



Expression of Interest (EOI):

First Nations Strategic Advisory Committee (FNSAC)

Environmental Defenders Office (EDO)

About the Opportunity

The Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) is seeking Expressions of Interest from First Nations peoples to join the First Nations Strategic Advisory Committee (FNSAC). The FNSAC provides strategic, culturally informed advice to strengthen First Nations outcomes across EDO. It brings together diverse voices, lived experience, and technical expertise to support the organisation to embed best practice and advance the self-determination and aspirations of First Nations peoples and communities nationally. The Committee is advisory in nature. It does not make decisions or approve organisational policies. Rather, it provides strategic insights, cultural perspectives and codesign support to the Director, First Nations Program.

Purpose of the Committee

The FNSAC exists to:

- Provide strategic guidance on EDO's First Nations Program
- Support the codesign and development of EDO's First Nations Strategy
- Offer culturally informed input into key frameworks, policies and initiatives
- Contribute to work including the Reconciliation Action Plan and cultural heritage initiatives

Through this work, the Committee plays an important role in ensuring EDO's work is grounded in strong cultural governance, community insight, and First Nations priorities.

What the Role Involves

FNSAC members will:

- Provide strategic, culturally grounded advice to the Director, First Nations Program
- Participate in codesign and collaborative processes
- Contribute to shaping priorities and the Annual Workplan
- Engage respectfully across diverse perspectives and experiences
- Support consensus-based advisory processes

Time Commitment

Members are expected to:

- Attend 5 meetings per year, including:
 - 1 in-person meeting (on Country or culturally appropriate location)
 - 4 online meetings
- Prepare for meetings and review materials in advance

Who We Are Looking For

We are seeking First Nations people with a diverse range of skills, experiences and perspectives to support EDO.

We encourage applications from people who bring:

- Strong community and grassroots experience
- Lived experience and deep connection to community, Country and culture
- Knowledge and expertise in areas such as:
 - Policy and advocacy
 - Climate justice
 - Cultural heritage
 - Law or legal systems
- Experience contributing to strategy, advisory groups or codesign processes
- A strong commitment to cultural governance, cultural safety and First Nations decision-making practices

Committee Composition

The FNSAC will be made up of members who collectively reflect:

- Representation across multiple First Nations
- Gender balance (no single gender exceeding 60%)
- Diverse geographic representation, including regional and remote communities

We strongly encourage applications from:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Elders and recognised cultural authorities
- Young people and emerging leaders

The final composition will ensure a balanced mix of community experience, technical expertise and cultural knowledge.

Cultural Governance

The FNSAC operates in line with principles of:

- Cultural safety and respect
- Recognition of Country, Lore and community
- Consensus-building and relational accountability
- Respect for the diversity of Nations, knowledges and lived experiences

Term and Remuneration

- Term: 2 years
- Members may be reappointed
- Sitting fees will be provided
- Reasonable travel, accommodation and related expenses will be covered

Selection Process

Members will be selected through an Expression of Interest process.

Selection will consider:

- Relevant experience and capabilities
- Contribution to the overall mix of skills and perspectives
- Alignment with the Committee's composition principles

Appointments are confirmed by the CEO on recommendation of the Director, First Nations Program.

How to Apply

Applications are submitted via Microsoft Forms.

You may apply in a format that suits you:

- Written responses
- Audio submission
- Video submission

The application will ask about:

- Your experience and areas of expertise
- Your connection to community
- Your interest in contributing to the FNSAC
- Your availability to participate

Applications Open and Close

Opening Date: 1 June 2026

Closing Date: 6 July 2026

Further Information

For further information or to discuss accessibility needs.

Please contact, Jonathon Captain-Webb (Director, First Nations Program) at:

 first.nations.program@edo.org.au

