



Northern Institute (NI) Membership Information Sheet



Background

The Northern Institute (NI) is a regional leader in social and public policy analysis, providing research and data that can influence and support policy development. NI promotes effective research through collaborative approaches and networks of expertise critical to assessing issues and informing policy. The Northern Institute has the research and evaluative capability required to support thriving communities, foster new ideas, and to face the challenges of sustainable development both in the region and internationally.

The Northern Institute is building a profile that adds value to research by using innovation to unravel complex social policy issues – such as addressing human wellbeing, access to essential services, and social relations. Sourcing, supplying and reporting on data to address critical and sensitive issues that arise from population change for society, community and stakeholders is central to the output of NI. It provides a supportive environment which encourages research students and staff to proactively harvest the next generation of inventive research knowledge thus providing impact on the ground.

The impact of Northern Institute

The Northern Institute demonstrates impact through:

- Translation of robust research results into policy and governance systems benefiting communities and peoples of Australia and internationally
- Implementation of policy and program reform and development - improved policy and practice resulting in improved social outcomes
- Expertise to work with stakeholders to build capacity in identifying and developing engagement and impact metrics, leading to new practice implementation
- The development of resources and training to assist with professionalisation through recognition of existing skills and capacity for intercultural operation, leading to job creation and improved stakeholder capacity for knowledge
- Potential for commercialisation of a product or idea, and development of future businesses and spin-offs

Research Priorities

- **Contemporary Indigenous Knowledge & Governance**
 - Working through the specific local issues and problems of the moment, respecting community knowledge and culture practices as we work in engagement and agreement making practices.
 - Engaging with people on the ground in urban and remote communities and across all levels of government to identify and support local practices which are successful and productive, but often invisible in mainstream policy development.
- **Demography and Growth Planning.**
 - Building knowledge and expertise on the relationships between the dynamic populations of remote and sparsely populated areas to economic, social and political conditions in those regions.



➤ **Evaluation & Knowledge Impact**

- Specialising in evaluations that help understand the ways policy and community partnerships are utilised to improve outcomes from public service delivery strategies and engaging with stakeholders to build their ongoing capacity to monitor progress, improve services and policies.

➤ **Regional, Economic & Workforce Development**

- Undertaking research that assesses the potential impact of investment and economic policy implementation, focusing on transitions between enterprise, work and learning, and explore the issues associated with engaging economically and socially marginalised northern residents.

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Through innovation and excellence in key research areas, NI researchers jointly consult with stakeholders to clarify their processes and desired outcomes. Collaboration is at the forefront of the Institute's research philosophy. The themes and associated team of researchers are significant in influencing policy agendas, occupying a policy environment that focuses on shared responsibility and accountable impact.

Structure

NI is a network of leading researchers and institutions working across diverse locations. Individuals and organisations are invited to apply for membership and if successful, will work together in an interdisciplinary network that reflects the complex and multi-faceted nature of the research priorities. NI will facilitate various opportunities each year for members to meet face-to-face, network and discuss common issues.

Membership

While there is no limit on the number of NI members or associate members, applications for membership will be assessed by an assessment panel based on the eligibility criteria set out below.

Final membership will be approved by Northern Institute Director.

Without limitation, members and associate members may include:

- individuals representing universities or other centres of higher learning
- individuals representing research centres and think-tanks
- academics and subject matter experts
- individuals representing community organisations who are currently involved in relevant research
- Government departments

Multiple individuals from the same organisation may apply for NI membership. Each individual must complete a separate application.

Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria for NI membership are:

1. track record of contributions across at least one of the research priority areas, either as a researcher, evaluator or in program delivery;
2. demonstrated innovation in research, evaluation and/or program delivery related to at least one of the priority research areas;
3. confirmed external research funding related to at least one of the priority research areas;



4. an interest in attending and presenting at numerous NI workshops and forums

Benefits of Membership

i. Access to Northern Institute staff benefits

Access to NI Research Support Services with dedicated specialists to take care of your financial, human resources, travel, research, and event administration and management.

The ability to claim affiliation with NI on applications/publications possibly increasing the opportunities to develop your research through diverse streams of research funding.

Access to the NI Research Student Network for your PhD and Masters students where students can share their experiences and profile with an international audience, find information, build their skills in articulating elements of their research in a supportive academic environment, access leading academics and help identify ways the NI can support students better.

ii. Networking with other subject matter experts

NI will be a collaborative forum for the dissemination of innovative ideas to promote social cohesion, multiculturalism, diversity, community resilience and to prevent violent extremism. The opportunity for members to link in with other subject matter experts will be a significant benefit for NI members, particularly when formulating research proposals.

iii. Becoming part of a community of practice and shaping public policy

It is anticipated that a community of practice will evolve organically as NI members meet and network to discuss their research and workshop new knowledge. The opportunity available to NI members is to not only form part of that community, but to actively mould its direction and focus. NI members may therefore be able to play a role in shaping policy and program design.

iv. Access to workshops and forums

Open invitation to attend and contribute to the NI People, Policy, Place (PPP) Seminar series and Policy Briefings, as well as all NI hosted events to share and develop research.

Length of Membership

5 years with possibility of renewal

Remuneration

NI members and associate members will not be remunerated for their participation. There is no charge to become a NI member.

Resignation and removal of membership

NI members and associate members may resign from NI at any stage in writing.

The NI may remove a member or associate member from NI at any stage, after consulting the member in question, by informing them in writing of the decision.

Conflicts of Interest

NI members must declare in writing all actual, potential and perceived Conflicts of Interest with respect to their duties as NI members. A NI Conflict of Interest declaration form is available for this.