ahn

Kee'ahn is a proud Kuku Yalanji, Jirrbal, Zenadh Kes song woman who has recently ventured from her home town in North Queensland, to pursue her dream in the Kulin Nation (Melbourne, Australia). With a name coming from the Wik people, meaning to dance, to sing, to play – Kee'ahn aims to honour her name and Ancestors through her soulful music that weaves lush melodies and words reminiscent of heartbreak and healing.

At 23 years of age, Kee'ahn already has an impressive number of performance credits to her name including: featuring at BIGSOUND2020, St Kilda Festival, Yirramboi First Nations Festival and at the Laneway Festival 2019 alongside Courtney Barnett, Cry Club, Jungle Cuffs, and Thelma Plum; as a feature artist with HOMELANDS at the National Woodford and Cygnet Folk Festivals; and with DRMNGNOW at Golden Plains, St Kilda Festival, Splendour In The Grass Forum and Dark Mofo.



Saibai Dancers

The Muyngu Koekaper Dance Team from Saibai Island, Torres Strait was founded by the People of Saibai in 1989. Muyngu Koekaper translates to 'Fire Sparks' in our Language of Kala Kawaw Ya of the Western Torres Strait. The dance team consists of male and female dancers, singers and drummers of all ages.

Our Motto is "Keep the Home Fire Burning" and this phrase is a reminder that motivates the dance team to inspire future generations of Saibai Island to keep the Traditions and Culture of Saibai alive and never let its spark die.

The Muyngu Koekaper Dance Team has performed at various cultural festivals and events around Australia and performed internationally in countries such as China, Cook Island, Vanuatu.



Summit Information



Participation and Inclusion

All women (cis and trans), participants who are LGBTIQ+SB, and those who are gender diverse or non-binary are welcome at the Summit. Efforts striving towards First Nations gender justice must have inclusivity and intersectionality at its core. Voices from the margins must be embraced, celebrated, understood and responded to. The Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (SDA) makes it unlawful to treat people less favourably than another person in a similar situation because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status. We encourage the reporting of any discrimination to any member of the WYUT project team, who will act in accordance with the AHRC policies and procedures.

Men's active involvement in addressing gender inequities is needed to shift systems, responsibilities, and power imbalances to create more co-operative, inclusive and equal societies for all. As spaces at the Summit are limited, and the cultural safety of First Nations women (including those who identify as cis, trans and non-binary) is a priority, male participation in this conference will be limited to the Gala Dinner and Exhibition Hall and when offering services/support roles such as IT/ catering/venue staff.

Children and Parents

We are committed to making the Summit an inclusive space for all attendees. To assist those travelling with infants and children under 5 years of age, there will be a dedicated room for carers and children, in Boardrooms on Floor 1. You are welcome to breastfeed throughout the venue, or to use this space for additional privacy.

Please be aware that no childcare services will be provided, and children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. We ask that all parents take responsibility for their children and be conscious of the needs of other participants.

First Aid

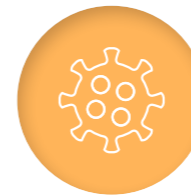
In case of a medical emergency dial triple 000. We will have trained First Aid officers will be located on-site at the Main Reception area. If you need help, please go to Main Reception, or alert a member of staff and they will get you help.



Accessibility

The National Convention Centre Canberra (NCCC) is a fully accessible venue:

- Ramps are located at the Constitution Avenue and Glebe Park entrances to the Centre.
- All event rooms, including all 5 theatres, accommodate wheelchairs.
- A passenger lift provides access to both levels of the Centre, and to the top level of the car park.
- Hearing loops have been installed in the Centre's Theatres, Royal Theatre, Level One Gallery Rooms and Ballroom.
- Easy-access bathrooms and baby change stations are available on both levels.
- Wheelchair access is available to all public areas.



COVID-19

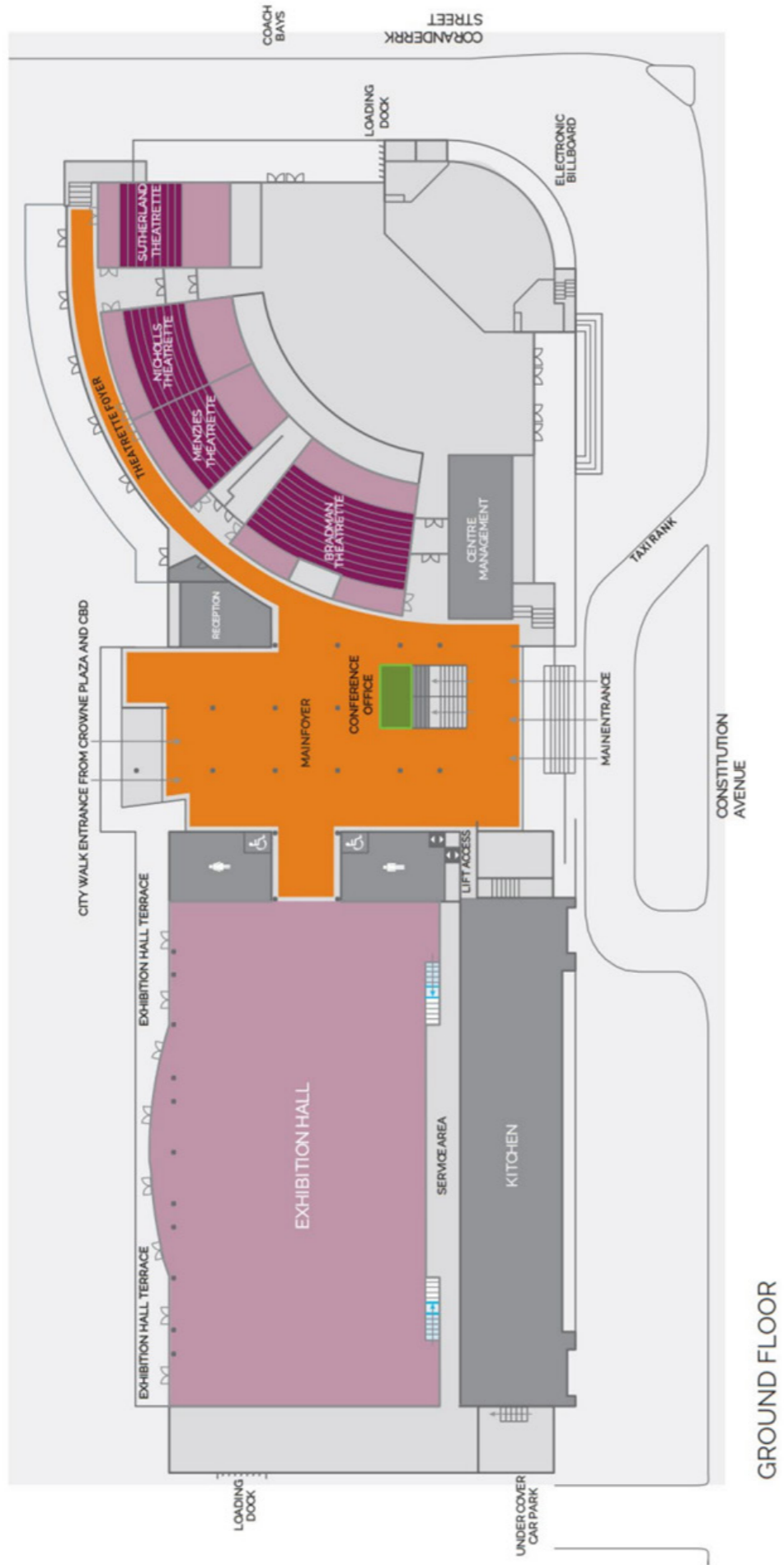
At the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Summit there will be women of all ages, including Elders, children and many attending from communities in urban, regional and remote areas. We want to ensure that everyone is cared for and remains well.

We know that COVID-19 is widespread and extremely contagious. We cannot guarantee that participants, volunteers, partners, or others in attendance will not get COVID-19. However, we can prevent rapid spreading and keep those most vulnerable from catching it by following the COVID-19 regulations and advice within the ACT, practising good hygiene, social distancing and to wear masks in crowded spaces.

We will go above and beyond to ensure the ACT Government requirements for COVID-19 safety are adhered to, to ensure the safety for all attendees. Masks will be available in your delegate bag and free rapid tests will be at the registration desk. Hand sanitizers will also be placed around the venue, at the registration desk and where food is being served.

We ask that if you have tested positive for COVID-19 please do not attend the Summit. If you start to feel unwell at the Summit and notice signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, sore throat, headache, fever etc) that you leave the Summit, test as soon as possible and seek medical attention should you become unwell.

If you are at the Summit as a sponsored delegate and become unwell or test positive for COVID-19 please let our Summit team know immediately, and we will respond to your needs.



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



Summit Partners and Sponsors

Thank you to our major funder



The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) works in genuine partnership to enable the self-determination and aspirations of First Nations communities. We lead and influence change across government to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a say in the decisions that affect them.

We support the Minister and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians, as well as the Special Envoy for Reconciliation and the Implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Our key priorities are to:

- continue to embed initiatives and Priority Reforms to Close the Gap
- implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart
- reduce incarceration of First Nations adults and youth
- strengthen First Nations peoples economic and job opportunities
- deliver the Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme
- assist First Nations peoples to care for and connect with Country
- continue to champion reconciliation throughout Australia

First Nations women are vital to the strength and wellbeing of First Nations families and communities. The Australian Government recognises that First Nations women are leaders in their families and communities, remaining at the forefront of social change, establishing and running holistic organisations grounded in culture and community. They have always been central to providing care and continue to work diligently to keep family, kin and country safe.

Investing in First Nations women and girls using a foundation of place-based, culturally safe, healing-oriented and trauma-informed policies will see more women and girls have improved life choices and outcomes, engage in leadership roles and become role models in their communities.

The Australian Government, through the NIAA, is proud to be supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Ms June Oscar AO, and her team at the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to deliver Stages One, Two and Three of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women’s Voices) Project. The Australian Government recognises the critical elevation of First Nations women and girls’ voices to the national level through the calls for action, pathways forward, and overarching recommendations that the Project has identified. This work complements the Government’s broader commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full and to ensure First Nations voices are heard.

The voices and aspirations of women and girls, which the report reflects, are informing policy direction for all portfolios, at all levels of government, to address drivers of social and economic security for First Nations women and girls. In particular, the guiding principles of a place-based approach, understanding intersectional discrimination, and embedding culture and respect for First Nations peoples’ identities that underpin the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women’s Voices) Report continue to be implemented across the Australian Government, as demonstrated in the Commonwealth’s Closing the Gap Implementation Plan.

All Australian governments, the private sector and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, have a role to play in reforming the structural inequalities identified throughout the Project, to ensure that First Nations peoples and communities are empowered to actively engage with all levels of decision-making, meet their aspirations and thrive into the future.





Thank you to our sponsors*



Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) serves, partners and invests with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who want to own their future. Whether that be to own a home, to start and run a business, or investment opportunities – we’re deeply invested in the financial success and economic independence of Indigenous Australians. It’s why we exist. In 2018, IBA launched Strong Women Strong Business to build a network of support that can grow the involvement of Indigenous women in business. That network is now over 2300 strong and growing – #INVESTED #StrongWomenStrongBusiness.



Westpac is proud to support the Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit in bringing together and empowering First Nations women with a voice to lead positive change. This is an important year for reconciliation in Australia and supporting the Summit aligns with Westpac’s Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), including our promise to keep listening to, learning from, partnering with and elevating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices. Westpac congratulates Commissioner June Oscar AO on leading this initiative with the Australian Human Rights Commission and National Indigenous Australians Agency, and we wish all delegates a successful event.



Telstra is proud to support the Wiyi Yani U Thangani project as a sponsor of the First Nations Women and Girls’ National Summit. Aligned to Telstra’s purpose to build a connected future so everyone can thrive and embedded in our First Nations strategy is our mission to back the aspirations of First Nations peoples, communities, and leaders for a better future.

Supporting a way forward for First Nations gender justice and equality is a vital step towards a better future, and we look forward to referencing the National Framework for Action and seeing the establishment of a dedicated First Nations Gender Justice Institute come to life.



For more than 100 years, we’ve been working with Australia to create materials the world needs, and we’re proud to play our part in helping build a stronger and more prosperous Australia by working together with government, communities and partners to do the right thing.

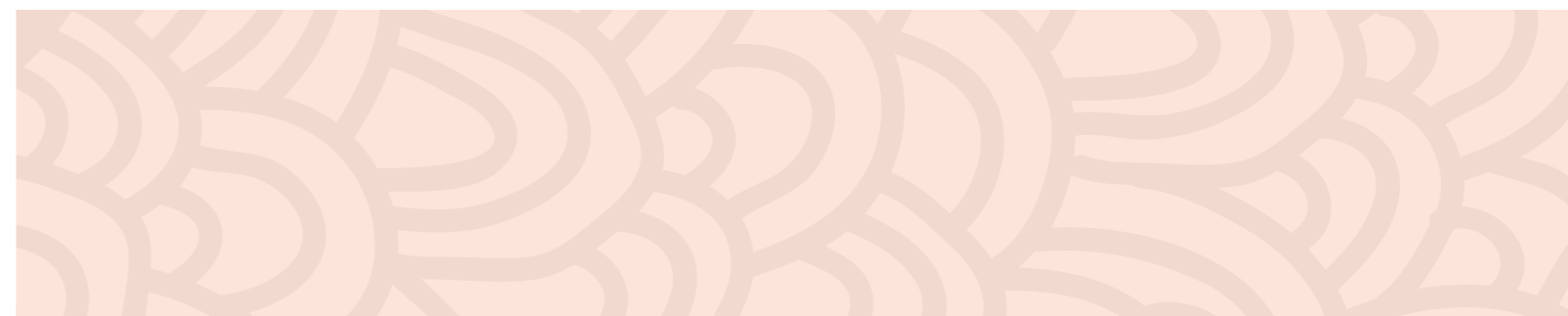
Working in authentic partnership with Indigenous communities is a priority for us and we are committed to significant cultural change in our business to genuinely consider Indigenous peoples’ views and perspectives.

We believe this change will come from greater Indigenous leadership and increased cultural intelligence. In 2020, we made an investment to fast-track Indigenous Australians into professional and leadership roles to ensure we have a stronger representation of diverse voices at our decision-making tables across all our businesses in Australia, and beyond. Diversity of perspectives will help us shape, influence and challenge our decisions as a company for the better and ensure we are upholding our commitment to human rights.

We know there are barriers for Indigenous women in the mining industry, and more broadly. In 2022, we commissioned an independent review of workplace culture to better understand, prevent and respond to harmful behaviours across our business. The findings in the report were disturbing and upsetting and found 31.8% of women who identify as Indigenous as having experienced racism in the workplace. Direct and indirect racism prevents many Indigenous employees from progressing and succeeding. Ensuring female Indigenous voices are elevated and empowered is critical. Through targeted attraction, retention and growth programs we are seeing increased participation of Indigenous female leaders in our business. And we are proud that a significant portion of our Indigenous leaders are female at 39%.

Our support for the Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit is an opportunity to recognise the significant role Indigenous women play in providing ideas and solutions which contribute to justice and equality in Australia, which will benefit everyone. We acknowledge the importance of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani report and are committed to implementing the outcomes from the summit into our business to build a better and brighter future for Indigenous woman and girls.

We wish all Summit participants a safe, engaging and productive gathering.





WIYI YANI U THANGANI NATIONAL SUMMIT WE ARE THE CHANGE



The Fred Hollows Foundation is one of Australia's most respected and trusted charities and has restored sight to more than 3 million people around the world.

It continues the work of the late Professor Fred Hollows, renowned eye surgeon who believed everyone should have access to high-quality affordable eye care.

Fred believed that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander control, ownership and leadership of health services was vital to achieving equitable health outcomes.

The Foundation's support of social justice issues, such as supporting this National Summit and being a leading voice in the Yes campaign on the Voice to Parliament, are designed to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have the right to a meaningful say in decisions that affect them.



At PwC Australia, we are a human-led, tech-powered community of solvers coming together in unexpected ways to solve the world's important problems. PwC's Indigenous Consulting (PIC) is a majority Indigenous owned, led and staffed consulting firm. Our purpose is to enable meaningful change in Indigenous communities by realising futures through Indigenous knowledge. The unique power of our two firms is the combination of PIC's Indigenous expertise and experience, with PwC's world-leading professional services capability. Our aim is to help enable positive change by providing trusted professional services and advice to government, corporate and community clients on Indigenous matters.

* The Commission operates in a challenging funding environment and so a range of financial sponsors are required to deliver this event and facilitate the important outcomes the Summit is aiming to achieve. All our sponsors recognise the independence of the Commission in relation to the planning, content, delivery and outcomes of the Summit specifically and the Wiyi Yani U Thangani project more broadly. Their support is provided on this basis and with a commitment to working with the Commission and First Nations communities to advance the rights, health, safety, wellbeing and prosperity of First Nations women and girls.



Thank you to our media partner

National Indigenous Television (NITV), a division of the Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS), is a channel made by, for and about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

NITV informs, educates and entertains its Indigenous and non-Indigenous audiences about the issues that matter the most to Indigenous Australians. NITV provides a rich diversity of cultures, languages and talent.

The channel commissions or acquires content primarily from the Indigenous production sector. NITV is proud to host the only daily national news service covering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island stories across the country.

NITV's its growing audience recognises the channel as unique in celebrating and providing a voice for Indigenous Australia, educating all Australians and opening a dialogue with wider Australia.



Thank you to our Conference Organiser, ConferenceNational

ConferenceNational is a national event management agency. The experienced team understands that no two events are the same, but all require a highly organised, streamlined and adaptable approach to be successful. They also understand that organising a conference or event can be time and resource intensive.

That's why ConferenceNational offers a complete event management solution, delivered in a way that is simple, stress free, enjoyable & cost effect. The flexible and dynamic business model means that they can work with you on your event from end-to-end or anywhere in between.

The ConferenceNational umbrella of companies consists of Accommodation Link, providing a customised free to use online accommodation booking platform listing discounted accommodation rates for corporate events, through to ConferenceNational which provides event technology, secure online registration systems, conference and accommodation management as well as domestic & international destination expertise.

The ConferenceNational team can be contacted via www.conferencenational.com.au or call 1300 79 20 30.



