

Advancing equity for women and girls experiencing disadvantage

Backing women's leadership, safety and justice

Across Australia, women and girls are leading efforts to build safer, fairer and more inclusive communities. We support this momentum by investing in frontline services, legal support and leadership, while also strengthening the systems that sustain them.

We prioritise First Nations women and girls, marginalised refugee and migrant women and girls, women and girls in rural and remote areas, and older women.

We also recognise the intergenerational impact of inequality on their children.

Our work addresses the interconnected themes of economic equity, freedom from violence and justice through three priority areas:

Investing in Sydney's support sector and strengthening systems

We fund the services and infrastructure that assist women and girls in Sydney. This includes strengthening coordination between frontline services, improving referral pathways, and building sector resilience. We also back initiatives beyond Sydney with potential to improve safety, justice and economic participation at scale.

Backing First Nations women and girls

We support women led enterprise, leadership and economic participation, particularly in Northern Australia. Funding is directed toward strengthening infrastructure, networks and autonomy to support intergenerational wellbeing and self-determined community development.

Advancing justice for women and girls

We fund work that reduces criminalisation and improves access to timely, appropriate and trauma informed legal support. This includes community led legal services, diversionary programs, reintegration support, and approaches that prevent intergenerational harm and shift systems toward fairness and accountability.

Our other portfolios:

Innovation

People everywhere can define and drive radical, positive change.

We support visionary individuals, bold organisations and transformational collaborations that are innovating for impact. We invest in early ideas and transition-to-scale efforts. The portfolio is simultaneously global and grounded in lived experience and community.

Our initial focus is Urban Futures: improving the liveability, inclusivity, safety and resilience of urban environments, creating places that are more vibrant, joyful, ready for growth and change.

Africa

Our vision is a self-determining, prosperous and resilient Africa.

We support African led solutions in public health, inclusive economic growth, and leadership, with a focus on community development centred on women, girls, and youth. We take a pan African approach that embraces regional diversity and fosters collaboration across borders. Our work focuses on three key areas:

- Strengthening public health systems and delivery
- Advancing inclusive digital and green economic growth
- Investing in African leadership, voice and regional influence



Warddeken daluk (women) rangers care for Country in West Arnhem Land. © Karrkad Kanjdji Trust

About the Judith Neilson Foundation

We invest in people, places, and ideas to tackle inequality and help communities thrive. Based in Sydney, we work across Australia and Africa, and globally through our Innovation Portfolio. Through strong partnerships, we support solutions led by those most affected and best placed to drive change.