# Call for Expressions of Interest

**Lead conversations. Lead connections.**

**Submit your idea to share, connect and lead conversations at RDI Network Exchange 25.**

We are now accepting expressions of interest for the RDI Network Exchange 25 program. CLOSING DEADLINE 11 APRIL.

We are interested in the conversations you want to lead – to drive better development through evidence and collaboration.

***How can research and evidence help us navigate a changing development landscape and shape its future directions? What new collaborations are needed to respond more effectively to the development challenges we face now and into the future?***

We are keen to hear from experienced and early-career professionals and researchers with fresh perspectives, new ideas and a passion for connecting and collaborating.

In keeping with our focus on interaction, Exchange 25 will provide a range of ways to share and learn from each other – online and in-person and hybrid formats\*\* – beyond the traditional conference format. We are also interested in hearing your ideas for new and different approaches.

*\*\*Online* *all participants are online.*   
*In-person* *all participants are present in a room at the Exchange venue at UTS.*    
*Hybrid* *participants are both in a room at the Exchange at UTS and online*

Send us your expressions of interest as an individual or team for the following session tracks for the Exchange.

## Formats

### Meet-ups

Meet-ups aim to provide opportunities for networking around topics of shared interest.

Although relatively informal, they will be led by a facilitator, who will offer questions and invite conversations. 

*Your role:* Propose a topic for the meet up, develop some guiding questions and facilitate the conversation on the day.

*Format: 75-minute session*

*Mode:* Online only or In-person only

### Research and practice showcases

Research and Practice Showcases aim to highlight research, collaboration and practices from researchers and development organisations working across the region that provide practical solutions to key development challenges.

*Your role:* propose a topic for a single presentation or a panel of 3-4 presentations. If you propose a single presentation, we will put you in a session with similar topics. You can also propose *a* chair for the session, or we will help you find someone.

*Format: 90-minute session with 3-4 short (15 minute) presentations on a common theme with Q and A*

*Mode:* Hybrid, Online only or In-person only

### Panel conversations

Conversations aim to bring together a panel of diverse views and perspectives from universities, civil society, government, and private sector to encourage debate on development issues and promote new ways of thinking about development challenges.

*Your role:* propose a topic and a moderator and identify and organise 3-4 panellists to share their views and engage with Exchange participants.

*Format: 90-minute moderated panel discussion with opportunities for audience interaction*

*Mode:* Hybrid, Online only or In-person only

### Futures workshops

Futures Workshops are in-depth, participatory sessions which aim to create connections to enable co-design and collaborative practice, bringing together unique skills and experience on a specific topic.Approaches such a back casting, 3 horizons or scenarios could be utilised. The workshops aim to produce a short report or communique informed by conversations at the workshop that contributes to navigate a changing development landscape and shape its future directions.

Your role: design and facilitate a participatory workshop that engages participants in new approaches and reveals and amplifies expertise and experience and collate output.

*Format: 90-minute session led by a facilitation team*

*Mode:* Online only or In-person only

### Masterclasses

Masterclasses are focused on supporting early career professionals and researchers to build on and expand their skills and expertise in practical ways.

*Your role*: propose a skill area, target audience, and 1-2 learning outcomes. Identify an expert facilitator or team of facilitators and design a learning activity.

*Format: 90-minute workshop session*

*Mode:* Online only or In-person only

### Topics

We are open to topics from all areas of development policy and practice, for example:

* climate resilience and sustainable development
* locally-led development and development research
* digital innovation in development
* economic empowerment and livelihoods
* education and capacity building
* financing for development
* gender equity and social inclusion
* health and development
* humanitarian action and development
* indigenous knowledge and local leadership
* monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL)
* partnerships for sustainable development
* youth and future leaders in development
* or other topics – you decide!

For In-person sessions, all speakers must attend the Exchange at UTS or provide pre-recorded content as part of a session. There will be limited facilities to ‘zoom in’ speakers to concurrent sessions.

For Online sessions, there will be limited facilities at the Exchange at UTS to lead or join sessions from the venue.

For hybrid sessions, the Exchange will provide AV support to you and your team to enable participation from those present at UTS and online. Hybrid is available for only *Research and Practice Showcases* and *Panel Conversations*

**Deliver an amazing session at the Exchange!**

If your expression of interest is selected, we will support you to prepare, deliver and lead your session by offering access to a free training opportunity to *Communicate with Confidence*. This will include insights on sharpening your presentation, improving your delivery and facilitation and communicating your ideas in a compelling way.

Submit your Expression of Interest [**here**](https://whova.com/call_for_speakers/RZTtfmHWc6%40Q38BpZpe-odLhgYNTKjCFUIioYJIKSXVP-JP7wmPevW1uD8Vs63u%40/)

Selection of expressions of interest will be carried out by the Exchange 25 Organising Committee which represents a cross section of the development sector in Australia and Asia and Pacific regions. Find out who we are [here](https://www.rdinetworkexchange25.org/about).

If your Expression of Interest is successful you may work with the Exchange Organising Committee to refine the format and session type.

**Nominate yourself as a group facilitator or to chair a session during the Exchange.**

Would you like to lead small group reflections during the Exchange or chair a concurrent session? Please email us at [Info@rdinetworkexchange25.org](mailto:Info@rdinetworkexchange25.org)

**More Exchange.**

In addition to the formal sessions there will be plenty of opportunities to connect with researchers and practitioners from across the development sector – and the region, including:

* Interactive welcome and networking event
* Facilitated reflections on insights and learning throughout the program
* Interaction with Keynote speakers from the region
* Marketplace and exhibition spaces
* Exchange Dinner
* Closing drinks

If you have any questions about submitting an Expression of Interest for the RDI Exchange 25 please email [Info@rdinetworkexchange25.org](mailto:Info@rdinetworkexchange25.org)

Submit your Expression of Interest Now <https://whova.com/call_for_speakers/RZTtfmHWc6%40Q38BpZpe-odLhgYNTKjCFUIioYJIKSXVP-JP7wmPevW1uD8Vs63u%40/>

***Instructions to submit:*** *Click the “Start proposal” button and log into your account. If this is your first time logging into Whova, please create an account. Watch the*[tutorial video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8wa0Ztszco)*for more details on how to use the Submission Portal.*

# **Expression of Interest Form**

YOUR INFORMATION– open field – all mandatory

First Name

Surname

Organisation

Job Title

Email

LinkedIn

## **SUBMISSION DETAILS**

**Select tracks** – drop down – mandatory – click only one

Meet-ups

Research and Practice Showcases

Panel conversations

Futures Workshops

Master classes

**Title** – open field mandatory

**Summary** – open field mandatory - 1500 character limit (240 to 260 words)

**List 3-5 key words that describe your session** – open field mandatory

**Mode of delivery** – drop down – mandatory – click only one

See full details for mode of delivery [here.](https://www.rdinetworkexchange25.org/submit-abstract)

In-person    
On-line     
Hybrid

**Session outcomes** open field –mandatory - 1500-character limit (240 to 260 words)

What will attendees gain from attending this session?  Are there any expected learning outcomes for attendees?

**Contribution to the RDI Network Exchange 25 –** mandatory - 1500-character limit (240 to 260 words)

How does this session contribute to the Exchange focus on driving better development through evidence and collaboration?

**Co speakers** – add up to 4

First Name

Surname

Organisation

Job Title

Email

LinkedIn

**Anything else we should know about this submission – open field 100 words (**800-character limit approx 160 words)