



Prime Minister's Prize for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowledge Systems 2025 – additional advice for responding to assessment criteria

Strong nominations will address all assessment criteria, including specific examples of nominee activities. We encourage nominators to fully utilise the assessment criteria to demonstrate how the nomination contributes to solving a significant challenge through the practice and preservation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems.

The Grant Opportunity Guidelines do not exclude ongoing projects. Each nominated project will be assessed against the assessment criteria and compared against the other nominations. Strong nominations will address all assessment criteria, including specific examples of nominee activities. The strongest nomination will be recommended for the Prize.

Assessment criterion 1 (10 points)

Demonstrated practice of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems

You should demonstrate this by describing:

- the project question being addressed, its significance and how the practice of the knowledge systems have benefited broader scientific understandings and processes
- how the project was conducted, including the practice of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems
- how the application of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems led to the project's success
- how the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems were applied to solve specific challenges
- if relevant, how the knowledge systems in the project have been woven with Western science.
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Team and community group nominations should also describe:

- the roles of each team or community group member
- why the prize should be awarded to a team or a community group.



- ***Strong responses to this criterion will clearly and convincingly detail how the practice of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems has been applied to the project and has benefited broader scientific understandings and processes.***
- ***Describe why you, the nominator, believe that the nominee should be considered for the Prize. This should be supported by a range of evidence that outlines the context, challenges and outcomes of the nominee's achievements.***
- ***A broad definition of knowledge systems is provided in subsection 2.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. This definition is not prescriptive to ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems across Australia may be considered. For the purposes of the Prize, nominated projects should demonstrate how the nomination contributes to solving a significant challenge through the practice and preservation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems.***

Assessment criterion 2 (10 points)

Demonstrated benefit (10 points)

You should demonstrate this by describing:

- the demonstrated benefit to place and/or community and/or the contribution to culture
- the benefit, or potential benefit, to Australia more broadly.

Evidence to support this may include:

- case studies and narratives describing the benefits of the project
- project assessments from Elders, community leaders, end-users, stakeholders, or sponsors
- other metrics as appropriate.

- ***Strong responses to this criterion will clearly and convincingly detail the impacts and benefits of the project, with evidence to support these claims. This will include both current benefits and possible future benefits of the project will support the strength of the nomination.***



Assessment criterion 3 (10 points)

Demonstrated cultural governance

You should demonstrate this by describing:

- the respectful adherence to cultural governance protocols to demonstrate the legitimacy and significance of the project
- the project's authority to protect, use and share the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems, in accordance with the cultural authority owners' direction and (where relevant) systems to facilitate cultural governance.

Evidence to support this may include:

- confirmation of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems, including, where possible, identifying the Traditional Custodians, and the moral and intellectual right of the individual, team, or community group to build on and apply the knowledge systems
- a statement explaining how the cultural and intellectual property of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems has been addressed
- letter(s) of support from a relevant cultural authority about the project and the extent to which respectful connection with communities and/or place have been fostered to support cultural governance
- if the nominee is associated with a university, a memorandum of understanding between the associated university and the cultural authority owners
- a statement describing the application of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research.

- ***Strong responses to this criterion will clearly and convincingly describe the cultural governance of the nominee's project. Strong responses will include supporting evidence.***
- ***Multiple relevant and appropriate sources of supporting evidence may strengthen some nominations.***