

Submission to the *Inquiry into gender equality as a national security and economic imperative*

Second Submission

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About the Global Institute for Women's Leadership

The Australian National University (ANU) hosts the Australian base for the Global Institute for Women's Leadership, which was established at King's College, London by the Hon Julia Gillard, AC in 2018. The vision of GIWL is to bring together rigorous research, practice and advocacy to better understand and address the causes of gender inequality and intersectionality across sectors and countries. GIWL has three key elements to its work:

- Research – drawing together existing findings and undertaking new studies
- Advocacy and engagement – bringing together experts and stakeholders from across the world
- Translation– using research to deliver evidence-based policy, practice, and education.

GIWL aims to overcome a disconnect between much of the current activity in the gender equality space, and what research evidence shows is truly effective. GIWL seeks to bridge the gap between those who generate evidence, and those who wish to use it. It also seeks to shine light on and amplify existing effective practices and solutions being applied across the globe. The goal is to break down silos between sectors, nations and approaches and create a community of people focused on advancing gender equality.

About the Wiyi Yani U Thangani First Nations Gender Justice Institute

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute for First Nations Gender Justice is Australia's first institute dedicated to advancing the rights, knowledges, and leadership of First Nations women, girls, and gender-diverse people as catalysts for systemic change.

The Institute carries on the legacy of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Project, led by previous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, June Oscar AO, at the Australian Human Rights Commission. The Institute's mission is to reweave the social fabric through elevating the voices and lived experience of First Nations women, girls and gender-diverse people, and building collaborations with all system actors to actively pursue the realisation of First Nations gender justice and equality.

Summary

The Global Institute for Women's Leadership and Wiyi Yani U Thangani First Nations Gender Justice Institute is pleased to provide a second submission to the *Inquiry into gender equality as a national security and economic imperative*. This second submission has arisen following Dr. Elise Stephenson's attendance as a witness at a public hearing for this inquiry on the 29th of May 2026 and the request for further recommendations. The insights shared below are in addition to our first submission and focus on the gender-climate nexus, national security, and online safety at the intersection of both national and economic security. We acknowledge that we have read the Terms of Reference.

Policy options are derived from existing and new research, including workshops held in Australia, interviews and surveys (both with representative and targeted samples, including of the general population, experts, policymakers), and extensive literature reviews. Aspects of such research has been supported by the Australian Research Council and other government funders. The climate change research supports [our development of Australia's first Gender-Climate Nexus Strategy](#) – a community-derived and evidence driven set of policy options to fill the policy gap at this nexus, particularly at a domestic level.

We affirm an intersectional approach to gender equality – inclusive of women, men, non-binary and trans people in all their diversity.

Contact the authors for full details if required.

The importance of a First Nations Peacebuilding framework to this submission

This submission additionally weaves in evidence collected across almost a decade of engagement with First Nations women, girls and gender diverse people through the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute (WYUT). The central call to action, reflecting a First Nations lens, is that advancing gender equality as a national security and economic imperative is not possible without dedicated inclusion of First Nations women and girls, who remain structurally excluded from decision-making and economic participation, and disproportionately experience violence and economic insecurity.

The Institute frequently hears First Nations women describe the conditions in which they live as akin to "war zones". These conditions are not created by conflict between nations, but by the cumulative impacts of intergenerational trauma, structural exclusion, racism, poverty, inadequate housing, limited access to services, and the ongoing violence experienced by women and communities. They are often the first responders, peacebuilders and healers within their families and communities. Women consistently describe carrying the responsibility of holding families together, mediating conflict, caring for children and Elders, supporting survivors of violence, responding to crises, and leading community recovery and healing. Much of this work is invisible, unpaid and unrecognised, yet it is fundamental to the safety, wellbeing and resilience of communities across Australia.

First Nations women understand peacebuilding not simply as the absence of violence, but as the active creation of the conditions that enable people, families and communities to thrive.

First Nations women have practised peacebuilding for generations through matriarchal systems of leadership, cultural authority, deep listening, truth-telling, healing and relationship building. They are sophisticated systems of governance, care and social cohesion that offer solutions to some of Australia's most complex challenges.

The Institute believes that First Nations women's peacebuilding practices have a critical role to play in shaping a more secure and cohesive Australia. Security must be also understood through the strength of relationships, community wellbeing, cultural continuity, social inclusion and the capacity of communities to prevent and resolve conflict.

Importantly, First Nations women also bring a unique capacity to build relationships across borders. Through shared experiences of colonisation, resilience and cultural continuity, First Nations women are forging strong connections with Indigenous women throughout the Asia-Pacific region. These relationships create opportunities for mutual learning, diplomacy, peacebuilding and regional cooperation grounded in Indigenous knowledge systems and women's leadership. The Institute believes Australia has much to gain by recognising and investing in First Nations women's leadership as a vital contribution to both national resilience and regional peacebuilding.

The following section lists **41** core recommendations or policy options, many of which put forward additional policy options in **bold**. There are three parts: 1 (climate change); 2 (national security); 3 (online safety).

Policy options

Part 1: Climate change

Data

1. Embed gender-disaggregated data in the Australian Climate Services dashboard and technical reports, and other climate-related data sources.

The sixty-fourth sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies (SBI 64 and SBSTA 64) took place in Bonn, Germany in June 2026, where states discussed the full implementation of the [Belém Gender Action Plan \(GAP\)](#). The adoption of the Belém GAP at COP30 established a nine-year framework for integrating gender across climate policy and action. At SB64, it was argued that policies must integrate equity and burden-sharing between those affected, at local, national and international levels. Equity relies on the collection, analysis, dissemination, management, and use of gender- and age-disaggregated data and gender analysis, taking into consideration multidimensional factors.

The Australian Climate Services (ACS) dashboard includes data on future climate risks such as sea level rise, risk of hazards like bushfires and drought, and vulnerability to risk, but does not include gender-disaggregated data. **Gender-disaggregated data should be a priority addition to the ACS dashboard.** The dashboard offers some insights into demographics at the local

government area (LGA) level but this does not include gender and it is not integrated within the climate data. Climate change adaptation can only be useful if it accounts for the disproportionate impacts of climate change on different demographic groups, but this remains unknown if the relevant data is not collected. Vulnerability and Risk data in the ACS dashboard should also include the risk of food and water insecurity.

Another example of Australian data that is relevant to climate are some indicators from the [Measuring What Matters](#) dashboard. One of the indicators is climate resilience, using data from the 2024 Australian Disaster Risk index. This indicator measures the percentage of the population living in areas with low, medium, or high capacity for disaster resilience. Despite its inclusion in [Australia's 2024 submission](#) on Australia's progress of the implementation of activities under the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP), the climate resilience data is not gender-disaggregated. Women, children, youth, and First Nations communities and peoples, people with disabilities, and sexual- and gender-diverse people are at higher risk during disasters, as is further explained and referenced within the submission below. Understanding the capacity for resilience of these different demographic groups is essential to implementing disaster response that is responsive to the different (and compounding) impacts experienced by said groups. **This should be a priority for future iterations.**

Additionally, data should be collected on the ongoing climate impacts to industries and occupations, for example, tourism, education, the healthcare sector and care workers. The Gender Data Steering Group under the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet was referenced within Australia's 2024 GAP submission. We recommend that the remit of the group extend to informing the collection of gender-climate data such as those detailed in the [UN gender and environment indicators](#).

2. Explicitly recognise extreme heat as a gendered health and economic threat in relevant policy.

Women, pregnant women, First Nations women and children, people with disabilities including specifically First Nations people with disabilities, elderly persons, and people on low incomes (with women often over-represented in these groups too) are amongst the most at risk to heat in Australia (ACOSS, 2024; Bhatta et al. 2026). The *Working for Women Strategy* (WFW) states: "In Australia women are more likely to live in housing unable to cope with extreme temperature and experience higher rates of ill health and death as a result, especially older women" (DPMC, 2024, pg. 80). Despite this recognition, the strategy fails to address the gendered impacts of extreme heat through tangible actions. A key pillar of WFW is gender-based violence, and mounting evidence shows that extreme heat increases domestic violence (Mulambo et al. 2025, Stevens et al. 2024). There has been further evidence that this also translates into the digital realm, with extreme heat leading to an increase in hate speech online (Stechemesser et al. 2022). Yet, strategies like WFW lack this explicit attention which risks inappropriate and/or inadequate disaster response – and **related policy and amended strategy, should rectify this exclusion.**

First Nations women are more prone to experience extreme heat as a result of living in regional and remote areas, and being at greater exposure to extreme climate risks, which include lengthy heat waves. Power bills, through pre-paid meters are often expensive and unaffordable resulting in household power being cut-off, often coinciding with sweltering conditions. WYUT

has heard how women and families living in overcrowded housing are exposed to dangerous temperatures causing health issues and stress which can heighten irritability and violence. This disproportionately impacts First Nations women engaging in care work for extended families, who have limited financial resources. **There is a need for further research which documents the correlation between heat stress, poverty and violence for First Nations women, and how women can provide the solutions to addressing these interdependent issues.**

Extreme heat will cause an estimated loss of \$211 billion in agriculture and labour productivity by 2050 (Steffen et al. 2019). Notably, this figure does not account for the economic losses from bushfires, riverine flooding and tropical cyclones. Not only are heatwaves the leading cause of death across all states in Australia, barring Tasmania (The Australia Institute, 2024), but they are also a major economic threat. Additionally, women account for 33% of the agricultural workforce in Australia – 71% of which spends 5 or more hours on unpaid domestic work and 20% on unpaid voluntary and community work (ABARES, 2023). As of 2016, unpaid family workers account for 18% of the agricultural workforce in Australia (Barr and Kancans, 2020). **The intersection of the gendered and economic impacts of heatwaves and the unpaid labour of women in agriculture in Australia should be recognised under both Priority area 2 (Unpaid and paid care) and 3 (Economic equality and security) in WFW, as well as in relevant government policy areas across health, climate change, and so on.**

3. The National Disability Insurance Scheme should be reviewed to understand the responsiveness of the Scheme to the impacts of climate change and disasters experienced by people with disabilities.

People with disabilities (and often even more so, women with disabilities) are disproportionately impacted by climate change and disasters. For example, 89% of heat-related deaths in Australia between 2001 and 2018 were people with disabilities (Coates et al. 2022). The NDIS should be responsive to increasing support and funding during and after disasters to ensure the safety and well-being of NDIS participants (National Disability Services, 2025). **We recommend the NDIS undertake a review to assess their capacity as interlocuter between emergency services and vulnerable communities.** It is recommended that a review of the NDIS take place to understand the current and future impacts of climate change and disasters on people with disabilities, and how the Scheme can be responsive to these impacts.

4. Establish a cross-departmental gender-climate data initiative including agencies and civil society (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Bureau of Meteorology, National Emergency Management and UN Women). Use this to integrate social and economic indicators (such as domestic violence rates, employment and pay gaps, and unpaid care work) with climate hazard datasets enabling better anticipation, prediction and response to the gendered impacts of climate change.

To enable Government to fill some of these key data gaps, **a cross-departmental working group or initiative helping to pull relevant gender-climate data is recommended.** Governmental representatives could be joined by relevant civil society and academic experts.

Framing

5. Climate mobility should be reframed as an adaptation necessity with requisite strategy rather than solely a national security threat. Similarly, climate-related displacement must be treated as an internal security issue.

Reframing climate mobility as an adaptation necessity rather than solely a national security threat represents an important shift toward a human security and gender-responsive approach. Whilst national security framing on climate mobility issues can help elevate importance and open new funding opportunities, it is inadequate to address the gendered and human impacts of climate refugees and mobility issues. From a gender-climate lens, **a shared national security and adaptation framing would recognise that mobility is often constrained by existing inequalities, with women and girls facing distinct barriers to movement as well as heightened risks of exploitation, violence, and economic marginalisation when displacement occurs.** This is particularly pertinent for First Nations women and girls, especially those in regional and remote communities, including the Torres Strait Islands whose communities, which hold intergenerational knowledges and cultural histories will be displaced by climate change. It also challenges securitised, state-centric narratives that prioritise border control over people's rights, instead positioning safe, supported mobility as critical to resilience and stability.

Framing climate-related displacement as an internal security issue further reinforces this shift, directing attention to service provision, social cohesion, and protection from gender-based violence. Gender-responsive management of climate mobility is not only an adaptation imperative, but a preventive security strategy that strengthens resilience, reduces instability, and advances the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda.

6. Learn from and apply DFAT's gender-responsive and demographic lens on climate change policies and funding decisions to DCCEEW's domestic climate policy and funding responses.

Australia's foreign climate policy is more gender-responsive than Australia's domestic climate policy (Crandell and Stephenson, 2026). DFAT has solidified Australia's gender equality priorities through policy frameworks (e.g. through the introduction of the Ambassador for Gender Equality and placing targets on foreign policy investments addressing gender equality and climate change) (Crandell and Stephenson, 2026). DFAT also has specific guidance on policy and programming through the [Outcomes Nexus](#). This has not translated to the domestic level. This is further exemplified by funding towards women-led climate adaptation and mitigation. Anderson (2026) explains how a DFAT-funded project under a Gender-Responsive Equitable Agriculture and Tourism initiative saw women in northern Vietnam learn climate-

smart farming techniques which increased average income by almost 20% and improved household food security. The same opportunities for gender-responsive climate financing is not utilised domestically as demonstrated in the 2026-27 Federal Budget, which included no new measures that directly address the gender-climate nexus at a domestic level (Harris Rimmer et al. 2026).

Beyond the [existing requirement for the Australian Government to conduct a gender impact assessment for new policy proposals and cabinet submissions](#), drawing from DFAT's leading work on gender and climate might require departments like (but not limited to) DCCEEW to **ensure all funding decisions over a threshold contain both gender and climate outcomes.**

Disaster Response

7. Disaster response needs to be de-militarised and take a human-centric, local- and civilian-led approach.

Australia's disaster response has relied on the use of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Given disaster relief is not the main strategic objective of the ADF, their response focuses on short-term recovery. Yet it can take communities years to recover following a disaster. **Enhancing community, locally- and civilian-led approaches and providing adequate capability to uplift and financially support local community groups would strengthen disaster response and recovery in Australia and increase the resilience of communities before, during and after disasters** (Rawsthorne, 2023; Sanderson et al. 2025). Community-led response can address both the short-term and long-term relief and recovery required. Community-led responses following the Northern Rivers flooding proved effective for addressing the different needs of individuals and groups, including First Nations women and queer people (McNaught et al. 2024). This cannot be achieved by the ADF who are not connected to the community in the same ways.

For First Nations communities, particularly in remote areas, climatic disasters including extreme flooding and fires, are increasingly likely and yet community infrastructure is often the least capable of withstanding impacts. In remote areas there is often an absence of community involvement in recovery planning adding to trauma and poverty that is already present. Without disaster recovery frameworks that are genuinely designed with and by communities, the risks of climate change fall unevenly on those least responsible for causing it, and recovery becomes something that happens to communities rather than with them. For First Nations women, who carry much of the practical and emotional weight of keeping families together through crisis, this is a serious concern.

8. Resource (monetarily and otherwise) women-led disaster response and women-dominated community services. Male-dominated sectors are prioritised in disaster response currently.

Despite a commitment in WFW to account for gender and women in climate action and disasters, and the recognition of the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women, the 2026-27 Federal budget does not address the gender-climate nexus. Disaster preparation, response and recovery has been heavily masculinised, due to the militarisation of disaster response as previously described, male-dominated emergency services (e.g. within State Emergency Services), a masculinised culture within emergency services and national policy more broadly (e.g. 'prepare, stay and defend'; Pease, 2024; Chowdhury et al. 2022). However, this does not mean that women and gender-diverse people do not also contribute to disaster preparation, response and recovery. Rather, this labour is largely unrecognised and unpaid (Foote et al. 2024; McNaught et al. 2025). **Disaster response led by women and gender-diverse people must welcome the participation of young or emerging leaders, be supported monetarily, and should be recognised as important to the recovery of communities following disasters.**

This is particularly pertinent for First Nations women and carers, whose care work extends beyond the mainstream definition of caring responsibilities and are largely uncaptured within policy settings. First Nations care work responds to the ongoing damage and harm of colonial systems, including care for Country and community, and in responding to climate change. A systems framework should be taken to consider the ways in which caring for community and country works towards disaster prevention, mitigation and adaptation, and be remunerated accordingly. The 2023 Report in collaboration with the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute estimates remuneration for unpaid care for First Nations women as between \$81,175.64 to \$118,921.40, and recommends government departments reshape public policy to be gender sensitive and anti-colonial, including by centring and valuing First Nations care work as critical aspects of economies (Klein et al. 2023).

Policy options include directing more funding to local community volunteer rescue facilities and women led and community-led groups (e.g., parents and friends groups, mum's networks, etc.) to support their work as primary responders in disasters. This is relevant to both foreign policy and domestic policy considerations.

9. Continue and expand investment in the "Lessons in Disaster" program and emphasise the needs of women and gender-diverse people with disability in disaster.

Women, and in particular First Nations women and women with disabilities, as well as sexual- and gender-diverse people, are at increased risk of violence during and after disasters (Chowdhury et al. 2022). The "Lessons in Disaster" program delivered by Gender and Disaster Australia trains participants on how gendered expectations impact women, men, sexual- and gender-diverse people and other minority groups during disaster preparation, response and recovery. Whilst \$2 million was committed to this program in 2024, no additional funding was committed in the 2026-27 Federal Budget.

We support continued investment in programs such as these, complementing other investments and initiatives.

10. AusAlert must be gender-responsive and include tailored guidelines for individuals from vulnerable demographic groups.

In October 2026, a new national emergency warning system, AusAlert, will be launched Australia-wide. Alerts will be sent for disasters, public health emergencies, biosecurity incidents and public safety/security threats. Given the inequalities experienced by different groups during disasters, **the AusAlert system should send information with alerts on specific actions groups should take to reduce their risk.** Regulations requiring demographic specific information are well established in Australia. For example, alcohol is a risk to pregnant women and this message is conveyed on every bottle containing alcohol. Similarly, pregnant women are at increased risk during heatwaves and this risk and how to best reduce this risk should be communicated during every heatwave.

Consideration should also be given for those in regional and remote areas where reception is not available, to communities and individuals who may not own or have capability to charge a mobile device, and for individuals whose first language is not English, such as migrant, refugee, and First Nations peoples and communities. Engagement with local community organisations and resource centres will be necessary to ensure emergency information is being received by those communities and individuals, some of whom are the most vulnerable in climate and disaster events.

11. Make an urgent investment in evacuation centres that are gender-sensitive, safeguard children, and are disability-inclusive and culturally safe for First Nations people.

Primary evacuation centres are often not purpose built – being community halls, schools, or churches. Due to restricted privacy, there is an increased risk of discrimination, harassment and violence – this disproportionately impacts women and girls, with compounding challenges for queer women and women with disabilities (OurWatch, 2025). A reliance on faith-based organisations, in addition to the views of volunteers and service providers, may contribute to queer folk feeling unwelcome or unsafe (Larin, 2024; Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience 2024). Not all facilities are accessible and have adequate safe-guarding mechanisms to prevent gender-based violence and insecurity during disasters, nor accessible for those with disability. Evacuation centres and disaster planning need to be designed with the communities they are planning for, including consideration of language and culture. For instance, bisexual women, trans women, and gender-diverse people experience higher rates of family and gender-based violence. Discrimination, harassment, and violence may increase in evacuation and relief centres where privacy is limited.

First Nations communities are often at the forefront of major disasters, yet are underrepresented in decision-making about how to respond. In recent Northern Territory flooding, the Northern Land Council (NLC) released a statement describing that First Nations communities are being left behind in disaster responses with unequal support compared to non-Indigenous residents, and calls on government to listen to community in disaster management planning (NLC, 2026). The NLC also calls on government to **locate evacuation centres within**

close proximity to remote communities; ensure centres are culturally safe; are adequately supporting with food, sanitary and bedding supplied; and there is open and consistent communication with Traditional Owners and community before, during and following emergency incidents, including to make informed decisions and preventative measures in the event of an emergency.

This is an ongoing issue across communities, whereby lack of consultation involving First Nations communities has resulted in response planning - including shelters, evacuation planning and supports - leaving communities behind and vulnerable. 2022 reporting, in reference to the 2020 bushfires, links this to structural racism and bias (Williamson, 2022). As one-third of First Nations peoples across Australia are under 18, this is not only a public health and safety issue, but one of children rights.

This lack of engagement is also present in the allocation of funding of disaster resilience, with only 2.2% of federal funding to strengthen national disaster resilience allocated to Indigenous organisations. Of this 2.2%, Monash University research reveals that no Indigenous organisations in any regions impacted by the most recent Northern Australian floods received this funding through the Disaster Ready fund (Williamson and Perlinski, 2026). **Funding for Indigenous organisations in regions impacted by disasters (and likely to be increasingly impacted by disasters) is urgently necessary.**

11. Urgently support mitigation and adaptation of climate impacts in the Torres Strait Islands

As vital maritime chokepoints and a critical northern gateway for trade, the Torres Strait islands serve as vital outposts to Australia's national security and economy. However, the Islands and their people are often missed within domestic policy. Islands, including Boigu, Dauan and Saibai Island are projected to be uninhabitable within the next decade due to climate change, creating significant displacement residents, and loss of culture and language connected to the Island. Significant litigation including *Pabai Pabai & Anor v Commonwealth of Australia* (2025) have brought attention to the fate of the Islands and the imperative of the federal government to urgently act, however, there is yet to be urgent investment on both a local context - mitigating and adapting to the climate changes, as well as federal action to lower carbon emissions to limit the impacts of climate change. Torres Strait Islander residents have described the current lack of action as a 'death sentence' (Elu, 2024).

This sentiment is reiterated within WYUT engagements, with Torres Strait women describing the impacts of 'one size fits all' approaches to policy and service delivery as preventing meaningful action in the Torres Strait, disrupting cultural practices and dynamics. Lack of services, including fly-in-fly-out providers is also contributing to unsafety and exacerbating care loads for women (AHRC, 2020). **Urgent mitigation and adaption to climate impacts in the Torres Strait Islands is critical.**

Funding

12. Increase funding for women- and First Nations-led climate entrepreneurship.

In Australia, women-led start-ups account for only 24% of funding and only 2% of funding goes to all-women teams (Cut Through Ventures, 2025). Additionally, the importance of First Nations-led climate adaptation is recognised in the National Adaptation Plan but no new budget measure were announced in the 2026-27 Federal Budget (Harris Rimmer et al. 2026). Globally, only 5-6% of high-technology entrepreneurs are women (Kuschel, 2019) and in Australia, women remain largely underrepresented in STEM research, accounting for only 19% of researchers in engineering and 19% in the physical sciences (ARC, 2019). This has significant ramifications for women- and First Nations-led climate entrepreneurship; if they are unable to access funding, and given climate innovation is largely driven by STEM, their ability to engage in climate entrepreneurship is immediately hampered (Stephenson and Furman, 2024). As discussed further under Just Transition recommendations, the Just Transition requires the participation of and investment into women - women-led climate entrepreneurship is one way of achieving this.

Scale targeted funding for women- and First Nations-led climate enterprises (e.g. through amendments to prior programs like Boosting Female Founders, etc.) with priority given to enterprises operating in climate adaptation, clean energy, and environmental markets, simplified application processes and multi-year funding to support scale.

Introduce minimum allocation targets (e.g. % of funding) for women- and First Nations-led enterprises in public innovation and climate funding pools.

Incentivise gender-responsive investment practices in venture and private capital (e.g., through requiring gender-disaggregated reporting for publicly-supported funds or incubator/accelerator programs, offering co-investment or tax incentives for climate/innovation funds that meet diversity targets, embedding gender criteria in climate-related procurement).

Invest in women- and First Nations-led accelerators and ecosystem builders (e.g. CSIRO ON Innovation Program has recently led work on diversity and inclusion in innovation with support of GIWL and WYUT – this is an opportunity to further expand this work to climate innovation, and through other programs).

Prioritise women- and First Nations-owned climate businesses in supply chains and require diversity criteria for major clean energy projects.

13. Place gender-responsive criteria on projects funded under the National Reconstruction Fund.

As previously described, domestic funding towards gender-responsive and women-led climate adaptation and mitigation is lacking. The National Reconstruction Fund cuts across sectors that are either significant greenhouse gas emitters, such as transport and agriculture, or are

implementing solutions to climate change such as renewables and low emission technologies. However, the Fund does not currently require projects to meet gender-responsive criteria. For example, such criteria can include assessing who benefits from a project and the percentage of women working on the project, ownership of enterprises supported, and so on.

The National Reconstruction Fund should be mandated to report on gendered impacts (e.g., as in the APS' [Including Gender](#) requirements) and embed the suggestions made above – ensuring funding is used gender-responsively.

14. Implement a caring allowance for Caring for Country and expand carers benefits to climate action and Caring for Country.

Recognise public-good labour that delivers climate mitigation, adaptation, and ecosystem services. This **allowance could mirror how unpaid caring (e.g., childcare, disability support) is already partially recognised in income support systems (e.g., carers allowance) but extend it to environmental and cultural care work which is frequently disproportionately carried out by women and First Nations communities.** For First Nations carers, caring for Country intersects intimately with caring for children, family and community, recognising the responsibility to create safe environments and maintaining and sharing cultural knowledge, language and practices related to the environment. Caring responsibilities that are climate action are therefore no different for other types of care work and must be adequately recognised and remunerated.

Key recommendations recognising the value and nature of First Nations care work including are made in the Caring about Care report (Klein et.al. 2023), authored in collaboration with WYUT:

- The Australian Government should establish a taskforce led by and comprised of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to design a national action plan to elevate, centre, and support care.
- Drawing on holistic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander definitions of care (that is, care of not just people, but also Country, culture, and all living things), and in close consultation with Indigenous women, the Australian Bureau of Statistics should develop and implement more sensitive measures of Indigenous women's care work.
- Supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers must be strengthened and/or created to ensure carers are also being cared for.
- Governments at all levels must fully acknowledge and appreciate, as well as reflect in public policy, the intricate links between paid and unpaid care roles undertaken by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

15. The federal government should require gender-climate analysis as a condition of grant funding when allocating climate related funding to state governments.

16. Invest in initiatives that address the causes and implications of rising insurance costs and uninsurability.

Federal government funding to state/territory and local governments can be a catalyst for more gender-responsive climate action. **Gender analysis and gender-responsivity should be a mandatory component of funding allocated to states, territories and local governments** (e.g. housing, disaster management, infrastructure, transport, and health through the Federal Financial Relations System, including through mechanisms like the Disaster Ready Fund).

Additionally, **adequate investment is required to tackle rising insurance costs and uninsurability of houses in the wake of climate changes** – which have gendered impacts due to women's economic standing comparative to men in society. These issues may in particular impact older single women – a cohort also at increased risk of homelessness.

The Just Transition

17. The Just Transition must include gender-neutral and female-dominated industries like healthcare and education. This must be underpinned by a transition from an extractive economy to a regenerative, care economy.

In Australia, the Just Transition has been siloed into primarily male-dominated industries such as mining, construction and energy. Yet women account for only 23% of the mining, 28% of the utilities (e.g., electricity, water) and 21% of the construction workforce (WGEA, 2025). Importantly, the Just Transition is not solely concerned with transitioning fossil fuel-dependent workforces but rather a whole-of-society response to transitioning to net-zero whilst building regenerative and resilient economies in a way that is fair, equitable and just. Thus, the Just Transition can be used as an opportunity to address historical, systemic gendered inequalities.

Our economy is founded on, and has benefited from, the extraction of resources and consumerism – two highly unsustainable processes that are grounded in exploitation and inequitable wealth distribution. A Just Transition will not truly be just if our economy does not also transform into one that is regenerative, promotes social and ecological well-being and gender equality (Peters, 2024).

Gender-neutral and women-dominated industries must be included in the Just Transition, underpinned by the transition to a regenerative, care economy. This includes ensuring that women-dominated industries like healthcare and education gain the same sorts of funding and support to transition as male-dominated sectors like construction, energy sector, transport, and mining.

Australia could consider solutions such as France's banning of fast fashion – a gendered consumer practice with significant environmental impacts.

18. First Nations land ownership and renewable energy should be reconciled.



For many First Nations women, particularly in remote communities, the energy transition is yet to be felt as relief. WYUT engagements consistently document women managing household budgets for extended families under the pressure of high energy costs, overcrowded and poorly built and insulated housing, which has detrimental consequences for children and family wellbeing, food preservation and preparation and causes stress throughout daily life.

In many remote regions such as the Kimberley in the north of Western Australia, First Nations people make up a large proportion of those renting, living in social housing, or in remote community housing, and it is these households that have seen least benefit from the shift to renewables. Low incomes, inadequate housing and months of extreme heat mean that energy costs consume a disproportionate share of household budgets. Metered systems that cut off supply automatically when credit runs out are a feature of remote community life that does not apply elsewhere in Australia. Research in West Kimberley communities has found that some households are losing power multiple times a week. WYUT engagements suggest that in these instances women are left to support and care for families, when power is cut (Thorburn et al n.d.).

Where renewable infrastructure has been built on Country, including through programs such as Horizon Power's solar rollouts, this has not necessarily meant lower costs for those households. In Western Australia this is due to the Uniform Tariff Policy which means all residents pay the same flat electricity rate regardless of location. In this sense, ownership and co-ownership of renewable energy assets is, in many respects, a separate consideration to power affordability. Research into clean energy agreement-making in Australia has documented the growing capacity of some First Nations groups to negotiate equity stakes and co-ownership in large-scale renewable projects, and these arrangements do bring genuine opportunity (O'Neill and Thorburn, 2025).

However, the extent to which communities benefit depends heavily on access to independent expert advice and adequate resourcing. Those groups without independent financial resources are at a significant disadvantage (O'Neill and Thorburn 2025). Practitioners working in this space have raised concerns that without careful governance and genuine community control, the clean energy transition risks becoming another wave of dispossession and industrial development on Country.

Critically, land tenure is not always the primary barrier. Communities can and do enter lease arrangements that are simpler and more flexible than native title agreements. **What is missing is a structural approach to energy pricing and supply that treats remote communities as decision-making partners rather than program beneficiaries, and that embeds Free, Prior and Informed Consent as a legal baseline with binding accountability for outcomes.** Some jurisdictions, such as South Australia, have demonstrated that structural tariff reform is achievable, with pricing settings that reflect the actual conditions of remote living.

WYUT engagements have documented ongoing frustration among First Nations women and communities whereby government and the private sector have failed to engage communities as agents in programs, developments and services rather than beneficiaries. **Women call for structural reform to shift power towards community-led, self-determined approaches, and for funding and accountability frameworks to embed these principles (AHRC, 2020).**

For First Nations women this is an urgent policy issue. Current arrangements for transitioning to renewable power are failing to meet needs, and are compounding conditions of poverty, which disproportionately impacts women and their families. **Incorporating the needs of women into**

energy policy design would result in a just transition and an alleviation of the health and wellbeing issues associated with energy unaffordability and poor housing (documented extensively through the WYUT 2020 report).

Community engagement

19. Start a national women's consultation about climate mitigation and adaptation priorities.

Australia's [National Adaptation Plan](#) (NAP) includes limited mention of women. Most mentions sit under 'Health and social support' where services focussed on women's safety are included within the definition of health and social support. At best, the NAP identifies "considering adaptation measures women and gender-diverse for older people, women and gender diverse groups and promoting gender equality, and a focus on children and youth..." as a future priority under health and social support. **Gender should be cross-cutting across all areas of the National Adaptation Plan.**

[Australia's 2035 Nationally Determined Contributions](#) (NDC) does recognise the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women, girls and First Nations people. An NDC framework that is truly gender-responsive, however, would take into account gender-disaggregated data, and undertake a gender analysis to inform baselines, outcomes and indicators of the NDC. This would be further supported by mitigation and adaptation budget measures that are gender-responsive (IUCN and NDC Partnership, 2021). As previously noted, no budget measures address the gender-climate nexus in the 2026-27 Federal Budget (Harris Rimmer et al. 2026). Both the NAP and NDC are evidence of a lack of meaningful engagement with the priorities of women and gender-diverse people in climate action at the intersection of mitigation and adaptation. **A national women's consultation about climate mitigation and adaptation would begin to address these shortfalls and would ensure the knowledge, ideas and leadership of women and gender-diverse people are included in future domestic climate policies.**

Part 2: National security

The following recommendations and policy options are derived from some of our longstanding analysis of defence and national security systems alongside more recent budget analysis (e.g. [NFAW's budget analysis](#)). We advocate for gender equality to be considered not only as an issue relating to military sexual violence and human resources, but rather to consider the multifaceted ways in which gender is implicated in and impacted by broader national security concerns, including affecting how states define, design and deliver security responses.

Threat assessment

20. Ensure national security surveys, threat assessments, and resilience strategies explicitly include domestic, family, and sexual

violence, coercive control, misogynistic extremism, online gendered abuse, and economic insecurity as security risks.

Domestic, family, and sexual violence, coercive control, misogynistic extremism, online gendered abuse and economic insecurity are national security threats that are increasingly recognised by Five Eyes partners but frequently fail to gain the requisite funding and attention in Australia. This is despite the rise in misogynistic extremism (Meger and Reynolds, 2026), and recent years' prioritisation by the Office for National Intelligence (e.g., under the National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grants 2024-2026 which have included a specific focus on extremist misogyny; Office of National Intelligence, n.d.) which belie their significance. Alongside a growing body of literature linking gender-based violence and "the treatment of women in society with large-scale issues such as civil violence, state security, and willingness to use military force to resolve disputes" (Gould and Agnich, 2016).

When the cornerstone of Australia's defence policy is the 'Strategy of Denial,' (National Defence Strategy, 2026) one that aims to deter conflict before it begins, the failure to recognise domestic, family, and sexual violence, coercive control, misogynistic extremism, online gendered abuse and economic insecurity as national security threats directly is a missed opportunity that contradicts this Strategy. **This should be addressed as a matter of priority.**

AUKUS and related defence expenditure

21. Assess major defence investments against women's safety priorities, including whether equivalent long-term capability planning and funding certainty is being provided for prevention, early intervention, crisis response, legal assistance, housing and recovery for victim-survivors.

22. Require all national security proposals above the Gender Impact Assessment threshold to include public reporting on gendered impacts, opportunity costs, workforce assumptions, procurement impacts and alternatives considered.

23. Require AUKUS-related workforce, education, procurement and infrastructure programs to include gender equality targets, transparent reporting, contractor obligations and safeguards against sexual harassment and gender-based violence.

24. Publish gender impact analysis for all major defence and national security measures, including AUKUS-related measures, the Integrated Investment Program and Australian Submarine Agency funding.

AUKUS is an obvious test case for the Government's commitment to gender-responsive budgeting. **As one of the largest and most consequential national security investments, such investments should be subject to the same gender analysis expected elsewhere in government decision-making.** The Government's own gender-responsive budgeting framework requires gender impact assessments for proposals with significant financial implications, proposals connected to gender inequality or gender-based violence, and proposals affecting gender-segregated sectors, industries or occupations. AUKUS meets all these criteria.

Workforce

25. Ensure Top Secret Privileged Access (TSPA) provisions are gender-responsive, including paying attention to diversity in the vetting pipeline as well as how illegal activity (e.g. domestic violence) and problematic gendered behaviour and attitudes (e.g. extremist misogyny) is considered.

26. Invest adequate resources into research, policy and programming to ensure women's equal representation, leadership and decision-making across the national security workforce, with adequate provisions across all agencies as well as at a sectoral level.

Representation in Australia's national security workforce is critical: directly affecting workforce capacity, operational effectiveness, and the ability to meet strategic capability requirements in changing international environment. Harris Rimmer and Stephenson's (2024) analysis of 14 national security agencies' publicly available datasets revealed that only four agencies (DFAT, AUSTRAC, Home Affairs and ONI) have achieved parity in women's representation overall, and only two in women's representation in executive level ('EL') leadership (DFAT and Home Affairs). Only Defence (Australian Public Service, civilian side of Defence) had achieved parity in senior executive service ('SES') roles. **Research, policy and programming is necessary to close gender gaps in representation, whilst changes wrought by TSPA represent a moment to ensure gendered dimensions of insecurity are adequately vetted in clearance processes.**

Women, Peace and Security

27. Provide adequate funding for Women, Peace and Security (WPS) across relevant agencies in light of geostrategic changes.

28. Expand Australia's WPS remit to a domestic security context, with particular attention to supporting First Nations women.

WPS remains one of Australia's primary vehicles to address gender equality and national security concerns – yet requires significant expansion. **WPS's four pillars warrant additional funding and expansion, recognising the entwined nature of domestic vs foreign policy concerns.** Recognising the overlap between domestic and international security, WPS remit should be reflective of domestic and international priorities.

For example, Australia must recognise that striving for gender equality is part of a multi-pronged approach to addressing gender-based and sexual violence. Whilst the Nordic countries, some of the most gender equal in the world, still evidence high rates of intimate partner violence, Australia could utilise 'the Nordic paradox' (Gracia and Merlo, 2016) as a guide for new research family, domestic and sexual violence in both domestic and international contexts.

As described throughout this submission, First Nations women disproportionately experience violence as a result of structural inequalities and harms. Current policy architecture has made little progress to mitigate this violence, noting that the rates of missing and murdered First Nations women has increased in recent years, as discussed in the following sections. In WYUT engagements, women have shared how due to violence, they are often forced to choose between safety and staying connected to family and culture (WYUT, 2026). WPS has to be accountable to this domestic context. The WPS agenda's core principles of meaningful participation, protection from violence, prevention of conflict, and relief and recovery must apply with equal force to first Nations women domestically as to women abroad.

Establish a whole-of-government WPS coordinating mechanism with a formal domestic mandate to match Australia's current foreign policy mandate. This could include existing entities like DFAT, Defence, and Home Affairs alongside new entities across social policy, climate policy and digital safety portfolios, with legislated reporting obligations. Existing anchor institution (DFAT) could be complemented with a domestic anchor (e.g. PM&C).

Align policy across the WPS National Action Plan (currently foreign policy focused), International Gender Equality Strategy (foreign policy focused), Working for Women Strategy (domestic focused), National Defence Strategy, and National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children – including shared indicators and funding mechanisms that recognise the spectrum of violence and security at domestic and individual levels to international and societal levels.

Centre First Nations women in domestic applications of WPS, recognising their roles as mediators, negotiators and trauma-informed responders. An early measure could be the creation of a First Nations Women's Advisory Council or equivalent leadership structure on WPS and national security. This should include dedicated resourcing for First Nations women to participate formally in community-level conflict resolution, disaster recovery and family violence prevention. These are roles First Nations women already fill without adequate support or recognition. Their expertise in conflict resolution should further be recognised and resourced to benefit peace and security processes domestically and internationally. This work should strengthen existing First Nations-led initiatives and connect to Australia's foreign policy and development programming to support Indigenous women's peacebuilding in other jurisdictions.

Resource a First Nations gender justice mediation network.

Step up the integration of climate and technology facilitated gender-based violence in WPS architecture. Expand the scope of WPS to explicitly consider and cover these risks, with adequate funding dedicated to these domains under the four pillars (prevention, protection, participation, relief/recovery).

Domestic Gendered Security

29. Treat domestic, family, and sexual violence, coercive control, technology-facilitated abuse and misogynistic extremism as core national security threats in strategic assessments, not only as justice or social policy issues.

A 2026 survey indicated that 28 per cent of boys aged 13-17 support violent resistance to feminism and roughly 40 per cent believe that women lie about domestic and sexual violence (Megar and Reynolds 2026). Misogynistic extremism has also been shown to motivate individuals to perform violent, targeted attacks on women (United States Secret Service, 2022). For Australia to be the “global leader in gender equality” (Gallagher, 2024) it aims to be, our key strategic policies must talk to each other, including the Working for Women Strategy, National Defence Strategy, International Gender Equality Strategy and the broader Women, Peace and Security Agenda. **Online extremism and domestic violence cannot be treated only as social policy or justice issues and must be treated also as security risks impacting social cohesion and Australia’s overall national security and economic prosperity.**

Action dedicated to responding to violence, abuse and threats against women, must be equally responsive to women of colour, including First Nations, migrant and refugee women, women with disabilities, queer women, and those in regional and remote communities. The rates of First Nations women and children being murdered, disproportionately higher than the general population, has increased since 2017-18 (AIC, 2022). Evidence provided through close to a decade of engagement with First Nations women, girls and gender diverse peoples through WYUT Institute shows the critical threats to safety that many First Nations women and children experience with little to no support, included when reaching out to service providers and government, and which contribute to the extreme rates of missing/disappeared and murdered Indigenous women (AHRC, 2020).

30. Ensure AusCheck gun licensing assessments take into account highly gendered domestic violence offending and misogynistic extremist views.

As demonstrated in earlier recommendations, there is evidence of misogynistic extremism fuelling violence against women. This can be directly addressed through ensuring this is accounted for in gun licensing assessments. Yet currently, it is unclear whether AusCheck assessments will take into account highly gendered domestic violence offending and

misogynistic extremist views. This should be a priority. As in our NFAW analysis, “domestic violence offending, coercive control, stalking, technology-facilitated abuse and misogynistic extremist ideology should be treated as relevant security risk indicators in vetting, firearms licensing and threat assessment so the link between misogynistic extremism, DV and firearms is tighter”.

Research and innovation

31. Recognise gender within the defence strategic policy grants as priority areas and provide adequate funding as such.

32. Provide adequate funding for research, policy and programming to address misogynistic extremism.

33. Provide adequate funding for research, policy and programming to prevent exploitation, trafficking and the disproportionate targeting of women, including addressing their role in cybercrime and scams targeting in Australia.

34. Provide targeted and gender-responsive funding provisions for defence and intelligence innovations, researchers and innovators.

As argued in our NFAW budgetary analysis, “Australians should not have to make a case for why defence and national security funding should be more gender responsive”. As Stephenson and Harris Rimmer (2023) note, “These agencies have access to a huge amount of budget and resources; they have significant and very special privileges, immunities, and duties under the law; and they carry significant status in state societies.” **Given the entwinement of gender equality as a national security imperative, adequate funding to research and innovation must follow.**

35. Develop a national prevention strategy addressing misogyny as a driver of extremism, including public communication campaigns, education reform, and platform accountability mechanisms.

Additionally, it is suggested that the Government embeds a “misogyny to extremism continuum” framework in threat assessments, countering violent extremism programs, school-based prevention programs, and online safety regulation.

We also support the funding of evidence-based public interventions that challenge gendered disinformation, the normalisation of abuse, and anti-feminist grievance narratives, drawing on research demonstrating links between gender norms and broader security outcomes.

Veterans

36. Increase funding, implementation transparency and accountability for women veterans, including requiring all major veteran health, transition, compensation, wellbeing and commemoration measures to demonstrate how they respond to women veterans' distinct experiences, needs and service histories.

In the 2026-27 Federal Budget, new funding was committed to increase allied health provider fees for Veteran Card holders. The measure gave no indication to how this funding will be gender-responsive. Women veterans have reported difficulty in accessing healthcare specific to their needs (e.g. reproductive health), and military sexual assault and trauma services (Eichler, 2022). There is also some evidence that women veterans faced increased risk of developing mental health conditions and comorbidities compared to veterans who are men (Eichler, 2022; Graham et al. 2022). One in four First Nations veterans are living with a mental health condition and four out of five First Nations veterans over 65 have a long-term health condition (AIHW, 2025). This is underpinned by the fact that women and diverse groups remain underrepresented in health/medicine clinical trials (Gualtierotti, 2025). **An increase in funding that is responsive to the needs of women and First Nations veterans and can demonstrate with transparency how these needs and gaps in healthcare are being addressed is crucial to support veterans.**

37. Increase funding and funding transparency for women veterans and for addressing military sexual violence, in alignment with Australia's partner countries.

The [Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide](#) found that the majority of victims of military sexual violence were women. Whilst \$16.6 million was committed to the inquiry into military sexual violence in the 2026-27 Federal Budget, it lacks clear targets and long-term resourcing that is needed to adequately and effectively address this issue (Stephenson et al. 2026). In our NFAW budget analysis, we make the comparison to a previous budget in 2021 from the Canadian Government which committed \$236.2 million over five years, with additional annual funding of \$33.5 million to their department responsible for Veterans Affairs, to eliminate gender-based violence in the military. The commitment made in the Australian budget this year pales in comparison, even as a percentage of comparative military funding. **Funding towards addressing military sexual violence should better align with likeminded countries (e.g. Canada), which begins with an increase in funding.**

38. Fund and publish an implementation pathway for the Women Veterans Strategy, including measurable actions across health,

mental health, transition, compensation, recognition, data, service navigation, family safety and institutional accountability.

In late 2024, following the publication of the Working for Women Strategy and the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, a Women Veterans Strategy was announced. The impact of service on physical and mental health and difficulty accessing healthcare, which have been outlined above, are not the only barriers faced by women veterans. This includes transitioned veterans experiencing domestic violence, women veterans performing more hours of unpaid care than veterans who are men, and almost half of women veterans, who are under 64 years old, have not returned to the labour force (DVA, 2025). **The Women Veterans Strategy should be launched and must be supported by a funded implementation plan that includes measurable actions.**

Part 3: Online Safety

39. Workplace technologies should be recognised as a site of gendered harm and risk to worker wellbeing.

Digital access is critical for all, supporting human rights relating to freedom of expression and access to information, as well as redressing structural disadvantage. Despite this, women, LGBTQ+ people, and people with disabilities are at higher risk of experiencing technology-facilitated workplace sexual harassment. Workplace technologies provide a wide range of opportunities to enact misconduct – from inappropriate messages, to undue monitoring of location and activities, to preventing people from doing their work by excluding them from essential emails or documents. Gender inequality explains the prevalence of everyday technology misuse (such as removing permissions access to shared documents) and technology-facilitated workplace sexual harassment above and beyond differences between men and women. In workplaces where there is higher gender inequality alongside norms that technology misuse is permissible, women are more likely to experience bullying, discrimination, and sexual harassment perpetrated using these technologies.

Recognise workplace technologies explicitly as a psychosocial and gendered risk in WHS provisions.

40. Gender-based violence through digital technologies, online platforms and artificial intelligence should be recognised as a site of democratic erosion.

Online harassment, targeted disinformation campaigns and the proliferation of gendered misinformation, perpetuation of bias and stereotypes and use of online technologies to silence women in public office negatively impacts public life, creating a double bind for women and minoritised groups and distracting from genuine and constructive social and political engagement, which has implications for democracy. **Recognise technology-facilitated abuse as a barrier to political participation and representation, with measurable impacts on women's candidacy, retention in public office, and civic engagement.**

Mandate algorithmic transparency and anti-discrimination safeguards for AI systems.

Strengthen protections for technology facilitated workplace abuse.

Recognise gender-based mis/disinformation, trolling, and harassment as a democratic threat, with adequate funding, research, and policy development to address the effects of online misogyny and misogynistic extremism.

Introduce a regulatory duty on digital platforms to mitigate gendered harms impacting democratic participation, including risk assessments on impacts to women in politics and public life; rapid response mechanisms for candidates/public figures; and transparency reporting on gendered abuse and disinformation.

Classify coordinated gender-based online abuse and disinformation as threats to democratic infrastructure, requiring response and integration through electoral integrity mechanisms, national security assessments, and mis/disinformation policy and regulation.

41. Utilise gender impact assessments, policy and regulation tools, and international diplomatic efforts to address gender inequality in artificial intelligence as a matter of priority.

In alignment with the UN General Assembly's resolution urging "Member States to adopt specific measures to close the gender digital divide and to ensure that particular attention is paid to access, affordability, digital literacy, privacy and online safety, to enhance the use of digital technologies, intelligence including systems, artificial and to mainstream a disability, gender and racial equality perspective in policy decisions and the frameworks that guide them", we suggest the following policy options, supporting by our research into gender-responsive and feminist approaches to international AI governance (Stephenson 2026).

Mandate Gender Impact Assessments (GIAs) for Australia's national AI strategy and any foreign policy-related AI negotiations, as well as major public sector deployments of AI, with GIAs required for funding or approvals.

Ensure Australia puts forward gender expertise and representative in AI governance bodies (e.g. national taskforces or UN AI advisory bodies).

Create a joint working group across departments (foreign and domestic-facing) relating to 1) digital affairs and technology and 2) gender equality and women's issues.

Provide targeted innovation funding for gender-responsive AI tools (e.g. through grants, procurement tools, hackathon challenges).

Require transparency in training datasets used for AI development (e.g. attention to authorship, content, sex- and gender-disaggregated data).

Fund AI tools to be used for gender equality e.g. around gender-based violence prevention, safety systems and so on.

Adopt gender-responsive clauses in multilateral agreements surround emerging technologies, including AI (similar to how climate agreements include gender action plans).

Invest in research that seeks to understand localised gendered issues surrounding AI, in Australia and within partner countries we work, to develop evidence-based targeted options for policy and practical interventions.

Bring together gender equality leaders to help inform multilateral AI governance, for instance through the establishment of a Gender-Responsive AI Advisory Body for international affairs.

Develop a shared global definition and minimum standards around gender responsive AI (similar to OECD AI Principles, but with an explicit focus on gender).

We welcome further contact for clarification and thank you for the opportunity to provide a further submission for this Inquiry.

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