



The Judith Neilson Foundation partners with local organisations in Australia to uplift women and girls facing intersecting disadvantage.

Our commitment is to drive positive change, with a focus on new migrant women and girls—especially those seeking asylum—First Nations women and girls, older single women, and women and girls in rural communities. Our aim is to invest in these women to be safe, thrive, and contribute to a just and prosperous society.



Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre

About us

We invest in people, places and culture to strengthen communities in Australia and Africa. We forge partnerships with organisations that understand the diverse and interconnected challenges experienced by disadvantaged and marginalised communities, delivering locally-led solutions to social, economic and resource inequities.

We work across four related themes /

Our initiatives in Australia focus on interconnected themes which present high need and the potential for substantive impact.

Economic equity

Economic advancement is the turnkey for disrupting entrenched disadvantage. With women still lagging behind their male counterparts across employment and salary measures, we seek to support women and girls facing multiple barriers to access economic opportunities. We aim to ensure women and girls can access support that opens avenues to quality employment.

Homelessness

Stable housing is crucial for women's security and employment. Secure housing allows women to face fewer disruptions, sustain employment more effectively, and provide a nurturing environment for their children. Through our partnerships, we aim to support women and their children in securing safe homes. This assistance is coupled with services like employment and parenting support, domestic violence counselling, and financial literacy programs.

Domestic and Family Violence

Domestic and family violence remains prevalent in Australia. Women are often the primary victims, facing severe short and long-term impacts. We work with partners dedicated to helping women regain stability and independence, equipping them with the tools and resources they need to forge a safer future for themselves and their children.

Justice

Women are the fastest growing group in Australian jails. Most of these women have faced violence, abuse, poverty and entrenched disadvantage. Coming out of prison, they often encounter heightened risks of unemployment, homelessness, or unsafe home environments. We are committed to supporting vulnerable women, providing the legal assistance and resources they need to navigate these challenges and address the underlying causes of their criminalisation.

Priority focus areas in Australia

Addressing disadvantage for women and girls in Sydney

In Sydney, we aim to partner with a selection of organisations and enable them to work collectively to provide holistic support for women and their children experiencing homelessness, disadvantage, domestic and family violence or those impacted by the criminal justice system.

Investing in Northern Australia initiatives

In Northern Australia, our focus is on community-led initiatives driven by and for First Nations women and girls doing demonstrably excellent, innovative work to support women and girls experiencing some of the most acute disadvantage in our country.

Legal support for vulnerable women

We will invest in access to legal services across Australia tailored to meet the needs of the most vulnerable women. This ensures women escaping violence, at risk of homelessness, or in prison due to inadequate legal representation receive legal support, wherever and whenever they need it.

Connect with us

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