Informit – First Peoples' Lens Cultural Fund Guidelines

Who and what is Informit?

We are an online gateway to the largest collection of Australasian scholarly journals, books, and videos. Founded in the RMIT University Library in 1989, our customers include all Australian and New Zealand universities and state libraries, government, and other specialist libraries.

Informit is committed to fostering diversity in publishing and promoting critical thinking for a better informed and knowledgeable community. We have strong relationships with major peak bodies and partner with more than 600 academic and society publishers to enable international exposure and use of their content.

First Peoples' Lens

The upwelling of Indigenous-led research, demonstrated by the recent exponential increase in Indigenous scholars undertaking PhDs, is arguably the most exciting development in Australian research today. The repercussions of these contributions are changing Australia's story in meaningful and positive ways.

As Australia's primary humanities research publications database, Informit is ideally placed to reflect and amplify these advances. It is vital and timely to work towards embedding a 'First People's Lens' in Informit's practice and business.

The Cultural Fund

One of our core business pillars is *Supporting the research community and amplifying Indigenous-led research*. As an initiative to enact this support, Informit has created a Cultural Fund offering grants or funding to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander project/s in research and innovation, with particular focus on the digital sharing of knowledge. We value bibliodiversity and wish to champion Indigenous perspectives in the research and publishing communities we operate in.

Rationale:
1. To support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander publishers and researchers
2. To generate and build Informit's relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations & research communities.

In 2025, the fund has a total pool of $30,000 to commit to selected projects that meet the following criteria:

- Awarded to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, group or organisation
- Publishing, research or library projects
- Focus on digital knowledge dissemination
- Informit collaboration favoured.

Projects that will be highly regarded will:

- Demonstrate broad access – the greater reach for readers/viewers and impact for communities, the more highly regarded. Focus is on amplifying knowledge.

- Include Informit collaboration or involvement, such as the content being hosted via Informit, or an aspect of the project being developed with Informit. Please contact us to discuss this involvement prior to submitting your EOI: gretel.taylor@rmit.edu.au

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In summary, the Cultural Fund aims to fund projects that:

➢ Create access, promotion, and amplification of Indigenous Knowledges

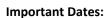➢ Focus on sharing Indigenous Knowledge through digital or online dissemination.

Examples of eligible projects:
- A digital publication, e.g. a journal or a book
- A dataset
- Library-based catalogue and/or collection projects
- A website documenting a community cultural development project or collating data
- Projects exploring digital potentials for Indigenous purposes: eg geolocation, AI
- Digital archival projects – maintenance of cultural knowledge through digitisation
- Research projects that benefit Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities
- Projects that pertain to Indigenous metadata, description or cataloguing of Indigenous academic resources
- Assistance with publishing an Open Access book or journal special issue that would be hosted on Informit

Management and responsibilities of Informit and successful recipient/s:

- Assessment of projects to be funded will be undertaken by Informit's First Peoples' Lens Steering Committee, consisting of highly regarded Indigenous academic and publishing industry peers.
- A Service Agreement will be established with successful recipient/s stating project scope and milestones as agreed by recipients and Informit.
- Informit must be acknowledged as a contributor to the project's funding on all published or public material (website, promotional material etc.) Details of wording and logo will be sent to successful recipients.
- Informit will promote the project/s through the Informit website, social media and other marketing channels.
- Intellectual property (IP) always remains the funding recipient/s'. Informit has no claim to the project's IP. Use of content from the project for any purpose such as marketing would be specifically requested and only used with informed consent.

Important Dates:

2nd April 2025	Expressions of Interest open
16th May 2025	Expressions of Interest close
30th June 2025	Successful recipients announced
1st Nov 2025	Successful recipients to invoice Informit
31 Dec 2026	Project completed

Contact: To discuss your project further, please contact Informit's Research Consultant, Gretel Taylor
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