



The Equality Collaboration

Australia's support to LGBTQIA+ civil society In Southeast Asia and the Pacific

The Equality Collaboration is DFAT's flagship investment under the Inclusion and Equality Fund, announced by Foreign Minister Penny Wong in 2023. The six-year (2025-2031) investment provides AUD20.6 million to support LGBTQIA+ civil society in Southeast Asia and the Pacific to address social stigma and legal discrimination facing LGBTQIA+ individuals and their communities.

LGBTQIA+ civil society organisations (CSOs) play critical roles in supporting and advocating for their communities. They operate in an insecure funding environment which limits the sustainability and strength of their organisations. The Asia-Pacific receives just five per cent of funding to the global LGBTQIA+ movement.

The Equality Collaboration provides multi-year core funding grants to enable Pacific and Southeast Asian LGBTQIA+ CSOs to increase their organisational capacity and resilience, enabling them to better deliver on their core mandates. LGBTQIA+ people with disabilities are given specific support to participate.

Core funding grants are complemented with targeted capacity-building and networking support, responding to priority needs of the grantees. Additional funding is available for grantees to support their communities during crises, including climate-related disasters.

The Equality Collaboration is delivered through two regional grant-makers: Women's Fund Asia (WFA) and the Pacific Feminist Fund (PFF). Locally-led development is inherent to the Equality Collaboration. A movement-led Advisory Group ensures accountability to the LGBTQIA+ movement. A small Partnership Secretariat of members from the Asia-Pacific provides coordination, partnership brokering and monitoring and evaluation support. 'Do no harm' is embedded in the implementation of the Equality Collaboration, with the safety and security of grantees a primary consideration.

The Equality Collaboration is being implemented in two three-year phases. The initial three-year grants have been disbursed to nine regional LGBTQIA+ networks and 44 national/grassroots grantees across Southeast Asia and the Pacific.