



# CHANGEFEST Walyalup 25

*Creating a new way* **19-21 November**  
On Whadjuk Noongar Country

## First Nations Acknowledgement

Program is subject to change. Visit the website for the latest information and full session details.

We would like to acknowledge the land that ChangeFest25 is taking place on is the traditional lands of the Whadjuk people. We respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Whadjuk people as the Traditional Owners of the greater Walyalup area and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important to the living Whadjuk people today.

The ChangeFest Movement is stewarded by the ChangeFest First Nations Elders and Leaders who guide us in our work together. We thank them for their tireless commitment to a vision for this continent based on equity, justice and healing for all. The ChangeFest Movement was sparked by the gift of the ChangeFest Statement from the Elders Group and continues to be the guiding spirit for how we learn to work as a movement for change. A particular deep thanks to the Walyalup Elders and Leaders whose story of Walyalup, advice and guidance sit at the core of the ChangeFest25 program.



@ChangeFestAu

[changefest.com.au](http://changefest.com.au)

# EXTENDING THE CHANGEFEST SONGLINES

Welcome to **ChangeFest** — the national movement of hearts, minds, and hands committed to community-led systems change, a movement of people across communities and institutions working together to create a future where **all people and Country thrive**.

At its heart, ChangeFest is guided by **First Nations leadership, knowledges, and songlines** — the deep, interconnected wisdom that has shaped life and belonging on this continent for tens of thousands of years and offered through the ChangeFest Statement as an invitation to people working in and with communities across the continent.

As we step into ChangeFest25 on Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar we extend the ChangeFest songlines. Originally launched in the east — on the country of Yagara and Yugambah speaking peoples, followed by Darug country in western Sydney — the songlines have stretched north to Larrakia country, Luruwita country in the south, and Latji Latji country along our great rivers. This is the vision of the ChangeFest Elders and Leaders who have guided ChangeFest since the Statement.

As we gather, we connect these ancient songlines with the living stories of communities everywhere, creating new pathways for the generations to come.

We made a commitment in 2024 to strengthen our collective power as a movement. Building on the strength of the annual gatherings of the movement to connect and celebrate, we have now activated:

- **Learning:** monthly online gatherings where the movement shares stories, insights and practices for community-led systems change.
- **Stewardship:** the next evolution of the ChangeFest governance that centres the ChangeFest Elders and Leaders Group, supported by the CF Advisory Group, CF25 Gathering Leadership Group and convened and supported by Collaboration for Impact.
- **Collective action:** in the background we have been developing an online platform to enable people in the movement to find each other, share learning and resources and form networks for learning and shared action. We are looking forward to launching this in early 2026.

ChangeFest gatherings will continue to be an anchor for the movement — a time when relationships are formed and strengthened across the movement, new ideas and practices are sparked, and we re-ground in the purpose and principles of why community-led change matters in this country.

Central across the ChangeFest movement are the three underpinning principles of the ChangeFest Statement:

- **Shared leadership:** between First Nations and other Australians requiring equitable ways of working together across races and cultures.
- **Collaboration:** recognising that everyone has a role to play in changing the systems they are a part of. We need all stakeholders from local to national levels to collaborate on complex challenges that communities are facing.
- **Power:** that effective community-led change is when communities are enabled to lead and work in collaboration with other decision makers and power holders. This requires all groups to be aware of the power they have and how this can be shared and harnessed to centre community in decision making.

ChangeFest is not a polished conference — it is a change agenda that aims to embody the practices of bridging across cultures, communities, sectors, issues and scales of work. In this way it mirrors the work of this country — it is both hopeful and tempered with reality of the current systems.

We all come to the work of community led systems change from different purposes. For some it is for a specific issue, others hold community agency as the purpose, or for others it's the nation re-building work of self-determination. No matter your purpose, we invite you to come to find your place in the movement for change and take away connections, ideas and ways of thinking for how you can embody the principles of the ChangeFest Statement in your generational change work.

Seven years on from the invitation of the ChangeFest Statement, the ripples of this movement are reaching far and wide. As we gather again for ChangeFest25, we imagine the next seven years — and the seven generations beyond — where in the words of ChangeFest Elder, Auntie Faith, songlines continue to connect across communities, weaving together a new story for how we create positive change across this continent — together for all.

ChangeFest is a truly collaborative effort involving many people, networks and organisations. The national gatherings are governed by the ChangeFest Elders and Leaders Group and the Advisory Group; and delivered in partnership by the national and local convenors. We extend our sincere appreciation to all who have put in time and resources to make this gathering possible and in growing the movement. A special thanks to Imagined Futures as co-convenors for ChangeFest25.

Collaboration for Impact Team  
National ChangeFest Convenor

# GATHERING IN PLACE

Over the past year, we have been honoured to walk alongside the Walyalup Elders and Leaders Group throughout the ChangeFest journey. Their wisdom and leadership have shaped this gathering and deepened our collective understanding of place, culture, and community-led change. Imagined Futures pays our respects with deep gratitude.

We are pleased to host all attendees in our beautiful and historic town. Walyalup has an ancient cultural history and a more recent life as a working port — a place of arrival, exchange, and connection.

Imagined Futures is a partnership committed to building on the strengths within our community to address challenges that are complex and interconnected. We work by bridging differences - between government, community, agencies, individuals, and the business community — to find place-based solutions that reflect the realities of our lives.

As we gather for ChangeFest25, we're excited to share how this collaborative approach is delivering better outcomes for our communities. We look forward to connecting with more people across Western Australia and across the continent who are also committed to strong, community-led change. Thank you to Collaboration for Impact for choosing us as partners on this journey. We deeply value the opportunity to walk alongside you in this important work.

Imagined Futures Team  
Local ChangeFest Convenor

## CHANGEFEST25 – WALYALUP STORY – CREATING A NEW WAY

Held during Kambarang, the Noongar season of change and renewal, this year's theme, Creating a New Way, invites us to explore community agency in addressing the injustices of the past and imagining new futures through the strength of collaboration in the present.

The ChangeFest25 Program centres 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. It has been built from the Walyalup Story as developed by the Elders and told below.

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. Where we take a lead in truth telling, in building peace, in creating a future where we share, work and learn together.

In Walyalup we acknowledge the trauma of the past that continues now into the present. We practice taking a minute's silence in our meetings. We practice processes of truth telling. It is important that we tell the stories of our past, that we tell the truths of our past. It is by telling the truth we can start to heal and work with our young people to create better futures.

All our families are impacted by the Stolen Generation and continued racism, and this plays havoc with our kids and our grand kids. Our young people are important — we have a focus on healing the past trauma in our current generation, to ensure we are teaching our emerging leaders the ways of the Elders. We are not asking for sympathy — but for empathy and trust.

We are taking these steps from a strong foundation. We have shifted mindsets through our local events and celebrations — a catalyst for a growing conversation about changing the date in which we celebrate Australia's national day. It's now just the way we do things around here and everyone is included.

With reconciliation - with the right agreements in place with the Government, non-government agencies, local government, (all parts of the community) with truth telling, and with a focus on the future we are creating a new way. A way that is community led first and always.

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.

# 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
9.00-10.00	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> Hosted by the Walyalup Elders and Leaders group and the local Aboriginal Community	Esplanade Park
10.00-11.00	<b>Opening Statement and ChangeFest Yarning</b> 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	<b>The ChangeFest Principles from Walyalup and across Australia</b> 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 Pettitt, 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	<b>Breakout Sessions + Walking Tour</b>	
	<b>Australia's community-centred systems change <i>Funders Practice and Learning Framework</i></b>   Dusseldorp Forum, Fay Fuller Foundation, IDAC, Minderoo Foundation, Paul Ramsay Foundation - supported by Collaboration for Impact and Woort Dungen	Fremantle Oval – Main Room
	<b>Centering Communities in Government Reform: From Vision to Practice</b>   Centre for Policy Development	Freo.Social – Entertainment Hall
	<b>Act Local</b>   Town Team Movement (interactive artwork session)	Fremantle Oval – Car Park
	<b>Local Wisdom, Lasting Change: The Early Years Partnership in Action</b>   Early Years Partners + Communities	Freo.Social – Front Room
	<b>Grounded in Culture - Strengthening Connection, Identity and Belonging</b>   Imagined Futures Partners	Bibboul Council Chambers
	<b>Manjaree Walking Tour</b> (Session 1 of 3)   Bookings required at <a href="https://changevest.com.au/changevest25">changevest.com.au/changevest25</a>	Meet at Oval Main Entrance
15.30-16.00	Afternoon Tea	Fremantle Oval
16.00-17.00	<b>Closing Session:</b> Reflecting and sharing	Fremantle Oval

Extra Activity		
17.15-19.30	<b>ChangeFest Networking Space</b> Freo.Social will be open exclusively for 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 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	<b>The Power of Communities for Brave New Futures</b> 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.	Fremantle Oval – Main Room
10.30-11.00	Morning Tea	Fremantle Oval
11.00-12.30	<b>Breakout sessions</b> <b>Centering community for a democracy that works for all people and country</b>   Collaboration for Impact and Alumni for Social Impact (WA) <b>Yarning about Justice Reinvestment</b>   Social Reinvestment WA + Friends <b>Understanding accountability to young people in community led movements</b>   Accountable Futures Collective, Bongil Bongil Youth Collective, Cairns South Together, Firefly <b>At the Edge: Collaboration, Courage and the Complexity of Systems Change</b>   Housing Matters Action Group; Waterfall Way Community Land Trust, Siddie Family Foundation <b>Supporting shared decision-making in place-based change: insights and tensions</b>   Practice, policy and research representatives	Fremantle Oval – Main Room Moon & Mary Freo.Social – Entertainment Hall Freo.Social – Front Room Bibboul Council Chambers
12.30-14.00	Lunch and Networking including Lunch + Learn session: Place Names Project   Freda Ogilvie, Walyalup Elder (with artwork)	Fremantle Oval
14.00-15.30	<b>Breakout sessions + Walking Tour</b> <b>Community-led Peace-Building: practices and stories across the movement</b>   Collaboration for Impact and Elders <b>Strengthening place based data as an enabler for impact – exploring emerging opportunities across the system</b>   PLACE Australia, SEER Data, Australian Child and Youth Wellbeing Atlas <b>From external funding to community wealth building: how communities are generating their own funds to enable change</b>   Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children; Albany Community Foundation; and Fremantle Foundation. <b>Wisdom in Uncertainty: Reframing Disaster Resilience Through a Community-Led Lens</b>   DisasterWISE Network <b>Meaningful Change – Walking with Aboriginal Peoples and Organisations</b>   Anglicare WA + friends <b>Manjaree Walking Tour</b> (Session 2 of 3)   Bookings required at <a href="https://changevest.com.au/changevest25">changevest.com.au/changevest25</a>	Fremantle Oval – Main Room Moon & Mary Freo.Social – Entertainment Hall Freo.Social – Front Room Bibboul Council Chambers Meet at Oval Main Entrance
15.30-16.00	Afternoon Tea	Fremantle Oval
16.00-17.00	<b>Closing Session:</b> Reflecting and sharing	Fremantle Oval
<b>Extra Activity</b>		
17.30-18.30	<b>Fremantle Biennale Walking Tour</b>   ChangeFest attendees are invited to join a special guided tour with festival Artistic Director Tom Müller to explore two of the art installations and exhibitions of the Fremantle Biennale in Walyalup's historic west end. Bookings required at <a href="https://changevest.com.au/changevest25">changevest.com.au/changevest25</a>	Moore's Building

## DAY 3: FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER

Stepping bravely into the future

Together we'll dialogue and plan for bold new futures. This part of the program will provide opportunities for story telling, listening, reflection and planning action for ourselves, our communities and the ChangeFest movement.

When	What	Where
8.30-9.00	Registration	Fremantle Oval
9.00-11.00	<b>ChangeFest: from a movement of connection to a movement for action</b> Changing systems for brave new futures requires all of us using and sharing the power we have. Hear from story teller Ron Bradfield as he shares his perspective on the journey of Walyalup and the City of Fremantle and the brave steps that have been taken in their journey of change from One Day in Freo to now embarking on a community-led truth-telling process. We will draw on the stories, learning and connections from ChangeFest25 and look to how we continue to work together to realise our shared visions for change.	Fremantle Oval – Main Room
11.00-11.30	Morning Tea	Fremantle Oval
11.30-12.30	<b>Closing Ceremony</b> Hosted by the Walyalup Elders and Leaders, the local Aboriginal community	Fremantle Oval
12.30-14.00	Lunch and Entertainment	Fremantle Oval

Extra Activity		
14.00-15.15	<b>Manjaree Walking Tour</b> (Session 3 of 3)   Join First Nations facilitator Levi Islam 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. See Day 1 & Day 2 for additional sessions. Bookings required at <a href="http://changeifest.com.au/changeifest25">changeifest.com.au/changeifest25</a>	Meet at Oval Main Entrance
18.00-00:00	<b>'Sanctuary Within' at Fremantle Biennale</b>   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 Precinct on Friday, this work blends rhythm, chant, electronic music and movement into a collective ceremony of release, remembrance, and resistance.	Manjaree (Bathers Beach)
Various	<b>Fremantle Biennale</b>   If you are staying in Walyalup, check out the rest of Fremantle Biennale 'SANCTUARY 25'. 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. <a href="http://fremantlebiennale.com.au">fremantlebiennale.com.au</a>	Various

Visit [changeifest.com.au](http://changeifest.com.au)  
for full session details and  
program changes



# VENUES



Our main venue for ChangeFest25 is the **(1) Fremantle Oval and Clubrooms** | Parry St, acting as the gathering's hub with plenaries, catering and networking in the rooms, grandstands and oval.

Other nearby venues for breakout sessions and ceremonies are:

**(2) Esplanade Park** | Marine Tce

**(3) Freo.Social - Entertainment Hall and Front Room** | Parry St

**(4) Moon & Mary** | 45 Henderson St

**(5) Bibboul Council Chambers** | Walyalup Civic Centre, 151 High Street

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### Convening Partners

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