

Climate justice, disaster resilience and the WA community services sector

Invitation for Expression of Interest from WA community service organisations to undertake a project for climate justice and disaster resilience

Timeframe:

- EOI's are prepared collaboratively
- EOI applications are submitted and discussed with representatives of a stakeholder committee
- Research partnership agreement with ECU developed
- Project commencement in 2025
- Project completion in 2026

Overview

Across Western Australia, communities increasingly experience the impacts of climate change and disasters, which affects the operations and practices of community service organisations (CSOs). Edith Cowan University in partnership with WA community service organisations, Aboriginal Traditional Owners and People with Lived Experience have initiated a project to strengthen climate justice and resilience of the sector.

The first phase of the project involved creating an online [Climate Justice and Resilience Toolkit](#) for the WA community service sector. This Toolkit aims to support the sector to better understand, respond to and redress numerous climate injustices facing communities and build community resilience to disasters like heat waves, bushfires, cyclones and floods. It provides publicly available resources and tools to support CSOs to embed climate justice and disaster resilience in their operations, policies, programs and practices. The Toolkit covers areas such as community-led disaster resilience, climate justice advocacy, processes of Lived Experience engagement, and identifying climate injustices in the community. Any CSO can use it and provide feedback on it.

For the second and current phase of the project, we are seeking partnerships with CSOs to collaboratively develop and undertake a project that integrates climate justice and disaster resilience into their organisation and service provision. Organisations can apply for up to \$50,000 to support these projects. The learnings from the project will feed back into the Toolkit with the aim of strengthening climate justice and resilience in the sector.

Projects could include developing and undertaking any number of 'process tools' and resources from the Toolkit, for example:

- Developing and undertaking introductory training about Climate Justice and Disaster Resilience for CSO staff and volunteers, such as the collective learning tools listed in the Toolkit.
- Working with community members to collectively assess the how a changing climate impacts them and exacerbates injustices they face and co-design, deliver, and evaluate services that address those challenges and meet their changing needs.
- Co-designing and implementing services and programs that support community-led disaster resilience, which includes disaster preparedness, response, and recovery in partnership with community members to ensure the programs are tailored to the community's specific needs.
- Developing and implementing a process to understand and address worsening climate impacts and disaster that affect the organisations' staff, operations and service delivery now and in the future.

- Developing and implementing strategies, policies, and principles that more just organisational governance and decision making, such as improving Lived Experience and Aboriginal advisory processes and ensuring diverse representation in decision-making.

What does this involve?

Your organisation will partner with ECU to develop, implement, evaluate and document a project to enhance how you embed climate justice and disaster resilience in operations, policies, programs and practices. Your project will produce resources, tools and templates that can be shared publicly in the online Climate Justice and Resilience Toolkit.

Successful applicants will be expected to commence the project by mid-2025 and projects will need to be completed within 12 months. Your organisation can request up to \$50,000 for the costs associated with undertaking the project. This funding is made possible through the Commonwealth Disaster Ready Fund.

It is preferred that your organisation will already have demonstrated processes for Aboriginal cultural governance and engaging people who access your service and/or people with Lived Experience in co-design and organisational decision-making.

ECU's involvement may include facilitating reflective discussions; designing and analysing feedback surveys; evaluating organisational processes of engaging people with Lived Experience; documenting information into accessible tools for the organisation and the Toolkit; writing up learnings into reports, briefs and publications. Any tools and publications arising from this project will be co-developed and co-owned by you and ECU and will be shared publicly in the online Climate Justice and Resilience Toolkit.

ECU has ethics approval for this project from the Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee. ECU will seek ethics amendments for data collection methods that are co-designed with each organisation.

Eligibility and conditions

Community service organisations must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

1. Your organisation is a not-for-profit entity, such as an Incorporated Association or an Aboriginal Corporation, and is involved in the community service sector or Aboriginal Community Controlled sector.
2. Your organisation is committed to improving practice for climate justice and disaster resilience. It is not a requirement that your organisation is already undertaking climate justice and/or disaster resilience activities.
3. Your organisation will allocate a project lead / contact person for the duration of the project, and will convene a working group with regular meetings to oversee and implement the project. This group will include Aboriginal people, people who access your service and/or people with Lived Experience and ECU researcher/s.
 - a. Your organisation preferably has processes for Aboriginal cultural governance, such as an Aboriginal Steering Group or Elders Advisory Group.
 - b. Your organisation preferably has processes and structures for including and supporting people who access your service and/or People with a diversity of Lived Experience in co-design and organisational decision-making, such as a Lived Experience Advisory Group. It is expected that your organisation is trauma-informed.

4. Funds can be used for items to undertake the project, such as project staff, honoraria for the participation of Aboriginal people, people who access your service and People with Lived Experience, venue, catering and addressing access needs to hold participatory workshops and trainings, and other reasonable items that enable the organisation to undertake the project. Your project budget may include an administration fee of up to 15%. It is expected that Aboriginal, community and Lived Experience involvement will be fairly remunerated.
5. Medium to large organisations (over 40 employees) must co-contribute at least 50% of the requested amount in cash or in-kind. Small organisations (under 40 employees) must contribute at least 25% of the requested amount in cash or in-kind. It is expected that medium to large organisations will redistribute these resources and learnings with grassroots and Aboriginal organisations in the project process.
6. Your organisation will co-design and engage in participatory research with ECU about the project process and outcomes, and will share learnings with other participating organisations. This includes documenting a case study of the organisation's experience and co-learnings.
7. Your organisation agrees that deidentified/modified tools, resources and documents produced through the project can be publicly shared in the online Climate Justice and Resilience Toolkit.

Application process

We want the Expression of Interest (EOI) process to be relational rather than competitive. We will share information, guidelines and EOI with organisations. To request the EOI form, please contact Kylie Wrigley at Edith Cowan University at k.wrigley@ecu.edu.au We will meet with you to discuss the opportunity and process and assist with preparing the EOI.

Once the EOI is submitted, it will be assessed by a sub-group of the Stakeholder Committee including representatives of the project's Aboriginal Steering Group, Lived Experience Advisory Group, community service organisations and ECU. The sub-group will consider each EOI against the criteria and meet with an organisational representative to discuss. If your EOI is considered suitable, ECU and your organisation will develop and sign a 'Research Agreement'.

For more information, please contact Kylie Wrigley on k.wrigley@ecu.edu.au