



PRACTICE IN COMMUNITY

Investing in artists working in regional Australia

GLOSSARY

Version 1.0 October 2025



Practice in Community Glossary

This Glossary has been compiled to assist with applying to the Practice in Community Program. It is not intended to be a complete interdisciplinary dictionary. This has been compiled from a range of resources listed at the end of the glossary.

CACD

Community arts and cultural development is a community-based arts practice and can engage any art form. Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) involves artists working collaboratively with communities for the purpose of social change through art and culture.

Co -design

Co-design is about working *with : together : jointly*

People are involved as active participants with meaningful input throughout the process. All participants are seen as experts and their input (time, knowledge and other contributions) is valued and has equal standing.

Co-design is not about tokenistic consultation.

Community

In the broadest sense, any group of persons (people) unified by a community of interest.

A group of people with a shared socially-significant characteristic, such as place, set of norms, culture, religion, values, customs, or identity.

Community is about interrelatedness and belonging, people may belong to more than one community.



Community of need

A Community of Need is a social group with identified problems, issues, and a gap between their current status and a desired one, requiring action or support to address these deficiencies.

Community Participation

Community participation refers to active and meaningful engagement in community life, encompassing social connection, civic duties, and involvement in local development.

Country

Term often used by First Nations Peoples to describe the lands, waters and skies to which they are connected. The term contains complex ideas about law, place, custom, language, spiritual belief, cultural practice, material sustenance, family and identity.

Cultural Heritage

The knowledge and lore, practices and people, objects and places that are valued, culturally meaningful and connected to identity and Country.

Cultural Heritage is based on inherited traditions, belief systems, knowledge, lore, language, art, artifacts, oral traditions, stories, rituals and other valued expressions of a group of people. It embodies the relationship to Country. It is a living, contemporary concept as well as one that relates to the past.

Cultural Protocol

The accepted or established code of procedure or behaviour in any group, organisation, or situation to ensure social cohesion and understanding.

Elder

Elders are highly respected Aboriginal people held in esteem by their communities for their wisdom, cultural knowledge and community service. They have gained recognition as a custodian of knowledge and lore. Age alone does not determine whether someone is recognised as an Elder in their community.

Elders hold profound significance, not only for their communities but for the entirety of Australia.

Role of an Elder in an Aboriginal Community

While an Elder's role may vary from one community to another, they commonly uphold core principles like respect for the Earth and instil these values in community members. Elders share their knowledge, educating others about environmental stewardship and Indigenous practices. Elders also assume responsibilities such as participating in protocols at meetings and events, leading ceremonies and negotiations, and addressing community concerns, including those related to health, education, and employment.

Evaluation

The systematic and objective assessment of the design, implementation or results of a government program or activity for the purposes of continuous improvement, accountability and decision-making.

Mentor

A mentor is a guide, offering knowledge, support, feedback and guidance.

Place

Place refers to the physical setting of social activity as situated geographically.

A particular geographic position, point, area or a location – framing the relationship between people and place



Place-Based

Place-based approaches are a way of working that puts communities at the centre.

Projects

What you plan to do over the period of time / duration of the grant. This will include what you intend to do and for a particular purpose.

Priority

A particular area or initiative of focus that relates to the community you will work, a specific initiative.

Regional

Remoteness Areas divide Australia into five classes of remoteness on the basis of a measure of relative access to services. Under the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

The five remoteness classes are: Major Cities, Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote.

Respect

Having due regard for someone's feelings, wishes, or rights.

Theory of Change (ToC)

An explanation and sometimes a roadmap of how and why a particular initiative or program is expected to lead to desired, long-term positive changes.



Torres Strait Islander

A generic term used to refer to the Indigenous Peoples of the Torres Strait region, as compared to the mainland people. Like Aboriginal people, there is a great cultural and linguistic diversity among the Torres Strait where people identify themselves by their own language terms.

Traditional Owner

An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person or group directly descended from the original inhabitants of a culturally defined area of land or sea. They are the clans, nations and groups who have traditional connections to the land and waters relating to their area that retain decision-making powers in relation to that land or area. While all Elders are traditional owners not all traditional owners are Elders.

Yarn

An Aboriginal English word that describes an informal conversation or storytelling in a culturally safe environment.

Yarning Circle

Culturally safe conversations that take place in a circle.

For more information:

<https://www.evoves.com.au/respectful-terminology/>

<https://evaluation.treasury.gov.au/toolkit/what-evaluation>

<https://deadlystory.com/>

<https://culturalheritage.org.au/glossary/>