

## Sydney Policy Lab Nodes

Breakthroughs on complex policy challenges happen when researchers share understanding and relationships across disciplines. To support these connections at the University of Sydney, the Sydney Policy Lab is adding nodes to its network of collaborations and research projects.

Each node will be a group of academics and community members with a shared interest in a specific public policy area or methodology that has the potential to transform the status quo. With Lab support and seed funding, members can share existing work, experiment, and nurture future research collaboration.

We look forward to receiving your expression of interest and working together.

Warm regards,

Dr Kate Harrison Brennan  
Director, Sydney Policy Lab

### Benefits of establishing a node

Each node will receive:

- annual seed funding – \$5000 in 2024 – and other funding opportunities
- advice on public and political engagement for policy impact
- priority access to Lab spaces and events
- support for collaborative grant applications
- connections with community, government, policymakers and peers in the Lab policy network
- multidisciplinary leadership opportunities and Lab affiliation.

### What can nodes do?

The Lab takes an exploratory approach to design and delivery of community-led, multidisciplinary policy solutions and supports each node to do the same.

Nodes can, for example, instigate research, convene people with lived and academic expertise in the Lab's collaborative space, test novel policymaking methods or work with Lab leadership to identify opportunities to influence decision makers.

### Requirements and process

- Nodes are constituted by two University of Sydney co-convenors and any number of members.
- Each node focuses on a specific public policy area or methodology.
- To establish a node, prospective co-convenors express their interest using the form on the next page by 9 October 2024.
- The Lab's Executive Committee will review expressions of interest and notify submitters of the outcome in four weeks.
- Once established, nodes
- are encouraged to invite colleagues and community collaborators to join
- have an initial term of two years, renewable on mutual agreement of the co-convenors and Executive Committee
- submit a short annual report to the Executive Committee each year to record membership, activities and influence of the node's work.

### About the Sydney Policy Lab

The Policy Lab is where the community and academics come together to solve complex challenges. Created by the University of Sydney, we work with people from all walks of life to set the agenda, experiment and make public policy that transforms lives.

# Sydney Policy Lab node expression of interest form

Please submit your completed expression of interest to [policy.lab@sydney.edu.au](mailto:policy.lab@sydney.edu.au) by 9 October 2024. You are welcome to direct any questions to the same email address.

## 1. Proposed title

## 2. Description

Which policy issue or method will the node focus on and why? This may be used in promotional material. (Max 100 words.)

## 3. Research question or innovation gap

Describe the research question or innovation gap that this proposal aims to address. How does this differ from what others are doing in this field? What gap does it fill? (Max 300 words.)

#### 4. Alignment with the Lab's 2024–27 Strategy

The Sydney Policy Lab's 2024-27 Strategy sets out our aspirations for the next four years and our community centred, multidisciplinary, exploratory and applied approach to research and policymaking. How does the proposed node reflect the Lab's strategy? What policy impact does the node seek? (Max 500 words.)

#### 5. Co-convenors and capabilities

Which University of Sydney academics will lead the node and how will they use their capabilities to achieve the goals of this initiative? At least two co-convenors are required.

Title	Full name	School or Faculty	Relevant capabilities

## 6. Early- and mid-career members

We ask each co-convenor to involve an early- or mid-career researcher who will be a founding member of the node.

Title	Full name	School	Faculty

## 7. Potential collaborators

Nodes collaborate with university colleagues as well as community members, civil society and government. Who might the node collaborate and engage with? There is no need to approach potential collaborators before submitting this expression of interest. (Max 100 words.)

## 8. Initial activities

Nodes receive annual seed funding which will be \$5,000 in 2024. What do plan to use it for in the first year? (Max 250 words.)

### 9. Co-funding and co-resourcing

Outline any opportunities for co-funding or provision of other resourcing. (Max 200 words.)

### 10. Future funding

Identify future funding strategies or potential opportunities. (Max 200 words.)

### 11. Approval to submit

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Sydney Policy Lab director

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Date