

ChangeFest25 – Breakout Sessions

Expression of Interest Guidelines

Are you a practitioner, funder, educator, researcher, or policymaker interested in designing, facilitating and engaging a learning experience or session at ChangeFest25 (Walyalup/Fremantle) or at an upcoming Learning Network online session?

Expressions of Interest are now open for those who want to contribute to the ChangeFest25 program!

This document is intended to provide guidance to you in the development of your Expression of Interest. If you require more assistance, please contact us at changeifest@changeifest.com.au.

About ChangeFest

ChangeFest is the nation-wide movement for community led systems change in Australia. As a movement, we are committed to learning and acting toward:

- First Nations voice being centred in local, regional and national decisions.
- Power and authority being harnessed for greater equity and collective agency, over top-down deficit-based responses.
- As collaborators, we align our power and resources to healing and transformation grounded in place, whether that be local, regional or country-wide in scale.

ChangeFest activities include the annual ChangeFest Gathering and monthly Learning Network events, in addition to the development of a ChangeFest influencing agenda which will be co-created by the movement across 2025-26.

ChangeFest Gathering

The annual ChangeFest Gathering celebrates the significance of place and the progress being made across Australia. It is one of the ways our movement comes together to learn and strengthen the conditions needed for community-led approaches to sustain and thrive. The gatherings embody collaboration across diversity. This means it is real, creative, with moments of being stretched and moments of experiencing connection to a bigger vision for our shared futures together.

At the core of the ChangeFest gatherings are the principles of the ChangeFest Statement: an invitation from First Nations people across communities to share leadership, harness our collective power and collaborate across our roles so that all people and country thrive.

All are welcome and all people – from community leaders to funders, service providers, researchers, government and other collaborators – have a place at ChangeFest and in bringing the ChangeFest principles to life.

ChangeFest25 is to be held on Whadjuk Country in Walyalup/Fremantle, Western Australia, 19 – 21 November 2025. It will be hosted by the local community in partnership with Imagined Futures, with Collaboration for Impact as the National Convenor.

For more information about ChangeFest, please visit the [website](#).

Calling for contributions

Together the local and national convenors – along with the local and national governance groups - have been working to co-create the program story and weave together this years' experience. The story developed by the Walyalup Elders and Leaders Group has provided a powerful invitation and has set the agenda for the ChangeFest25 gathering.

The hosts now invite the wider movement to contribute offerings in response to this invitation.

This Expression of Interest process is an opportunity to put forward the story, learning or conversation that you would like to contribute as a breakout session at ChangeFest25.

Proposed breakout sessions need to align with the ChangeFest25 Program Framing and at least one of the program elements (see next section).

ChangeFest25 Walyalup - Program Story

Overarching Theme: Creating a new way...

Walyalup has always been a place of deep connection – of bringing our communities together. Historically, linguistically and culturally this is a story of our community. A place where we take a lead in truth telling, in building peace, in creating a future where we share, work and learn together.

Like Walyalup, ChangeFest25 seeks to bring the movement together, to take a lead in truth telling, peacebuilding and healing, understanding the stories of our past; take action for change; and together making a better future.

ChangeFest25 Walyalup takes place in the season of Kambarang – a season in which many things are undergoing transformation with the warm change in the weather. It is the wildflower season, and the season of birth. We can look out for the Koolbardies (magpies) who will be out protecting their nests and their babies.

This year's gathering is about community agency in addressing the injustices of the past and imagining new futures through the strength of collaboration in the present. The ChangeFest25 Program will centre stories from communities leading change, examples of collaborative action across diverse sectors and perspectives that is changing how systems work, and opportunities to develop networks for strengthening our collective influencing and learning.

The ChangeFest25 Program will explore the cycles of time, the seasons of change that occur as we explore the intersections of past, present and future together into a shared experience. Elements of the program include:

Grounding in where we've come from

Understanding the history and context of our communities and institutions is an important first step in collaborating together in community led systems change. Importantly, we will begin by grounding ourselves in the culture and stories of Walyalup country. Together, we'll also explore practices and structures that enable the work of grounding in our contexts — such as storytelling, truth-telling, deep listening, systems mapping and establishing learning-centred collaborations that bring together diverse voices to connect, heal and reimagine.

Collaborating in the present

Communities and collaborators across Australia are already demonstrating collective action to shift systems and address root causes. The program will highlight stories of community-led peacebuilding and healing and share practical examples of how community-centred systems change is happening across Australia — including measurement and learning, sharing power and decision making, building mutual accountability and community-owned resources and capital.

Stepping bravely into new futures

From grounding and collaborating in place we will then reimagine what futures we are co-creating for the next generations and young people of today. Here we will explore what power-shifting work is needed next – locally to nationally – to create systems that work for all people and country. This may include practices such as First Nations leadership of futures thinking, intergenerational learning and accountability, and opportunities for influencing policies, resourcing and narratives around place-based change.

As the Walyalup Elders have said “we have to be forward, because we’ve been left out for so long. This is what ChangeFest means to us. An opportunity to step up and share our stories – our stories of past hurts, our stories of strength and resilience. To find a new way. To build a future with our young people based on truth and healing.”

More description is provided below for each element of the program.

ChangeFest25 Program Elements

	Description
	Understanding the history and context of our communities and institutions is an important first step in collaborating together in community led systems change. Importantly, we will begin by grounding ourselves in the culture and stories of Walyalup country. Together, we'll also explore practices and structures that enable the work of grounding in our contexts — such as storytelling, truth-telling, deep listening, systems mapping and establishing learning-centred

	Description
	<p>collaborations that bring together diverse voices to connect, heal and reimagine.</p> <p>This could include practices of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • storytelling for impact; • deep listening; • participatory practices that support engagement of diverse voices to learn from each other; • systems mapping; and • practices of healing.
Taking action now for future change	<p>Communities and collaborators across Australia are already demonstrating collective action to shift systems and address root causes. The program will highlight stories of community-led peacebuilding and healing and share practical examples of how community-centred systems change is happening across Australia — including measurement and learning, sharing power and decision making, building mutual accountability and community-owned resources and capital.</p> <p>This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communities that are taking collective action now to change systems and address root cause • stories of community led reconciliation, peacebuilding and healing; and • the practices required for taking community led action for change this might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building shared understanding of impact – practices of understanding, measurement, and learning ○ Understanding our role/s in systems change and in sharing power and building accountability to communities ○ Community based capital and asset building ○ Working with young people for the future ○ Reflection and learning
Stepping bravely into the future	<p>From grounding and collaborating in place we then reimagine what futures we are co-creating for the next generations and young people of today. Here we will explore what power-shifting work is needed next – locally to nationally – to create systems that work for all people and country. This may include practices such as First Nations leadership of futures thinking, intergenerational learning and accountability, and opportunities for influencing policies, resourcing and narratives around place-based change. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practices and approaches to community driven healing and peacebuilding, and futures thinking • First Nations practices of leadership

	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening and being guided by our young people

Proposed sessions need to align with at least one of the above. If you need any help placing your idea within the elements or wish to test out your idea, please get in touch at changefest@changefest.com.au.

ChangeFest is interested in having many different people and experiences included in the program. Break out sessions are an opportunity for applied learning, sharing, celebrating, exploring topics together, and sparking our imaginations about the possibilities. For example, breakout sessions might aim to start or deepen conversations, facilitate learning from each other and/or around a practice or topic, or involve hands-on-learning that seeks to deepen practice and advance knowledge, skills, and understanding.

Session format can include:

- Presentation: Share an example, story of change, or your learnings, including time for audience participation ie. question time, small group discussions. Presentations maybe conducted as part of a panel session.
- Yarning circle: Host a yarning circle around a purpose or focus question that helps the group share ideas and perspectives and encourages actively listening to others
- Roundtable: Moderate and bring together several speakers for an organised conversation that bring a variety of perspectives to a subject, question or curiosity
- Workshop: Run a hands-on session for participants to do applied learning to build understanding, skills or knowledge
- Creative expression: using the creative arts to engage and spark new ways of thinking and working together.
- Other

Other program information:

- Time: Sessions will predominantly be 90 minute sessions however alternative timing may be submitted.
- Size: Sessions will engage with audiences between 20-120 people,
- Delivery mode: all contributors must be able to facilitate their session in person at the event in Walyalup.
- Design Support: Collaboration for Impact (ChangeFest convenors) will work with you to support the design and facilitation of sessions

How to submit an EOI

Please submit your session proposal via the [EOI form](#) by the **21st of July**.

The EOI form asks that you provide:

- Name/s of contributor, organisation/community, and contact details
- A title and short description of the proposed session
- Biographies of contributors (up to 150 words each)
- The format, preferred session length and size
- Intended audience and knowledge level

In addition, please prepare these longer responses to submit for consideration:

- Please tell us about how your session aligns with the Program Framing and Elements. (up to 250 words). You will need to identify one of the Program Elements as primary alignment.
- Tell us why you are excited to contribute this session in 2025 (up to 150 words)

If you have any questions, wish to discuss, or experience difficulties when submitting your responses online, please contact ChangeFest at changeifest@changeifest.com.au

Key dates and information

- **EOI released:** 4 July 2025
- **EOI close:** COB 21 July 2025
- **Selection Process:** early August 2025
- **Notify and engage selected contributors:** by 31 August 2025
- **Program Finalisation and release:** September 2025
- **Briefings with session hosts and final preparations:** September/October 2025

Selection criteria and process

Approximately 15 sessions are available as part of the ChangeFest25 Program. EOIs will also be considered for inclusion in the ChangeFest Learning Network Program.

Selection will be based on both individual submission and considering the program design as a whole including:

- Alignment to ChangeFest25 program framing and program elements and the [ChangeFest Statement](#)
- Building a balance of gender, cultural representation, and geography
- Balancing perspectives across sectors (community, government, services, research, philanthropy etc) and scales (local to national)
- Capacity to demonstrate applied learning of activities and application to others in the field.

We particularly welcome sessions that:

- Allow for participation and active engagement of the group
- Encourage connection and meaningful conversation
- Consider equity, accessibility, and social inclusion
- Include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges
- Demonstrates a cross-sector approach and/or demonstrate working at multiple levels of change.
- Draws on learning from the 'how' of community led systems change over theory
- Are original, creative or non-conventional in format

A selection panel will guide the process and will be made up of a mix of

- ChangeFest25 Walyalup local convenors;
- National ChangeFest Governance Members (Elders and Leaders Group and/or Advisory Group); and
- Collaboration for Impact (CFI) as the ChangeFest National Convenor.

The selection process may involve considerations about combining or modifying sessions. Collaboration for Impact will work with session hosts on the design of the session to support the coherence, quality of experience and diversity across the full program.

We may also identify opportunities through the selection process for EOIs to form part of the Learning Network program into 2026. Again, we will be in touch after the selection process to work with you on proposed sessions.

Registration for contributors

Contributors are responsible for their own registration and travel costs. Please see the [website](#) for ticket prices and packages. Contributors will be able to access Early Bird ticket prices and will be required to book their tickets as part of the program finalisation process.

However, we do not want the registration cost to be a barrier to contributing so please contact ChangeFest and change fest@change fest.com.au to discuss options.