



# Women Deliver 2026 Sponsored Positions Information

## About the opportunity

**For the first time, Women Deliver is coming to Australia — April 27-30, 2026 in Narrm (Melbourne), on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples. Over 6,500 people from around the world gathering to shape what happens next for gender justice.**

This is a pivotal moment to share our knowledges, connect with global networks and shape critical conversations on gender justice at an international level.

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute is proudly supporting First Nations women, girls, Sistergirls and gender-diverse peoples (aged 12+) to attend with a limited number of sponsored positions.

[APPLY NOW](#)

## About the Women Deliver 2026 Conference (WD26)

Women Deliver is one of the world's largest conferences on gender equality. Held every three years, it brings together advocates, leaders and changemakers to reimagine power, align strategies, and act for a feminist future.

Women Deliver 2026 (WD2026) will gather more than 6,500 people from across feminist, grassroots, First Nations, youth-led, LGBTQIA+ and women's rights movements, alongside world leaders, creatives, private sector changemakers, academics and media.

For the first time, this global convening is coming to the Oceania Pacific region, to Narrm (Melbourne). The theme is Change Calls Us Here, a moment to connect, share knowledge and shape what comes next for gender justice.

**When:** 27–30 April 2026 with pre-conference gatherings on 26 April

**Where:** Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Narrm (Melbourne)

[Learn more about WD2026](#)

## Who should apply

**First Nations women, girls, Sistergirls and gender-diverse peoples aged 12+ who:**

- Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Can commit to attending the full conference including travel days (approximately 25 April–1 May 2026)
- Who reside in Australia at the time of the conference

**Important:** All attendees under 18 must be accompanied by a registered parent/guardian throughout the conference. See FAQ below for details.

**All First Nations women, girls, Sistergirls and gender-diverse peoples (aged 12+) are welcome to apply**





We encourage applications from mob who are often underrepresented at conferences like this:

- Transgender women and Sistergirls
- Gender-diverse mob
- Those living with disability and/or who are neurodivergent
- Mob from remote and regional communities
- Elders and senior knowledge holders
- Young women and girls (aged 12+)
- Mob with caring responsibilities for children, Elders or family members (children under 12 can attend free)

**You don't need to be working in the "gender sector" to apply.** Whether you're caring for Country; supporting community health; keeping language and culture alive; working in education, arts, business, law, or cultural heritage; finding your way after a tough time; studying or learning from Elders... Your voice and your knowledge matter here.

## What we're looking for

The selection panel will consider:

- Why First Nations gender justice matters to you
- How attending the conference will support your growth and development
- How you'll share what you learn with your community
- Your connection to or involvement with First Nations women, girls, Sistergirls and gender-diverse peoples
- Geographic diversity (ensuring we support mob from different parts of Australia)
- Diversity of experiences and identities (ensuring we support mob with LGBTQIA+SB identities, disability, age, different lived experiences)

**There's no perfect application** - we want to hear your voice and your story in your own words.

## Key dates

- **EOI closes:** 1 February 2026 11:59pm AEDT
- **Applicants notified:** Early March 2026
- **Pre-conference preparation webinars:** March–April 2026
- **Pre-conference gatherings:** Sunday 26 April 2026 (details TBC)
- **WD2026 Conference:** 27–30 April 2026

## How to apply

**Complete the Expression of Interest form by 1 February 2026 11:59pm AEDT.**

The EOI should take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

### What you'll need:

- Your contact details and some information about yourself
- Details of the support you need (flights, accommodation, etc.)





- A few short answers about why you want to attend and how you'll share your learnings (in your own words — there's no wrong answer!)
- For young people aged 12–17: Your parent/guardian's contact details and their consent (they must be willing and able to attend with you)

## Contact us

### Questions about Wiyi Yani U Thangani Sponsored Positions:

[wyut@anu.edu.au](mailto:wyut@anu.edu.au)

Can't access the online form? Contact us—we can provide alternatives.

### Questions about WD2026 conference:

[wd2026@womendeliver.org](mailto:wd2026@womendeliver.org)

**Accessibility support:** [accessibility@womendeliver.org](mailto:accessibility@womendeliver.org)

## More information

- **Frequently Asked Questions** (see below)
- [Change Agenda - Ways of Working](#)
- [WD2026 Code of Conduct](#)

## Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

### About the sponsored positions

#### What does the sponsored position include?

Tell us in your application what support you need and what you can self-support. This helps us redirect funding to enable more women, girls, Sistergirls and gender-diverse people to attend.

When applying, tell us what support you need. This can include:

- Conference registration (\$500 USD for First Nations people)
- Return domestic flights to Melbourne
- Accommodation in Melbourne (5–6 nights)
- Meals allowance
- Airport transfers
- For those in Victoria: Train/bus or fuel reimbursement and parking

#### Included in registration from Women Deliver:

- One parent/guardian registration for those accompanying 12–17 year olds
- Free attendance for children under 12 (for parents/guardians attending with a child)
- One disability support companion registration (if required)

#### Can I get additional support for my family/carers?

We have limited additional funding and will work with selected applicants to explore support for:



Australian  
National  
University



- Companions, carers, or children required to travel with you
- Guardian/parent flights and accommodation (for those aged 12–17)
- Disability support person flights and accommodation
- Children's travel and accommodation costs (for those aged 0–11)
- Specific accessibility needs

**Please share your support needs in the application so we can discuss options together.** Don't let uncertainty about additional support stop you from applying.

### Other ways to attend if I can't access a sponsored position

**Professional development budget:** Many workplaces have professional development budgets that can cover conference attendance. Registration for First Nations people is \$500 USD. Talk to your manager or HR team. The Institute can provide letters of support - contact [wyut@anu.edu.au](mailto:wyut@anu.edu.au)

We encourage everyone to let us know in their application what supports they need and what they might be able to access through other means (like workplace PD budgets). This helps us support as many people as possible.

### I live in Melbourne - am I eligible?

Yes!

**Melbourne metropolitan area residents:** Eligible for conference registration sponsorship.

**Regional Victoria residents:** Eligible for conference registration, accommodation, and transportation support.

### About conference attendance

#### What does "full conference including travel days" mean?

You must be available for the entire period.

##### Typical Schedule:

- **Saturday 25 April:** Travel to Melbourne (earlier if from remote areas)
- **Sunday 26 April:** Pre-conference gatherings (details TBC)
- **Monday 27 – Thursday 30 April:** Women Deliver Conference
- **Thursday 30 April or Friday 1 May:** Travel home

We'll work with you on exact arrangements if selected.

### What happens after I apply?

1. **Submit EOI by 1 February 2026 11:59pm AEDT**
2. **A selection panel will review all expressions of interest**
3. **You're notified** by early March 2026
4. **If selected:** We send you a detailed form to confirm travel arrangements and gather additional information
5. **March–April:** Online preparation webinars
6. **26 April:** Pre-conference gatherings (details TBC)
7. **27–30 April:** Women Deliver Conference





## 8. Post-conference: Debrief session and sharing learnings with your community

### What is the Institute delegation?

Selected sponsored position recipients will be part of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute delegation. As part of the delegation, you'll have Institute team members available throughout the conference for support, guidance or just a familiar face to connect with.

#### Before the conference:

- Participate in online preparation webinars
- Connect with delegation and Institute team
- Learn about the conference program and Ways of Working

#### During the conference:

- Attend the pre-conference gathering on 26 April (details TBC)
- Support each other throughout the conference
- Access Institute team members for support
- Be part of filming/documentation (with your consent) to capture and share the delegation's experience

#### After the conference:

- Share learnings with your community
- Participate in a debrief session

### What to expect at WD26

For program updates, visit the WD26 website: <https://womendeliver.org/wd2026/the-wd2026-program/schedule/>

#### The WD2026 program schedule will feature:

- Pre-Conferences that bring together networks, partners, and communities to convene on specific priorities.
- Plenary Sessions featuring bold, diverse voices shaping the global gender equality agenda.
- Concurrent Sessions that transform dialogue into collaboration and action.
- Side Events for partners to launch research, share programming, and re-connect.
- Exhibitions, Pavilions, and a Youth Zone that highlight innovation, culture, art, and advocacy in action.

### What are the key themes of WD26

For up to date information, visit the WD26 website: <https://womendeliver.org/wd2026/about-wd2026/>

#### Major theme: Change Calls Us Here

#### The initial key themes are:

- Adolescent Girls' Rights & SRHR
- Climate Justice as a Gender & Age Issue





- Countering Anti-Rights Narratives
- Strengthening Multilateral Action

**The WD26 program is built around four pathways:**

- Disrupt the Now
- Build the Vision
- Align for Action
- Sustain the Movement

## What are the Ways of Working?

The conference delegation will be guided by the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Ways of Working: (re)learning, lateral love, respect and relationality, embracing all our identities, deep listening, being self-reflective and aware, intergenerational action, shaping and keeping balance, and sense-making.

Read more on pages 64–65 of the [Change Agenda](#).

## For parents/guardians (of young people aged 12–17)

### What are my responsibilities as a parent/guardian?

Women Deliver 2026 requires all under-18s to be accompanied by a registered parent/guardian. If your young person is selected, you must:

- Be willing and able to attend the full conference with them
- Be available for the full period (approximately 25 April–1 May 2026)
- Provide consent for your young person to apply and attend
- Supervise and hold responsibility for your young person throughout the conference

### What support will I receive?

Women Deliver provide **complimentary conference registration** for one parent/ guardian accompanying 12–17 year olds.

If you require financial support to attend with your young person (such as flights, accommodation, meals, or airport transfers), please indicate which supports you require in the application so we can discuss options. We have limited additional funding and will do our best to support as many young people as possible.

## For those travelling with children under 12

### Can I bring my children under 12?

Yes, Women Deliver 2026 allows children under 12 to attend free if accompanying a registered parent/guardian.





If you require financial support for your children to attend with you (such as flights, accommodation, meals, or airport transfers), please indicate which supports you require in the application so we can discuss options.

## **What about childcare in Melbourne?**

For local childcare options in Melbourne during conference sessions, contact Women Deliver at [wd2026@womendeliver.org](mailto:wd2026@womendeliver.org)

## **Accessibility & support**

### **What accessibility support is available?**

We're committed to creating an accessible, safe and supportive environment. Please share your support needs in your application.

#### **Women Deliver 2026 provides:**

- Accessible venue and facilities at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
- Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish at all Plenary and Concurrent Sessions
- International Sign Language interpretation at all Plenaries and select sessions
- Quiet spaces and sensory accommodations

[Learn more about accessibility at WD2026](#)

For specific accessibility support questions at Women Deliver 2026, contact:  
[accessibility@womendeliver.org](mailto:accessibility@womendeliver.org)

## **Can I bring a support person?**

Yes, Women Deliver provides free conference registration for one disability support companion if required for you to attend. We also have limited funding to explore support for your companion's travel and accommodation. Share your needs in the application.

## **Application Support**

### **I can't access the online form, what should I do?**

Contact us at [wyut@anu.edu.au](mailto:wyut@anu.edu.au) - we can provide a Word version or support you in other ways to apply.

### **What if I have questions about my application?**

Contact us at [wyut@anu.edu.au](mailto:wyut@anu.edu.au) - we're here to help and want to make sure everyone who's interested can apply.

### **What if I need to withdraw my application?**





If you're selected but circumstances change and you can no longer attend, please let us know as soon as possible by contacting [wyut@anu.edu.au](mailto:wyut@anu.edu.au).

*Still have questions? Contact us at [wyut@anu.edu.au](mailto:wyut@anu.edu.au)*