



International Decade of Indigenous Languages Directions Group—Expression of Interest request

February 2022

The Australian Government is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to join a new International Decade of Indigenous Languages Directions Group (Directions Group) to support Australia's participation in the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-32 (International Decade).

Background

Continuing on from the success of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages in raising awareness of the crucial role languages play in people's daily lives, the United Nations (UN) has designated the period between 2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is the lead UN agency organising the International Decade, and has established a Global Task Force to oversee this work. Australia is a member of the Global Task Force, represented by the CEO of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. UNESCO has developed a [Global Action Plan](#) for the International Decade, which sets the principles for joint action to preserve, revitalise and promote Indigenous languages worldwide.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the Department) is leading the Government's involvement in the International Decade. The Government is committed to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are partners in the development of initiatives to support the International Decade, including the development of Australia's National Action Plan for the International Decade.

The Directions Group will establish direct dialogue and partnership between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and decision makers within Government. This approach gives effect to [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#) Priority Reform One (*formal partnerships and shared decision making*). The Government will also continue to work closely with relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, including First Languages Australia.

Actions taken to support the International Decade will also contribute to Target 16 of Closing the Gap, supporting the sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken by 2031.

About the opportunity

The Department is seeking EOIs from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have experience and/or a passion for supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. Successful applicants will work in partnership with government representatives to identify initiatives to support the International Decade. This may involve working with representatives from a range of government departments, First Languages Australia, existing Indigenous Language Centres and groups, Indigenous expert advisors and other key experts. The Directions Group will be supported by a secretariat in the Office for the Arts (OFTA) within the Department.

The Directions Group will set out priorities to support the preservation, rejuvenation and celebration of Indigenous languages during the International Decade, this includes but is not limited to, the following:

- Provide strategic policy guidance to inform the development of a National Action Plan for the International Decade, and endorse the National Action Plan (your voice, and your lived and/or professional experience with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages will inform the priorities in the National Action Plan)
- Provide advice from the perspective of the lived experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' communities, including identifying any cultural sensitivities that may exist in relation to stakeholders, programs or activities for the International Decade
- Identify opportunities to maximise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement in the International Decade and progress towards the Closing the Gap target for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages
- Engage government officials, and external members with specialised expertise as required, on priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages
- Provide recommendations regarding the creation of an Australian logo for the International Decade
- Identify opportunities and partnerships to influence long term and sustained focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages
- Act as Champions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and the International Decade
- Work closely with the Department to provide advice to the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts
- With support from the Department and the Chair of the Directions Group, convene working groups for particular activities, as required.
- Report back to the Secretariat and Chair on any relevant interactions with stakeholders on Indigenous languages.

Principles for Membership

EOIs are invited from people across Australia. Applicants must be of Aboriginal descent and/or of Torres Strait Islander descent, who identifies as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which they live and/or come from.

Applicants must address the following and show they have:

- Strong interest for language advancement and/or experience working with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages
- Demonstrated experience working in partnership with others to develop initiatives (for example; working with governments, community organisations, or not-for-profit organisations to develop programs, activities or initiatives)
- Proven ability to engage and represent a community voice

To ensure an appropriate cross section of representation, the following principles will apply for selection:

- Representation from across Australia
- Gender equity, age and region balance
- Interest/experience in the languages sector

EOIs will be assessed by a panel comprised of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language experts and Government representatives, convened by OFTA.

Commitment

The Directions Group will meet a minimum of four (4) times in 2022 with, where practicable, at least one in-person meeting and others virtually, and you may be required to provide input and review documents out of session. The Secretariat will provide support to Direction Group members to ensure that they are able to participate effectively.

The Directions Group will consist of up to 12 members. Members are likely to be required for a total of 12 months, with a possible extension if necessary.

Remuneration

This is a paid role. Members will be remunerated for their participation. Payment is in line with the [Remuneration Tribunal \(Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-time Public Office\) Determination 2021](#) (Refer to Part 2, Table 2A on page 5 'Other holders of part-time public office'). Any necessary travel and accommodation costs will also be covered.

Further details of payment can be provided if required.

Questions

All enquires can be directed to Pauline Halchuk at pauline.halchuk@arts.gov.au or on 0429862072.

Lodgement

Please complete the EOI response document available at arts.gov.au/IDILgroup and provide a current resume (maximum 3 pages) to outline your interest in the Directions Group and demonstrating your professional or lived experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

EOIs are to be emailed to IndigenousLanguages@arts.gov.au and close at **11.59pm AEDT, Sunday 6 March 2022**.

The Department is committed to making this process accessible to as many people as possible. If you would like to discuss submitting your application in an alternative format (ie video or telephone), or require language support such as an interpreter, please contact Pauline Halchuk at pauline.halchuk@arts.gov.au or on 0429862072.

Privacy

The Department is collecting personal information (your contact details and resume) in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988, for the purposes of assessing EOI applications and contacting applicants as necessary.

The Department will store this information securely. The Department will provide your resume and EOI to a selection panel consisting of government representatives and Indigenous language experts for the purpose of assessing your EOI only. If you do not provide the information we will not be able to process your EOI. The Department's Privacy Policy contains information regarding complaint handling processes, and how to access or seek correction of personal information held by the Department. The Privacy Officer can be contacted at privacy@infrastructure.gov.au.