WACOSS invites you to present at our 2020 conference by making a submission for consideration by the conference committee.

**Finding Ground: Building a better way together** is the theme of the 2020 WACOSS conference, and our challenge to you is to imagine possible pathways, roadmaps, and crossings to a better world, where we can lay foundations for more cohesive communities, more effective social service systems, and more collaborative and joined-up service design and delivery.

The **Finding Ground** conference will be a space to explore the crossroads the WA community service sector, and wider society, currently find ourselves at. Against a backdrop of increasing social divides, wealth inequities, uncertain climate futures, and continued colonial impacts, we want to ensure a future where everyone can reach their potential and where no-one is left.

Like the Nyoongar concept of *djenna bidi*, journeying together, we need to build and walk pathways forward in unity, here on Nyoongar Boodja where we are gathering and elsewhere.

To do this, we must start with **trust**, trust in our relationships and trust in the ways of working together. Trust underpins how we move forward together. We need a commitment to **invest** in new ways and extend ways that are working. This investment must reflect the time and resources needed to make a difference too. Our **design** needs to be inclusive, co-produced. And we need to **embed** these cultural changes in our care systems. This will be the scaffolding around which our conference streams are organised.

If you have a topic that will add value to the conference, and are available to present at the conference on 6-7 May 2020, you are encouraged to make a submission to share your experience and understandings of working in and with communities.

**What are we looking for?**

We welcome presentations and workshops that generate thought provoking discussion and critical analysis, identification of innovative principles and processes that can be adapted in our work, and outside the box thinking about ways forward. Approaches that begin with our strengths and meet our hopes and needs as a community will be at the forefront.

We invite you to think laterally and creatively about how you deliver your session, and encourage the use of different mediums to convey and explore your ideas, experiences, and understandings.

Submissions from across and beyond the community sector are welcome, including from workers and volunteers in community, organisations, academia, industry, and government.

We ask that you understand this is a highly competitive selection process, with a limited number of places in the program available to be offered. If your submission is selected, you may still be contacted by WACOSS to discuss options for revision to better fit conference themes or program.

Chosen presenters may be offered the opportunity of attending a workshop to assist in honing your presentation or workshop. This may include joining with other presenters in your allocated session to enhance the coordination and flow between them, and which may be relevant for pitch presenters in particular.

If you are unable to submit via this portal or in these formats, please contact WACOSS to discuss alternate options.

**Submission Formats**

There are four different submissions you can make for the 2020 WACOSS Conference – Paper, Workshop, Pitch, or Poster.

1. **Paper – 30 minutes**

This submission format is for a presentation focused on a topic related to the conference themes, 30 minutes in total, encompassing a 20-25 minute presentation with time for questions. 

Submission components

* Abstract (250 words or less)
* Relevance to conference theme (100 words or less)
* Bio (100 words or less)

**2. Workshop – 90 minutes**

This submission format is for a participatory session where the workshop leader facilitates and engages attendees in skill, knowledge, and experience building activities.

Submission components

* Abstract (300 words or less)
* Proposed workshop structure (200 words or less)
* Relevance to conference theme (100 words or less)
* Bio (100 words or less)

**3. Pitch – 3-4 minutes**

This submission format is for a 5-7 minute pitch of an innovative idea to be delivered in a dynamic and entertaining session to a panel of executive representatives from funding bodies. This idea can be a hypothetical proposal yet to be implemented, or a pilot in the early stages of being trialed. Presenting a pitch will afford you the opportunity to test your idea amongst peers, and have the ear of funding executives who will provide feedback about the investment potential of your idea.

Submission components

* Proposal (300 words or less across all three questions)
* What is your idea?
* How would it make a difference?
* How can we make it happen?
* Bio (100 words or less)

**4. Poster**

This submission format is for an A2 poster outlining relevant research, service, or project, for display in the exhibition area. Successful applicants will be required to produce and provide the poster themselves.

Submission components

* Proposal (200 words or less)
* Bio (100 words or less)