



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

# Expression of interest Australia's Ambassador for First Nations People

The Australian Government is now accepting expressions of interest from individuals to be considered for the Ambassador for First Nations People.

## The role of the Ambassador for First Nations People

The Ambassador for First Nations People will lead the Government's efforts to embed Indigenous perspectives, experiences and interests across the Department and develop a First Nations Foreign Policy Strategy. The Ambassador will head an Office of First Nations Engagement within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and work in partnership across government agencies and departments, especially working closely with the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). A key role of the Ambassador will be to undertake consultation with First Nations communities, leaders and advocates to listen and engage directly on how Australia's international engagement contributes to Indigenous community and economic development, supports First Nations businesses and exporters, delivers practical action on climate change, builds connections across the Indo-Pacific region and supports Indigenous rights around the world.

The responsibilities of the role are set out in the attached Terms of Reference.

## The ideal candidate

The Ambassador for First Nations People will bring:

- extensive networks across First Nations communities and engagements on Indigenous advocacy;
- convening power among Australian First Nations stakeholders;
- experience driving policy reform and delivery in Indigenous policy and/or programs, in line with government priorities;
- experience working with international institutions, civil society organisations, and foreign governments;
- experience in negotiating, communicating with influence, and sensitively bringing a consensus building approach; and
- knowledge of Australia's foreign, development and trade policy interests and how they relate to Australian First Nations.

More information on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade work on Australia's First Nations can be found here:

- [Indigenous Diplomacy Agenda](#)
- [The Office of the Pacific's Indigenous Engagement Plan 2021-2023](#)
- [DFAT's Reconciliation Action Plan](#)

## Submitting your EOI

Please submit a cover letter with your claims (maximum 800 words), together with a detailed CV with two referees, and a letter of support from a person of senior standing within your area of expertise or community, to: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, via <mailto:First.Nations.EOI@dfat.gov.au>, **by 11pm AEDST Friday 4 November 2022**.

Nominees must be Australian citizens, and be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage.

The Candidate must also be available to regularly undertake overseas deployments.

Nominees must provide a current [National Police Check](#) from the Australian Federal Police. This information will be treated in accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act 1988.

Please direct any questions on this process to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, First Nations Taskforce via [First.Nations.EOI@dfat.gov.au](mailto:First.Nations.EOI@dfat.gov.au).

## Appointment

The appointment will be guided by the APS Commission's affirmative measures initiative for recruiting Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. Candidates will be reviewed by a six person advisory panel, comprised of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander representatives and senior government officials, who will produce a shortlist of candidates.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs will consult with the Minister for Indigenous Australians before appointing the Ambassador. The Ambassador will carry out the role in accordance with the conditions outlined in a contractual agreement with DFAT and these Terms of Reference. Remuneration will be commensurate to the requirements and responsibilities of the position.

## Terms of Reference

### Responsibilities

### Key Leadership, Strategic and Advocacy tasks

#### 1. Embedding First Nations perspectives into Australia's foreign policy

- Provide strategic guidance on the development and implementation of a First Nations foreign policy.
- Design and establish a process to systematically engage and consult First Nations communities, advocates and leaders to bring Indigenous perspectives into Australian diplomacy, and advise on how Australia's international engagement can best support and maximise opportunities for First Nation Australians in a globalised world.

## **2. Enhancing Australia's engagement in the Indo-Pacific Region**

- Draw on First Nations experiences and contemporary ties – including the Pacific – to strengthen connections between First Nations peoples and communities of the region and engage regional partners on the Voice, Treaty, Truth process.
- Help foster cooperation between First Nations Australians and regional partners based on the unique experiences and knowledge of First Nations people in order to address shared challenges such as health security, environmental management and climate change, and gender equality, including through the aid program.

## **3. Progress First Nations' rights and interests globally**

- Establish international First Nations dialogues on Voice, Treaty and Truth with likeminded countries to share experiences and knowledge of reconciliation processes and other First Nations issues, starting with New Zealand and Canada.
- Lead Australia's engagement on Indigenous issues in international fora, including in human rights, and specialised Indigenous bodies at the UN, to promote, protect, and progress the rights and interests of indigenous peoples around the world.
- Actively communicate domestic lessons and best practices on First Nations issues (particularly throughout the Pacific Region) and deepen cooperation with New Zealand, Canada, and other likeminded partners within multilateral and regional fora.
- Work with First Nations communities to identify and repatriate human remains and sacred objects located around the world.

## **4. Support First Nations Trade and Investment**

- Support work to incorporate First Nations' business and exporter interests into our trade negotiation strategies.
- Promote the excellence, ideas and unique offerings of First Nation Australian businesses and advise DFAT and portfolio partners on pathways to help grow First Nations' trade and investment.

## **5. Bolstering Australia's First Nations diplomatic capability and advocacy**

- Assist DFAT and the portfolio to embed Australian First Nations' perspectives and experiences in all facets of its work, including by providing high-level advice on building DFAT's capability to do so, working closely with DFAT's Indigenous Champion, and Indigenous Employees Network, as well as the Diplomatic Academy.
- Work with Australia's thematic Ambassadors, especially the Ambassador for Human Rights, Gender Equality, and Climate Change, to champion First Nations approaches as part of their international advocacy.
- Support DFAT's diplomatic network to project modern Australia and First Nations voices to the region and the world, including through DFAT's strategic communications.
- Work with Department to advise and support DFAT's Indigenous human resources capability and processes, including recruitment, retention and mentoring of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff.