

ChangeFest25 Walyalup - Creating a New Way

19-21 November 2025 | Whadjuk Noongar Country

Program as of 30 October 2025*

Day 1: Wednesday 19 November | Learning from the past for healing and justice for the future

Understanding the history and context of our communities is an important first step in moving forward together in community led change. Together, we'll explore practices that enable this work – such as storytelling, deep listening and community-led approaches that bring together diverse voices to connect, learn, and heal.

When	What	Where
8.30-9.00	Registration	Esplanade Park
9.00-10.15	Opening Ceremony Hosted by the Walyalup Elders and Leaders group and the local Aboriginal Community	Esplanade Park
10.15-11.00	Opening Statement With the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Social Services	Esplanade Park
11.00-11.45	Transition to Fremantle Oval and Morning Tea	Fremantle Oval
11.45-13.00	The ChangeFest Principles from Walyalup and across Australia In our opening plenary, Narelda Jacobs will kick us off by sharing her perspectives on the stories that are being told by and in communities across this continent. Together with local Elder, Dr Jim Morrison and former Fremantle Mayor, Brad Pettit, this session will then explore the important stories of Walyalup and Western Australia that are helping this community step bravely into new futures and how the ChangeFest principles are setting the foundations of change that we see across the nation.	Fremantle Oval – Main Room
13.00-14.00	Lunch and Networking	Fremantle Oval
14.00-15.30	Breakout Sessions + Walking Tour	Various

When	What	Where
	Australia's community-centred systems change Funders Practice and Learning Framework Dusseldorp Forum, Fay Fuller Foundation, DAC, Minderoo Foundation, Paul Ramsay Foundation - supported by CF and Woor Dugin A small group from Philanthropy have been undertaking reflection and action research to deepen and articulate their role in community-centred systems change. Hear key insights and engage with practice and learning elements of the framework in this Roundtable and workshop session.	Fremantle Oval – Main Room
	Centering Communities in Government Reform: From Vision to Practice Centre for Policy Development We are in a period of significant government reform – with opportunities to foreground community led change to create better policy and better outcomes. This session will explore what is helping and what is hindering systemic reforms and where the opportunities for communities to influence might be. A deep dive into two examples will demonstrate where the power of connecting people and place to policy is leading to better outcomes in community and in government.	Freo.Social – Entertainment Hall
	Act Local Town Team Movement Collaborate and create change in this fun, interactive session which will see us work together to create an artwork, unlocking the system, unleashing our power through taking local action.	Fremantle Oval Car Park
	Local Wisdom, Lasting Change: The Early Years Partnership in Action Early Years Partners + Communities The Early Years Partnership (EYP) is 'creating a new way' to collaborate through a 10-year partnership between WA Government Departments (Communities, Health, Education), the Minderoo Foundation, and four diverse partner communities (Derby, Bidyadanga, Armadale West; and Central Great Southern.). Hear how EYP is improving the well-being and school readiness of children from conception to age four, while learning what it takes to create lasting change for children across WA. These stories highlight community-led solutions driving meaningful change.	Freo.Social – Front Room
	Grounded in Culture - Strengthening Connection, Identity and Belonging Imagined Futures Partners This session brings together three locally driven initiatives that place Aboriginal culture at the heart of healing and belonging for children and young people. From a local plan to connect children in care with family, community and culture, to a universal culture-through-sport program, and a transition initiative focused on cultural connection, each project reflects the power of community-led action in nurturing identity and relationships. Supported in varying ways by Imagined Futures, these initiatives respond to the legacy of the Stolen Generation and the ongoing	Bibboul Council Chambers

When	What	Where
	disconnection experienced by Aboriginal children. They demonstrate how grounding in culture can strengthen systems of care and support, and how understanding history and context is essential to meaningful, community-led systems change.	
	Manjaree Walking Tour (Session 1 of 3): Join First Nations facilitator Ethan Chadd on a cultural tour featuring Walyalup/Fremantle's Manjaree precinct and the Walyalup Aboriginal Cultural Centre overlooking the sea. Experience a special guided multi-sensory approach to Whadjuk Noongar history, culture and story in our beautiful and historic port town. This tour is generously offered to delegates free of charge by the City of Fremantle but there are limits to numbers and registration will be required. (1 hour; accessible)	Meeting Point TBA
15.30-16.00	Afternoon Tea	Fremantle Oval
16.00-17.00	Closing Session: Reflecting and sharing	Fremantle Oval

Extra activity

When	What	Where
17.15-19.30	ChangeFest Networking Space Freo.Social will be open exclusively for ChangeFest25 attendees to enjoy each other's company, reflect on the events of the day, and possibly make plans for dinner or changing the world! Drinks will be available for purchase.	Freo.Social

Day 2: Thursday 20 November | Taking action now for future change

Communities across Australia are leading the way in collective action to shift systems and address root causes. The program will highlight stories of community-led reconciliation, peacebuilding and healing, and share practical approaches for driving change — including measuring impact, sharing power, building community accountability, community-owned resources, and embedding reflection and learning.

When	What	Where
8.30-9.00	Registration	Fremantle Oval
9.00-10.30	The Power of Communities for Brave New Futures with Cormac Russell In this special video plenary, Cormac Russell — author of <i>Rekindling Democracy and Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)</i> — invites us to reimagine the future by returning power to where it truly belongs: in communities themselves. Cormac will explore how centering community life as our guiding purpose can transform not only local action but also the way our institutions and wider systems work. Drawing on inspiring stories from around the world, he shows how, when we live out the ChangeFest principles in our daily practice and collective work, we create the conditions for equity, belonging, and lasting systems change. This session calls us to be bold, hopeful, and practical — to see communities as the driving force for futures that work for all people and Country.	Fremantle Oval – Main Room
10.30-11.00	Morning Tea	Fremantle Oval
11.00-12.30	Breakout sessions <i>Centering community for a democracy that works for all people and country</i> Lutruwita Collective + Friends What could it look like to reimagine democracy in Australia so that it genuinely works for all people and Country? This session will explore democracy not only as formal structures and processes but also as practices, relationships and ways of being together. Drawing on stories and insights from the Lutruwita / Tasmania through to Whadjuk country, Western Australia, the session will explore how communities can shape more equitable forms of democracy and the role of institutions in enabling this. <i>Yarning about Justice Reinvestment</i> Social Reinvestment WA + Friends Justice Reinvestment is place-based, community-led justice reform that returns power and resources to community to	Various Fremantle Oval – Main Room Moon & Mary

When	What	Where
	address the root causes of offending and create healthy families and safe communities. At this interactive roundtable yarn, we'll come together to discuss how different communities have approached Justice Reinvestment, and what they've learnt and achieved along the way. We invite all communities working on related issues or interested to learn more, to join us to listen, share and learn.	
	<i>Understanding accountability to young people in community led movements</i> <i>Accountable Futures Collective, Bongil Bongil Youth Collective, Cairns South Together, Firefly</i> Join an intergenerational conversation and small group discussions about what matters most to young people and the values and practices that lead to transformative accountability. The session aims to generate collective insights, actions, and next steps for embedding meaningful accountability to young people in community-led work.	Freo.Social – Entertainment Hall
	<i>At the Edge: Collaboration, Courage and the Complexity of Systems Change</i> <i>Housing Matters Action Group; Waterfall Way Community Land Trust, Siddle Family Foundation</i> Systems change is hard — and often lonely — work. Join practitioner–funder collaborators as they speak to the personal and professional demands of doing systems change in real life — across geographies, sectors and power — and the practical strategies that help keep us going. The presenters will create a space where we can reflect, reconnect, and recognise themselves in the complexity — whether you're a funder, a grassroots organiser, or somewhere in between.	Freo.Social – Front Room
	<i>TBC</i>	Bibbool Council Chambers
12.30-14.00	Lunch and Networking including Lunch + Learn session: Place Names Project Freda Ogilvie, Walyalup Elder (with artwork)	Fremantle Oval

When	What	Where
14.00-15.30	Breakout sessions + Walking Tour	Various
	<i>Community-led Peace-Building: practices and stories across the movement</i> TBC This session will explore what peace-building means in the Australian context and how our work of community-led change can be one of the critical ways of progressing peace based on truth, justice and healing. The session will include an introduction to working concepts for community-led peace-building, story-sharing and group dialogue. Relevant for anyone who is just starting to explore these ideas and practices through to people who are deep in the practices and strategies for peace-building in Australia.	Fremantle Oval – Main Room
	<i>Strengthening Place Based data as an enabler for impact – exploring emerging opportunities across the system</i> PLACE Australia, SEER Data, Australian Child and Youth Wellbeing Atlas Join PLACE for an interactive session to explore different ways that data can be an enabler of community-led place-based approaches; and consider emerging opportunities to strengthen community data and impact and build the evidence base about the impact of place-based approaches.	Moon & Mary
	<i>From external funding to community wealth building: how communities are generating their own funds to enable change</i> Communities Foundation, IDAC While government funding continues to play an important role in supporting communities to lead change, other funding sources can also provide sustainable solutions that shifts power back to community. This session will explore opportunities for community wealth building to generate new funding sources and the role that communities and organisations can play including: Community Foundations; Community owned capital; Community enterprises; Philanthropy and government.	Freo.Social – Entertainment Hall
	<i>Wisdom in Uncertainty: Reframing Disaster Resilience Through a Community-Led Lens</i> DisasterWise Network In an era of compounding crises, DisasterWise offers a radical shift in how we approach disaster resilience- by centering community leadership, lived experience, and relational ways of knowing and doing. This session explores how the DisasterWise Communities Network is creating a new way forward: one grounded in self-determination, dynamic governance, and trauma-informed collaboration. Attendees will learn how co-design, decolonising frameworks, and systems thinking are driving real change across Australian communities.	Freo.Social – Front Room
	<i>Meaningful Change – Walking with Aboriginal Peoples and Organisations</i> Anglicare WA + friends	Bibbool Council

When	What	Where
	What does it take to create meaningful change by turning the lens within? By building trust, growing respectful relationships, listening, learning and sharing knowledge with Aboriginal Peoples and organisations AnglicareWA is allowing a process of decolonisation to take place and shifting the balance of power. We'll explore our work in ACCO service transition and partnerships and building Aboriginal leadership. This is a space for reflection, dialogue, and shared learning.	Chambers
	Manjaree Walking Tour (Session 2 of 3): Join First Nations facilitator Ethan Chadd on a cultural tour featuring Walyalup/Fremantle's Manjaree precinct and the Walyalup Aboriginal Cultural Centre overlooking the sea. Experience a special guided multi-sensory approach to Whadjuk Noongar history, culture and story in our beautiful and historic port town. This tour is generously offered to delegates free of charge by the City of Fremantle but there are limits to numbers and registration will be required. (1 hour; accessible)	Meeting Point TBA
15.30-16.00	Afternoon Tea	Fremantle Oval Front Room
16.00-17.00	Closing Session: Reflecting and sharing	Fremantle Oval

Extra activity

When	What	Where
17.15-18.30	Fremantle Biennale Walking Tour Fremantle Biennale is a festival of site-responsive contemporary art. The largely free program presents artworks from Australia and the world, revealing and celebrating the cultural, social and historical distinctiveness of the Walyalup (Fremantle) region. ChangeFest25 participants are invited on a special guided tour with festival Artistic Director Tom Müller to explore two of the installations and exhibitions of the Biennale in Walyalup's historic west end. Meet at 5.15pm at tour starting point, Moores Building. Spaces are limited and bookings will be required.	Meet at the Moores Building

Day 3 – Friday 21 November | Stepping bravely into the future

Together we'll dialogue and imagine a bold new future together. This part of the program will explore First Nations leadership in futures thinking, intergenerational learning and listening and practices for long term system change.

When	What	Where
8.30-9.00	Registration	Fremantle Oval
9.00-11.00	ChangeFest: from a movement of connection to a movement for action Join us as we work together and explore what it takes to truly shift systems to enable brave futures. There is much to learn from the journey of Walyalup and the City of Fremantle as they have transitioned from shifting the hurtful practices through their One Day in Freo celebrations – to now embarking on a process of truth-telling. Having explored the stories of action to date, together we will plan for actions for the future – what can we all do to truly shift to a place of peace-building, of healing and of a just & equitable Australia.	Fremantle Oval Main Room
11.00-11.30	Morning Tea	Fremantle Oval
11.30-12.30	Closing Ceremony Hosted by the Walyalup Elders and Leaders, the local Aboriginal community	Esplanade Park
12.30-14.00	Lunch and Entertainment	Esplanade Park

Extra activities

When	What	Where
14.00-15.15	Manjaree Walking Tour (Session 3 of 3): Join First Nations facilitator Ethan Chadd on a cultural tour featuring Walyalup/Fremantle's Manjaree precinct and the Walyalup Aboriginal Cultural Centre overlooking the sea. Experience a special guided multi-sensory approach to Whadjuk Noongar history, culture and story in our beautiful and historic port town. This tour is generously offered to delegates free of charge by the City of Fremantle but there are limits to numbers and registration will be required. (1 hour; accessible)	Meeting Point TBA
18.00-00:00	'Sanctuary Within' at Fremantle Biennale: Sanctuary Within (free) is a powerful, immersive celebration of <i>maloya</i> — the sacred improvised music, dance and ritual form of Réunion Island. With a rare durational performance taking place at the	Manjaree (Bathers)

