

Indigenous Languages Creative Arts Residency 2025

Information Pack



An initiative of State Library Queensland's Indigenous Languages Program

Supported by the **Commonwealth Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) Program**

Overview

The **Indigenous Languages Creative Arts Residencies** provide time, space, and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives to explore, amplify, and celebrate First Nations languages through artistic and cultural expression. This initiative is a key deliverable of the **Indigenous Languages Program Activity Plan** and is supported by the **Commonwealth Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) Program**. State Library of Queensland invites applications from First Nations creatives to develop language-based creative projects inspired by State Library collections.

Residency Structure

The Indigenous Languages Creative Arts Residency is designed as a part-time hybrid model delivered over 8 weeks, co-designed with each artist to support their creative practice, personal and cultural responsibilities, and community obligations.

Length: 8 weeks total

Delivery: Part-time and flexible, co-designed with each artist

Model: Hybrid – combining onsite research and development with offsite creative practice

Location: Neil Roberts Research Lounge (Level 4), The Edge, and other flexible workspace areas at State Library

Applicants: Open to individuals or co-applicants (maximum of two people)

What Could It Look Like? (*example only*)

- **Weeks 1–3:** Onsite at State Library of Queensland, approx. 3 days per week accessing collections, undertaking research, and connecting with staff and resources
- **Weeks 4–5:** Hybrid mode — work from home, studio, or community with optional virtual check-ins and continued digital access to collections and support
- **Weeks 6–8:** Offsite — focused on completing or documenting final creative outcomes, preparing for public engagement, and applying research findings

The residency provides access to:

- 1:1 support from Research Librarians
- Free-range research access to collections and archives
- Creative facilities and equipment at The Edge (e.g., digital lab, AV, design tools)
- A shared workspace in the Neil Roberts Research Lounge
- Flexible scheduling tailored to the needs of each creative

This hybrid model encourages deep engagement with collections while allowing residents the freedom to create, reflect, and connect with community in ways that are culturally and practically appropriate. Scheduling is developed collaboratively between each resident and the Indigenous Languages team. Scheduling can be adjusted as negotiated with the Indigenous Languages team.

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A total of **6 residencies** will be supported across two application rounds in 2025.

Residency Benefits & Inclusions

Successful applicants will receive:

- **\$8,000 stipend**, paid in scheduled increments, to support their project and participation, which can be used for:
 - Artist fees or time Project materials and supplies Local transport and travel costs (including to/from home and Brisbane)
 - Per diem expenses (in line with government rates)
 - Costs associated with research
- Access to the Neil Roberts Research Lounge
- A supportive environment for research, inquiry and creation
- Specialist research support into First Nations languages and collections
- Use of The Edge creative facilities, include equipment use (on request)
- Networking opportunities with fellow residents and arts/language professionals
- Public programming opportunities (e.g. Night by the Fire, artist talks)
- Support for community engagement
- Flexible outcomes — blog, performance, exhibition, zine, or workshop

Residents may also access archives and collections at other institutions.

What the Residency Does Not Cover

While the stipend is designed to be flexible, the following are not eligible for coverage under the residency:

- Purchase of major equipment (e.g. computers, cameras, printers)
- International travel or freight costs
- Costs related to commercial ventures (e.g. product launches, private commissions)
- Travel costs for accompanying family members or collaborators who are not listed in the application
- Alcohol, entertainment, or items not directly related to the proposed project

Residency Expectations

Residents are expected to:

- Undertake language and collections research at State Library
- Contribute at least one (1) blog post to the State Library's Indigenous Languages Blog
- Deliver a creative outcome agreed upon with the State Library team (e.g. performance, exhibition, zine, artwork, audio/video work, written piece)
- Provide two (2) written reports: one midway and one at the conclusion of the residency
- Participate in at least one (1) public program or event (e.g. Night by the Fire, artist talk)
- Compile and submit an annotated bibliography of key resources used
- Submit a testimonial or short reflection for future promotion and reporting
- Be available for documentation (photography, video interviews, etc.)
- Acknowledge the Indigenous Languages Program and State Library of Queensland in all outputs
- Sign an agreement outlining residency expectations, timelines, and deliverables

TIPS TO FIND JOHN OXLEY LIBRARY OR STATE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

- Search the [Library catalogue](#) (OneSearch)
- Search the [State Library website](#)
- Chat with a Librarian or log a request via [Ask Us](#)
- Contact fellowships@slq.qld.gov.au
- Attend the [Fellowship Information Night](#) on 8 June 2022 (onsite and online)

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted via the online Expression of Interest form and must include:

1. Declaration of Cultural Connection:

- A statement outlining your cultural connection to the Queensland Indigenous language(s) your project will focus on.
- A declaration of appropriate authority or permission to incorporate the language(s) into your practice.

2. Language Focus:

- Which Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language(s) will your project focus on?
- Please include the language name(s) and, where possible, the AustLang code from the AIATSIS database.
 - Language name: _____
 - AustLang code: _____
- Search for your language and code via [AIATSIS AustLang Database](#)

3. Language Focus:

- Which Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language(s) will your project focus on?
- Please include the language name(s) and, where possible, the AustLang code from the AIATSIS database.
- Language name: _____
- AustLang code: _____
- Search for your language and code via [AIATSIS AustLang Database](#)

4. Project description (up to 500 words)

5. A short bio and/or CV

6. Budget outline (how stipend will be used)

7. Preferred residency onsite dates (if known)

8. Reference Contact details or attached Letter of Support.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Have a cultural connection to a Queensland Indigenous language and appropriate authority to work with that language in a creative context
- Propose a project that clearly incorporates First Nations language revitalisation or promotion
- Be available to participate in the hybrid residency structure (including on-site and off-site components)
- Apply as an individual or with one other person as a co-applicant
- Applicants may be asked to provide Confirmation of Aboriginality from a Registered Indigenous Corporation if required. For more information, please refer to the AIATSIS guidelines on [Proof of Aboriginality](#).

Who Can't Apply

- People who live outside of Australia
- Those undertaking formal postgraduate study where the project is part of their course requirements
- Employees or board members of State Library of Queensland
- Individuals who do not meet legal definitions of Aboriginality or who do not have cultural connection or authority to work with a Queensland Indigenous language

Assessment Process

- Each application is checked for completeness and eligibility by State Library of Queensland.
- Eligible applications are then forwarded to an assessment panel made up of:
 - Coordinator (Identified), Indigenous Languages, State Library of Queensland
 - Director, Queensland Memory, State Library of Queensland
 - External First Nations Creative Arts professional
- Assessors evaluate applications against the selection criteria:
 - Project relevance to First Nations language revitalisation
 - Artistic merit and innovation
 - Engagement with State Library collections and resources
 - Community and cultural impact
- Shortlisted applicants may be contacted for a brief online interview. Assessors may also consult with referees or other experts. Final decisions rest with the panel. Conflicts of interest are declared and managed in accordance with State Library policy.
- The Assessors may, at their discretion, consult with other experts to assist in evaluating the merits of each application, including contacting the applicant's referees.
- The outcomes of the assessment process are final, and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into regarding decisions or the assessment process.
- Assessors may not award a residency if there are not applications of suitable merit.

Terms and Conditions of Entries

- Complete applications must be received no later than 5pm AEST on advertised closing dates. Late entries will not be accepted.
- The applicant consents for the applicant's personal information to be used and disclosed where appropriate for editorial, advertising, or promotional purposes in conjunction with the Indigenous Languages Creative Arts Residencies and the ongoing Indigenous Languages program. The State Library of Queensland will adhere to the privacy principles in the Information Privacy Act 2009 (see Privacy notice below).
- State Library of Queensland reserves the right to change the conditions, cancel, or vary the awards processes at any time, whether before, on, or after the closing date.
- The conduct of inviting applications does not give rise to any legal or equitable relationship.
- In all matters relating to the conditions of applications and assessment process, the decisions of the assessors and State Library of Queensland are final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Breach of conditions of application may render an application invalid.
- No person will be entitled to claim compensation for loss from State Library of Queensland for any matter in connection with the Indigenous Languages Creative Arts Residencies, including, but not limited to, a failure by State Library of Queensland to comply with the conditions of application.

PRIVACY NOTICE

The State Library of Queensland is subject to privacy legislation which applies to the Queensland public sector — the Information Privacy Act 2009. The Information Privacy Act contains a number of privacy principles that set out how agencies must handle personal information.

Further information on the Queensland Government's information privacy scheme can be accessed through the Office of the Information Commissioner.

INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES

This information pack and the Indigenous Languages Creative Arts Residencies are governed by the Queensland Memory [Fellowships guidelines](#). If you have any questions, please contact IndigenousLanguages@slq.qld.gov.au