

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Focused Initiatives in Social Work and Education Conference 2026

Monday 22 & Tuesday 23 June 2026

## Call for Presentations

### Submission Streams

The Conference Program Committee seeks presentations from a wide variety of interdisciplinary and theoretical perspectives. This collaborative space welcomes submissions from Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous peoples. Submissions will be organised into the streams and sub-streams listed below. Please use these streams as a guide for your submissions. If your presentation doesn't fit within these streams, please contact us as you may have an initiative we have yet to identify.

#### Cultural Strength and Sovereignty

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and cultural practices in social work and education.
- Embedding cultural responsiveness in professional practice.
- Community-Led healing and wellbeing frameworks.

#### Decolonial Initiatives in Practice

- Challenging colonial legacies in curricula and pedagogy.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-Led research methodologies and knowledge production.
- Reframing social work, education and the teaching disciplines through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander worldviews.

#### Self-Determination and Leadership

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance.
- Celebrating and learning from community-controlled collaborations.
- Leadership pathways.

#### Children, Youth, and Intergenerational Futures

- Cultural connectivity in early childhood and youth programs.
- Intergenerational learning and storytelling.
- Supporting strong identity and belonging in young people.

#### Systems Change and Policy Advocacy

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-Led policy reform in child protection, justice, and education.
- Challenging systemic racism with institutional accountability.
- ICIP intellectual and practice sovereignty.

#### Place, Land, and Learning

- Country as teacher: land-based pedagogies and practice.
- Caring for Country and its connection to wellbeing.
- Place-based approaches to social work and education.

#### Healing, Reclamation and Wellbeing

- Trauma-informed, culturally grounded healing practices.
- Social and emotional wellbeing through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lenses.
- Community healing and collective care.

#### Celebrating our Elders: Past, Present, and Future

- Collaborating and caring with and alongside our Elders.
- Innovations in Elder community programs.
- Elders as change agents, advocates, and activists.

We look forward to coming together to share, innovate and collaborate in a dynamic and inclusive space that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in shaping the future of social work and education in Australia.

#### For enquiries please contact:

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Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
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[Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Focused Initiatives in Social Work and Education Conference 2026](#)

## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS - INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

Please select your submission type:

- Paper** sessions will be 20 minutes in length and will be grouped with other similarly streamed papers for delivery in a 1.5 hour session. A 10 minute Q & A will be held at the end of the session.
- Panel** sessions will be 1 hour in length and should include multiple presenters and opportunities for discussion.
- Workshop** sessions will be 1 hour in length and should be interactive and include opportunities for discussion.
- Yarning Circle** sessions will be 1 hour in length and should include multiple presenters and opportunities for discussion.
- Poster** will be on display within the program and will include opportunities for short presentation and discussion.

This presentation aligns with the following stream/s or other:

*Insert text here*

**Title of your submission (100 character limit):**

*Insert text here (100 character limit)*

**Author/Authors/Panel convenor(s):**

Name of 1st author, title, position, institution, email, mobile phone  
Name of 2nd author, title, position, institution, email, mobile phone  
Add additional authors as above

**Abstract Description (250 to 300 word limit):**

Please provide a concise description of your presentation. The detail provided here will be used for publication in the program and will appear in the online resources platform.

*Insert text here (250 to 300 word limit)*

**Biography/ies (150 to 200 word limit):**

The detail provided here will be used for publication in the program and will appear in the online resources platform. Please include subsequent biographies for additional presenters.

*Insert text here (150 to 200 word limit)*

**Presentation requirements:** This conference will be held in person at The University of Sydney, Merewether Building, Cnr of City Road & Butlin Ave, Darlington. All presentations must be delivered in-person at the allocated time.

**IT requirements:** Presenters are responsible for bringing USB devices or accessing cloud-based platforms from the ICT consoles available in all presentation locations. Please ensure that your presentation materials can be accessed from devices other than your own to prevent possible presentation delays. It is highly advised to have your presentation materials available by USB.

**To submit your application please copy the text above and paste into a word document using single spacing, Arial font size 10. Please save your edited word document under the main presenter's surname-ATSISWE-2026 (eg: Smith-ATSISWE-2026). Please complete your details carefully as the detail supplied here will appear in the conference program.**

Upon completion, please submit as an email attachment to Rachel Payne at [rachel.payne@sydney.edu.au](mailto:rachel.payne@sydney.edu.au)

**Abstract submission extended deadline: Thursday 30 April 2026**

**Notification of acceptance: Friday 8 May 2026**