NGARLUMA & YINDJIBARNDI FOUNDATION LTD.
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Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation Ltd (NYFL) Statement of Respect for Aboriginal Knowledge, Information, Culture and Data

1. About NYFL

Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation Ltd (NYFL) is a Traditional Owner representative organisation located in Ieramugadu (Roebourne), Western Australia. NYFL's purpose is to deliver social, cultural and economic empowerment for Ngarda-ngarli (Aboriginal people) and the broader regional Aboriginal community. NYFL's membership is made up of Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people, however NYFL's programs, services and advocacy extend to all Ngarda-Ngarli in Ieramugadu.

NYFL seeks to work with collaborators including funders, consultants, service providers and researchers in ways that are grounded in genuine respect for Aboriginal knowledge and the right of communities to self-determination. This Statement applies to any engagement, research, consultation or collaboration in which community knowledge, information, data or experience is drawn upon. It is not intended to create barriers to meaningful engagement but to ensure that any engagement benefits Aboriginal people, respects their knowledge and time, and is conducted in line with Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles.

2. Indigenous Data Sovereignty

Indigenous Data Sovereignty (ID-SOV) is a global movement led by First Nations peoples that affirms the right of Indigenous peoples to exercise control and ownership over data about them and that impacts their lives. It is about ensuring data works for communities, not against them.

ID-SOV affirms that First Nations peoples are the owners of data about them and have the right to govern how it is collected, held, accessed, interpreted and shared. NYFL has established a dedicated community-led Data Unit in Ieramugadu, putting this into practice on the ground. The goal is for Roebourne Aboriginal people to have full control of, and access to, their own data, driving informed decision-making and self-determination, and ensuring that external investment, policy and services are shaped by community need.

NYFL seeks acknowledgement and support from all partners for the principles of the Maiam nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Communiqué, which affirm that Indigenous peoples have the right to:

- Exercise control of the data ecosystem, including creation, development, stewardship, analysis, dissemination and infrastructure,
- Data that is contextual and disaggregated, available and accessible at the individual, community and First Nations levels,
- Data that is relevant and empowers sustainable self-determination and effective self-governance,
- Data structures that are accountable to Indigenous peoples and First Nations, and
- Data that is protective and respects individual and collective interests.

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3. Data Sharing

All data, information, findings and outputs generated through any engagement involving NYFL or the communities of Ieramugadu are expected to be shared back with NYFL in accessible formats and in a timely manner. NYFL expects access to full datasets, not summaries only. Where data includes personal information, it should be appropriately de-identified or aggregated to protect privacy while preserving the integrity and utility of the underlying data.

Arrangements in which partner agencies or funders claim sole ownership of data generated from work with Aboriginal communities are not consistent with the principles of this Statement or Indigenous Data Sovereignty. NYFL welcomes early discussion about data sharing arrangements for any engagement.

4. Researcher and Engagement Obligations

NYFL values the time and expertise of Aboriginal community members. To ensure engagement is meaningful and does not ask community to repeat what has already been documented, NYFL asks that all parties seeking to engage conduct thorough desktop research before any community engagement takes place. This should include:

- Reviewing existing literature, reports, submissions and data produced by or about Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi peoples and the Ieramugadu community,
- Familiarising themselves with NYFL's published positions, priorities and previous engagement outcomes,
- Identifying what is already known, so that community time focuses on genuinely new questions or decisions, and
- Ideally providing NYFL with a summary of desktop research prior to engagement, to support a shared understanding of the existing evidence base.

All research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is expected to adhere to the AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research, which NYFL considers a foundational expectation for any research engagement.

Following any engagement, researchers and partners are expected to report findings back to the community in an accessible format, and to provide community members with an opportunity to give feedback on how they felt the engagement was conducted. This ensures the engagement process itself remains accountable to community.

5. Psychological Safety and Wellbeing

Research and engagement often involves conversations about trauma, loss, health, family and other matters that may carry emotional weight. Planning for psychological safety is an important part of responsible engagement design.

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NYFL asks that all researchers and partners:

- Consider in advance whether topics may be sensitive or distressing for participants,
- Ensure that a suitably qualified psychologist, social worker or counsellor is available during and after activities where sensitive content may arise. NYFL can suggest appropriate practitioners with relevant cultural experience,
- Advise NYFL of wellbeing support arrangements prior to any planned engagement, and
- Follow up with participants after engagement to ensure access to support if needed.

6. Partnership Expectations

NYFL is committed to sharing knowledge and building capacity collaboratively. In return, NYFL asks that partners:

- Respectfully acknowledge NYFL for all contributions to shared work,
- Seek NYFL's consent before using cultural knowledge or community contributions beyond the original engagement,
- Act consistently with this Statement in all dealings with NYFL and with third parties, and
- Approach partnership with awareness of the shared colonial history that shapes the context of engagement with Aboriginal communities.

This Statement is a foundational document and does not limit any additional agreements or cultural protocols that may apply to a specific engagement. NYFL welcomes early conversation with prospective partners about how these principles apply to their project.

NYFL Acknowledges and thanks Wungening Aboriginal Corporation for the development, and sharing of, material used in the drafting of this document.