



NATIONAL  
FOUNDATION FOR  
AUSTRALIA-CHINA  
RELATIONS

澳中基金会

# National Foundation for Australia-China Relations

Annual Update 2025-26  
年度资讯 2025-26



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# Chair's Message



“

*I hear a consistent message as I engage across government, academia and industry - that there is a strong appetite and clear need for trusted platforms that enable informed dialogue and cooperation.*

*The Foundation plays a vital role in meeting this need.*

”

It is a privilege to reflect on my first year as Chair of the National Foundation for Australia–China Relations and the Foundation’s continued contribution to strengthening and deepening the bilateral relationship in Australia’s national interest.

**Over the past year, we have supported initiatives that build practical understanding between Australia and China.** We are funding projects that advance exchanges and cooperation in climate change and energy transition, agriculture, health, education, tourism, sustainable aviation, culture and sport.

**In a complex and uncertain global environment, the importance of sustained, constructive engagement has become more evident.**

**Our grants program is strengthening China capability, relationships and economic resilience across Australian industries.** This includes support for next generation barley and wool growers; senior executives in leading dairy, seafood, red meat and wine export businesses; and directors on Australian company boards.

**Beyond business and boardrooms, the Foundation is investing in the next generation of Australia’s China experts.** Complementing the New Colombo Plan, we are funding postgraduate students to undertake Chinese language studies and internships in China.



*The Foundation Advisory Board meets with the Foreign Minister in Canberra*

As Chair, I hear a consistent message as I engage across government, academia and industry - that **there is a strong appetite and clear need for trusted platforms that enable informed dialogue and cooperation. The Foundation plays a vital role in meeting this need.**

I joined Foundation CEO Gary Cowan and a strong Australian delegation at the 9th Australia–China High Level Dialogue in Beijing, where we held frank discussions across key areas of the relationship, demonstrating ‘Team Australia’ at work.

I also led the Foundation Advisory Board’s first visit to China, visiting Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. The visit reinforced the stabilising role of the Foundation’s advocacy and programs and showcased practical cooperation in Australia’s national interest. Our engagements also showcased Chinese–Australian community leadership in action.

**Over half of our board members are women, more than half of our appointed members are Chinese-Australians, and the Board’s professional expertise encompasses the sectors most relevant to the relationship.** This diversity left a strong impression on our interlocutors and underscored the contributions - and strengths - of Australia’s multicultural society.

### **Engaging Chinese Australian communities**

**is a focus of our work.** This includes ensuring Chinese-Australian voices are heard, celebrated and strengthened. I was proud to host this year’s flagship Wang Gungwu Lecture, which recognises leadership and excellence within these communities.

**We are also developing new programs that support emerging Chinese Australian leaders and strengthen civic participation.** These programs will bolster Australia’s resilience as a multicultural democracy, grounded in inclusion and belonging.

I thank outgoing CEO Gary Cowan for his drive and his work since 2024. I thank our partners and stakeholders across government, business, academia and the community. We have a strong foundation. I look forward to continuing to build the impact of our shared efforts and support new opportunities for collaboration in the year ahead.

**Marina Go AM**

Chair

May 2026



# CEO's Message



“

*This year, the Foundation continued to make a positive contribution to the stability and depth of Australia's relationship with China.*

”

I am pleased to share the National Foundation for Australia China Relations' Annual Update for 2025–26.

**This year, the Foundation continued to make a positive contribution to the stability and depth of Australia's relationship with China.** We worked to grow risk-informed engagement and cooperation with China in Australia's national interest, to lift Australia's China capability, and to strengthen the resilience of our multicultural democracy by enabling Chinese Australians to thrive and contribute.

Following the Prime Minister's successful visit to China in July 2025, we convened and supported a range of dialogues and exchanges to enable regular and direct exchange with China across a broad range of fields.

**The Foundation co-hosted the 9th Australia China High Level Dialogue** in September in Beijing, co-chaired by the Hon Dr Craig Emerson and former Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

This Track 1.5 dialogue brought together leaders from government, industry, academia, media and the arts to discuss bilateral relations, trade and investment, people to people and cultural ties, and regional and international security.

We paid our first Advisory Board visit to China in November. The Board engaged with senior Chinese figures in government, business and civil society. And it highlighted Foundation supported projects and explored future cooperation in areas such as the green transition, agriculture, education, health, youth, and the arts.



*Australian and Chinese delegations to the Ninth Australia-China High Level Dialogue*

There was strong interest in the Foundation and these areas of work, which demonstrated that we indeed cooperate where we can. Through the board's visit, as with our bilateral cooperative projects overall, we worked to deepen industry, institutional and people-to-people links with China.

**We advanced work on national China capability,** through projects that promote China literacy among institutions who engage China and projects which deepen pools of expertise on China.

The Advisory Board made a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education's inquiry into building Asia Capability, led by the Hon Tim Watts MP.

**Across Australia, the Foundation strengthened engagement with government, industry and community stakeholders, leading outreach in most states and territories** and convening roundtables on energy transition, foreign direct investment and the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA), engaging more than 80 business, industry and government stakeholders to discuss the ChAFTA review.

**Strengthening Australia's resilience as a multicultural democracy through meaningful, sustained and inclusive engagement with Chinese Australian communities was a pillar of our work.**

The 2026 Wang Gungwu Lecture, delivered by Professor Kelvin Kong AM, a Worimi man of Malaysian-Chinese heritage and a nationally recognised surgeon, highlighted the challenges and contributions of Chinese Australian communities in Australian life.

The Foundation also piloted the Asian Australian Voices program to support greater Chinese Australian representation in public life and lift our Asia literacy.

Looking ahead, the 2026–27 grants round opened in May will continue to work to grow our dialogue, cooperation and people-to-people ties; to lift our China capability; and engage our Chinese-Australian communities.

It has been a great honour to have served as CEO of the Foundation over the past two years. As I hand over to a new CEO, let me conclude by thanking the Advisory Board, my team on staff at the Foundation, and all our project partners for working to advance Australia's interests through risk informed engagement and cooperation with China.

**Gary Cowan**

CEO

May 2026

# The Foundation Annual Update 2025-26



In 2025-26, the Foundation expanded its work with a range of stakeholders to strengthen risk-informed engagement with China, in Australia's national interest, and reinforce social cohesion by engaging Chinese-Australians, showcasing their contribution and strengthening their voice and agency.

## Mission Statement

The Foundation's mission is to promote and coordinate enhanced cooperation between Australia and China, in support of Australia's national interests and the Australia-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

## What we do

The Foundation is a national platform that works across all levels of government, industry, communities, universities, think tanks, and cultural and sporting bodies. Our work is guided by expert advice from our Advisory Board members and the Foundation's Executive team.

Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has approved a strategy and business plan to guide our work for the period 2024-26 (see p.8).

## Advisory Board Update

In 2025-26, the Advisory Board met the Foreign Minister in Canberra (10 February 2026) and undertook an inaugural visit to China (13-22 November 2025). Further details in Foundation Highlights.

On 3 February 2026, the Foreign Minister announced three appointments to the Foundation Advisory Board: the Hon Mr Simon Birmingham, CEO of the Australian Banking Association and former Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment; Minister for Finance and Minister for Education and Training; Mr Clinton Dines, Non-Executive Director and former President of BHP Billiton China; and Dr Darren Lim, Senior Lecturer at the Australian National University.

The Chair and Foundation Executive thank and acknowledge outgoing Advisory Board members Mr Rowan Callick OBE and Dr Wesa Chau for their valuable contributions to the Foundation over their years with the Board.

The Advisory Board held three meetings in the 2025-26 Financial Year:

- 1 October 2025 in Sydney
- 10 February 2026 in Canberra
- 7 May 2026 in Sydney.

# Strategy and Business Plan: 2024-26

## Charter mission statement

Promote and coordinate enhanced cooperation between Australia and China, in support of Australia's national interests and the Australia-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

## Priority objectives

Strengthen risk-informed engagement with China, in Australia's national interest

Reinforce social cohesion by engaging Chinese-Australians, showcasing their contribution and strengthening their voice and agency

## Lines of effort

### Improving China capability

Programs to increase the China literacy and capability of key Australian stakeholders nationally - including at state and local government level, with universities and schools, business and the arts - to engage China in a risk-informed way.

### Practical cooperation on Australia's terms

Support to key industry sectors to build market connections, including services (education, tourism) and sustainable agriculture.

Research, innovation and engagement on decarbonisation, drought-resilience and climate change policy.

Showcase Australian excellence, including in the arts, sport, science, health and community development.

### Supporting dialogue and exchange

Convening dialogues and exchanges that contribute to a stable and productive relationship with China.

Providing a platform for constructive, trusted conversations about China.

Giving Australians greater confidence that the Government will continue to cooperate where we can, disagree where we must, and engage in the national interest.

### Enabling our diverse communities

Initiatives that support the social cohesion of Chinese-Australian communities and foster emerging leaders (including civics education).

Providing platforms to celebrate the contributions of Chinese-Australians to our national life.

Build links with, and invest in, Chinese international students as the next generation of leaders in their respective fields.

## Enablers

Foundation Advisory Board

Higher-impact communications

Foundation staff and leadership

Targeted training and capability initiatives

Competitive grants program

Flagship events: Wang Gungwu Lecture, High Level Dialogue

Nation-wide partnerships across sectors

Openness to engagement in mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan



# Foundation Highlights 2025-26

## Meeting with the Foreign Minister

On 10 February 2026 the Foundation Advisory Board met the Foreign Minister to outline the Foundation's forward agenda for 2026, which included strengthening risk-informed engagement with China, advancing Australia's China capability, and amplifying Chinese-Australian leadership. The Foreign Minister thanked the Advisory Board for their work and shared her views on how the Foundation can continue to advance the national interest.

*The Foundation Advisory Board meets with the Foreign Minister in Canberra*





*Advisory Board members visit the Peking University*

## Advisory Board Inaugural Visit to China

The Foundation Advisory Board undertook its first visit to China (Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou) on 13-22 November 2025.

The visit reinforced the stabilising role of the Foundation's advocacy and programs and showcased practical cooperation in Australia's national interest.

Over 27 meetings, roundtables and targeted outreach engagements, the Board engaged with senior Chinese figures in government, business and civil society.

During these engagements, the Board highlighted the impact of Foundation-supported cooperative projects and explored areas for future cooperation in areas such as the green transition, agriculture, education, health, youth, and the arts.

The Board's engagements showcased Chinese-Australian community leadership, with more than half of its appointed members having Chinese heritage. The Board's diversity stood out during the visit, leaving a strong impression on our interlocutors and underscoring the contributions and strengths of Australia's multicultural society.



# Dialogues

## Australia-China High Level Dialogue

The Ninth Australia-China High Level Dialogue was held in Beijing from 17-18 September 2025. Australia's delegation, led by former Trade Minister the Hon Dr Craig Emerson, brought together senior Australian Government officials and leaders from business, academia and think tanks, as well as from the agriculture, energy, creative and youth sectors.

The Dialogue explores areas where Australia and China can deepen cooperation and find opportunities to speak openly and respectfully on issues that are important to Australia and in our national interest. It is a valuable forum for regular, open and direct dialogue. Talks canvassed the Australia-China bilateral relationship, regional and international issues, trade and economic ties, and people-to-people links. The Dialogue is set to return to Australia in 2026.

*Australian and Chinese delegations to the Ninth Australia-China High Level Dialogue at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse*





*Australian and Chinese delegations to the Ninth Australia-China High Level Dialogue at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse*

## Australia-China Dialogue for Regional Trade

The Australia-China Dialogue for Regional Trade, supported by the Foundation and delivered by the APEC Study Centre at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, will convene track 1.5 and track II dialogues as part of APEC China 2026.

# Industry

## Foundation-hosted business roundtables

The Foundation convened a series of business roundtables to inform stakeholders about Australia's economic engagement with China and strengthen risk-informed engagement.

In August 2025, the Foundation partnered with the Australia-China Business Council (ACBC) New South Wales to host an information session on Australia's foreign investment review framework for over 50 stakeholders. Chris Tinning, First Assistant Secretary from the Treasury and executive member of the Foreign Investment Review Board briefed stakeholders on the framework, which is designed to maximise investment flows while protecting Australia's interests.

In September 2025, the Foundation hosted a business roundtable with Australia's Ambassador to China, Scott Dewar, and ACBC National President, David Olsson AM, following Prime Minister Albanese's visit to China in July 2025. The roundtable discussed visit outcomes and cooperation with China in trade, resources, climate change and energy, medtech, tourism and sport.

Also in September 2025, the Foundation co-convened a business roundtable for 30 participants with ACBC Victoria and Global Victoria to brief Victorian industry on risk-informed engagement with China. The briefing coincided with the publication of Victoria's refreshed China Strategy.

In October 2025, the Foundation and ACBC Western Australia co-hosted a business roundtable with Australia's Ambassador to China, Scott Dewar. This roundtable also discussed outcomes of Prime Minister Albanese's visit to China (July 2025), and key areas of cooperation, including the energy transition and climate change.

In January 2026, the Foundation hosted a roundtable that brought together business and industry participants to discuss the General Review of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) – a key pillar of Australia's economic architecture with China. DFAT officials briefed over 70 participants on how the Australian Government's review of ChAFTA would ensure it continues to meet the needs of Australian business.

*Foundation CEO, the Australian Ambassador to China and the then National President of the ACBC speaking at a roundtable in Sydney co-hosted by the Foundation and ACBC on ChAFTA*







*Australia-China Business Council webinar on April 2026*

## Australia-China Business Council (ACBC): Baseline study on China capability

The Foundation is supporting Australian industry and business to navigate China's evolving complexities through benchmarking analysis and reporting on current capability gaps.

ACBC produced Australia's first national baseline study that provides a comprehensive review of China capability across Australian industries. The report drew on in-depth interviews with senior decision-makers and a large-scale survey to evaluate the performance of Australian organisations.

On 1 April 2026, ACBC hosted a webinar on the report's keys findings and launched a Foundation-funded capability program.

Over 100 participants from business, industry and government around Australia attended.



*Australian Future Wool Industry Leaders with Ambassador Scott Dewar in Beijing in June 2025*

## Australian Wool Innovation

Australia is China's biggest wool supplier, and China is Australia's largest wool customer. In June 2025, eight Australian future wool industry leaders attended the Nanjing Wool Market Conference and toured various Chinese wool processing mills as part of a Foundation-funded 'Australia-China Wool Business & Cultural Exchange' program. The group also met with Australia's Ambassador to China, Mr Scott Dewar, and Acting Consul-General in Shanghai, Ms Khadija Haq.

The trip strengthened industry ties, providing valuable insights on trade and innovation opportunities and a deeper appreciation for the practices and priorities of Australian business partners. Strengthening people-to-people and industry relationships with our largest trading partner is important for Australia's economic resilience, fostering lasting connections and deeper understanding between Australia and China.

An inbound delegation of future wool industry leaders from China is scheduled to visit Australia in 2026.



*Charles Darwin University delegation at Hainan University March 2026*

## Charles Darwin University

To strengthen collaboration in sustainable and climate-smart agriculture production, the Foundation supported a program of international exchange visits linking tropical aquaculture and agriculture experts from Charles Darwin University's Research Institute for Northern Agriculture with leading partners in Hainan and Shantou Provinces, China.

As part of the program, Australian researchers visited China twice (Hainan and Guangdong) and a Chinese delegation visited the Northern Territory. Another visit by a second Chinese delegation is planned for later this year.

The program brings together Australia's strengths in sustainable, high-quality agriculture production with China's advanced capabilities in isotopic analysis and environmental footprint technologies.

## Next-Generation Therapeutics for Pandemic Preparedness: Global Perspectives



*Pandemic Research Alliance Symposium November 2025, Melbourne*

## The Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity

In November 2025, The Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity hosted the 2025 Pandemic Research Alliance Symposium in Melbourne, bringing together leading virologists, researchers and clinicians from across the world to explore new opportunities for collaboration, including on pandemic preparedness.

The collaboration highlighted the importance of building trust and strong people-to-people connections to advance research and tackle complex global health issues.



# Climate change

## Australia-China climate finance cooperation

Climate finance cooperation with China is a key avenue through which Australia and China can work together to address climate change and promote decarbonisation.

In October 2025, the University of Western Australia held a climate finance workshop in Beijing in cooperation with the International Institute for Green Finance. The workshop attracted strong interest, with content viewed by approximately 700,000 people on WeChat, reflecting a growing focus on green finance and sustainable investment. Foundation CEO Gary Cowan delivered a keynote address highlighting the importance of international cooperation in financing the climate transition.

A follow up event was held on 5 December 2025 in Hong Kong, bringing together representatives from HSBC, ANZ, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, and leading green finance associations, to discuss how Hong Kong's green finance ecosystem can support regional decarbonisation.

*Climate finance workshop attendees in Beijing representing UWA, ANU, UQ, Australian and China-based banks, the IIGF and the resources sector*





*Foundation CEO Gary Cowan with ELICE 2 course participants from Australia and China*

## Building cooperation in solar photovoltaic (PV) technology

Empowering Emerging Leaders in Clean Energy (ELICE) is a flagship initiative supporting collaboration between Australia and China in renewable energy, focusing on solar photovoltaic (PV) technology.

ELICE connects Australian climate tech entrepreneurs with professionals from China's leading renewable energy companies and research institutions through exchanges, workshops, and targeted training. These activities build trusted relationships, encourage the sharing of ideas and expertise, and support practical collaboration.

In December 2025, the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Matt Thistlethwaite, opened an ELICE workshop at UNSW for 40 Australian and Chinese clean energy experts. Foundation CEO Gary Cowan delivered keynote remarks underscoring the importance of Australia–China cooperation on climate change and clean energy innovation.

# International Students



*2025 Stephen FitzGerald Scholars Program cohort visiting the Australian Parliament*

## Stephen FitzGerald Scholars Program – deepening understanding of Australia’s institutions and society

Chinese international honours and postgraduate students from universities across Australia came together in November 2025 for a three-day Stephen FitzGerald Scholars Program in Canberra. Convened by the Australian National University's Australian Studies Institute (AuSI), the third iteration of this program welcomed 42 high-performing scholars currently undertaking advanced study in Australia.

Across the program, participants engaged in curated tours, briefings, and expert discussions at some of the nation's most significant institutions—including Parliament House, the High Court of Australia, and the National Press Club.

These experiences offered students firsthand insights into Australia's political, legal, and media landscapes, deepening their understanding of the country's institutions and society.

With the completion of the 2025 program, the Stephen FitzGerald Scholars community now comprises nearly 100 alumni. This growing network represents a vibrant cohort of future leaders whose academic pursuits and cross-cultural experiences strengthen connections between Australia and China.





*Chinese international students at an Australia Industry Group workshop in Sydney in March 2026.*

## Strengthening Industry Connections for Chinese International Students

The Australian Industry Group's International Student Industry Engagement Program is supporting opportunities for Chinese international students who are studying at Australian universities to engage directly with Australian industry and business.

Workshops on 'Navigating the Australian Business and Workplace Environment' were held in five capital cities across Australia, where Chinese international students heard presentations from Australian Industry Group representatives and Australian businesses. These half-day workshops provided students valuable insights into workplace expectations and helped them build professional networks with industry leaders.



# Sport

## Australian Cultural Exchange (ACE) Tennis Program

The ACE Tennis Program delivered a University Presidents' Tournament in Hubei and an Australian Tennis Cultural Tour in Melbourne.

As part of the tour, fifteen Chinese youth athletes, including ten Foundation scholarship recipients, participated in a ten day program integrating high performance training, cultural exchange and educational engagement.

Participants undertook training at the Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club, attended a men's semi-final at the Australian Open, visited Melbourne landmarks, and engaged with academics at Victoria University. Friendly matches with young Australian players at the Maribyrnong Sports Academy enabled participants to apply their skills in cross cultural setting.

Building on this momentum, the program will expand through a series of ACE Tennis summer camps in China, commencing in Shanghai in the northern hemisphere summer of 2026.

*First time training on grass courts at Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club and friendly matches played at the Maribyrnong Sports Academy*





*Australia vs China PR, Match 2 of the Australia-China Friendship Series in Yiwu, Zhejiang, China*

## Australia China Friendship Series: Football Australia

The CommBank Young Socceroos (Men's U20s) undertook a two-match tour to China for the Australia-China Friendship Series held in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province in March 2026.

Match one, before a crowd of almost 20,000 spectators, saw a 1-0 loss to China PR and Match two saw Australia take a 4-2 win over China PR. The thrilling second match provided a 6-goal second half, highlighting the impressive talent on display.

The tour to China forms part of a broader program of football engagement aimed at strengthening sporting, cultural and people-to-people links between Australia and China. The Australia-China Friendship Series also represents an important step in preparations for the AFC U20 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifying tournament.



*On set with The Long Game: from the Goldfields to the Grand Final*

## The Long Game: from the Goldfields to the Grand Final

Drawing on Patrick Skene's acclaimed book *Celestial Footy*, AFL Studios produced a feature-length documentary film exploring the lesser-known contributions of Chinese-Australians to Australian rules football (AFL).

The documentary features interviews with past and present players, Lin Jong and Darcy Vescio, alongside stories from families connected to Chinese migrant-established clubs in the Victorian Goldfields and beyond.

Tracing a rich history of resilience and community, the film will screen later this year and will also be adapted as an educational resource for classrooms across Australia.



# Arts & Culture

## Two Blood: celebrating shared stories

Two Blood, which explores the intertwined histories of Indigenous and Chinese communities through the story of a Tagalaka woman and a Cantonese man, premiered at the 2025 OzAsia Festival.

This project marks the Australian Dance Theatre's first appearance in the festival's 60-year history.

The season at The Odeon welcomed 1,087 audience members, including 170 students engaged through ADT's schools' program. A multilingual education resource further extended the production's reach into classrooms and community settings.

*A promotional photo for the performance 'Two Blood', image credit Jonathan VDK*





*Performers at the 2025 NICA Summit Masterclass, image credit Daniel Rabin*

## Beyond Our Boundaries

In 2025, the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) delivered the first phase of Beyond Our Boundaries (BOB), an initiative that renews circus collaboration between Australia and China, building on artistic ties first forged during the Nanjing Acrobats' tours of Australia in the 1980s.

This phase saw the Shanghai Circus School deliver masterclasses and engage with emerging Australian artists. Later in the year, NICA students will travel to China for a skills-exchange program, continuing a long-standing tradition of people-to-people collaboration and artistic innovation.



*Exhibition at TMAG, which then toured Launceston (March-June 2025), Scottsdale (June-October) and St Helens (October-February 2026)*

## *Home: Here and Now, from China to Tasmania – Touring exhibit concludes*

*Home: Here and Now, from China to Tasmania* was a touring exhibition developed by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) in collaboration with Libraries Tasmania. Drawing on newly recorded oral histories, the exhibition explored Chinese migration to Tasmania from the 1880s to the present, focusing on the experiences of belonging and community.

The exhibition combined historical material from Chinese tin mining communities with contemporary stories and everyday objects chosen by participants, alongside content highlighting the Fujian-Tasmania sister state relationship.

Following its presentation at TMAG, the exhibition toured Launceston, Scottsdale and St Helens, engaging regional communities and attracting more than 30,000 visitors across Tasmania.

The project received extensive positive media coverage, including features on *Tasmania Weekender*, local radio and Hobart news, and a national story in *Australian Geographic*. A 3D digital exhibition further expanded access for remote audiences across Australia and internationally.



# Capability

## Submission to the Asia Capability Inquiry

The Foundation's Advisory Board made a submission to the Australian Parliament's *Inquiry into building Asia capability in Australia through the education system and beyond*. The Board said Australia needed the national capability to engage with, and respond to, China, knowledgeably and in a risk-informed way and noted that currently, this capability fell short of the level required.

The Advisory Board also made ten recommendations on the next steps to develop Australia's China capability.

[This submission can be accessed on the Parliament of Australia website under submission No.112](#)

*Foundation CEO Gary Cowan with Macquarie University Vice-Chancellor Professor S. Bruce Dowton, as well as CSKI co-leads Professor Bates Gill and Associate Professor Courtney Fung*

## China Strategic Knowledge Institute

The Foundation supported the establishment of the China Strategic Knowledge Institute (CSKI) at Macquarie University. CSKI will strengthen Australia's national capability to understand China, particularly in relation to its foreign and security policy. The Foundation will also provide funding to support three post doctoral positions over three years to further develop a pipeline of Australian experts on China, and enable the visit of the Columbia-Harvard "China and the World Program" to Sydney in December 2026.







*Foundation CEO Gary Cowan with John Williams, Australian Consul-General in Shanghai, Professor Joan Leach, ANU Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Professor Ben Hillman, Director of the Australian Centre on China in the World, and the 2026 CIW China Studies Fellows*

## China In the World (CIW) Scholarship Program

The China in the World China Studies Fellowship Program strengthens Australia's long-term China capability by providing graduates with an in-country study opportunity in China. The program supports emerging professionals to build strong language skills and deepen their understanding of China through study and real-life experience. The first cohort returned from Shanghai in late 2025, and the second cohort of 14 fellows departed for China in February 2026.

## Engaging China State and Territory Workshops

In March 2026, the Foundation hosted its annual Engaging China State and Territory Workshop in Brisbane. Thirty officials from state and territory governments participated in the two-day workshop, which provided a comprehensive overview of engagement with China across policy and economic settings. The workshop forms part of the Foundation's work to lift China literacy across state and territory governments and enhance their capability to engage with China in a risk-informed way.

## Friends of the Foundation Reception

The Foundation held a Friends of the Foundation reception on 1 October 2025 which brought together leaders in business, industry, think tanks, academia, and the Chinese-Australian community. The networking event, attended by the Foundation's Advisory Board, followed the first board meeting of Marina Go's term as Chair. Ms Go reflected on her own personal experiences as an Australian with Chinese heritage growing up in Australia and recounted stories from her corporate career and directorships on Australian boards.

[Read Ms Go's remarks on the Foundation's role as an enabler on the Foundation website.](#)



*Foundation Chair Marina Go and CEO Gary Cowan with Dr John Yu AC and Daphne Lowe-Kelley at the Friends of the Foundation Reception*

## Asia Society 2025 China Primer

Asia Society Australia delivered its second China Primer in Sydney, a flagship professional development initiative designed to build China literacy among early-to-mid career Australian professionals.

Run over seven modules, China Primer helps participants deepen their understanding of China, particularly its politics, economy, culture, and relationship with Australia, and apply that knowledge in their professional lives.



# Communities

## Wang Gungwu Lecture 2026

The fifth Wang Gungwu Lecture was held in the Great Hall at Parliament House, Canberra on the evening of Tuesday, 10 February 2026. The lecture was broadcast nationally by the ABC and in 40 countries in the region on ABC Australia.

Almost 250 guests, including Minister for Multicultural Affairs the Hon. Dr Anne Aly MP, came to hear Professor Kelvin Kong AM – a Worimi man of Malaysian-Chinese heritage and a nationally recognised surgeon – share his story.

The Wang Gungwu Lecture celebrates the enduring contributions of Chinese-Australians to Australian society and provides a platform to showcase diverse voices on what it means to be Australian today. It is available to watch on ABC iview.

*Professor Kelvin Kong AM and Professor Wang Gungwu AO*







*Foreign Minister (front row, centre) and CEO Gary Cowan (back row) with participants from the William Ah Ket Leadership Program February 2026*

## William Ah Ket Leadership Program

The ANU Centre for Asian-Australian Leadership's third and fourth iterations of the William Ah Ket Leadership Program were held in November 2025 and February 2026. Named after the first Australian barrister of Chinese and Australian heritage, the five-day program provides emerging Chinese-Australian leaders from diverse backgrounds across the country to develop their skills, knowledge and expertise to become advocates for their communities and leaders in their field.



*Chinese Australian Forum Board and presenting team delivering the civics education and media literacy workshop in Sydney*

## Chinese Australian Forum's Civic Education and Media Literacy Workshops

The Chinese Australian Forum (CAF) partnered with local Chinese-Australian community organisations in NSW, VIC, SA and WA to deliver 13 bilingual civics education and media literacy workshops in English, Mandarin and Cantonese. Participants gained a deeper understanding of how democracy in Australia works, including on how to participate in democratic processes and advocate for their communities.

The media literacy component equipped participants with tools and skills to navigate both English-language and Chinese-language media, enabling them to critically assess information and identify misinformation, disinformation and bias.

CAF also delivered its first survey findings report, which found over 90% of the respondents reported improvements in their Australian civics knowledge and confidence in recognising inaccurate information, disinformation and media bias following their participation in the workshop.



*Foreign Minister Penny Wong and CEO Gary Cowan met with participants from the Asian Australian Voices Program November 2025*

## Asian Australian Voices

The Asian Australian Voices program, delivered by Asia Society Australia in partnership with the Foundation, the ASEAN-Australia Centre and the Centre for Australia-India Relations, supports 21 Asian-Australian professionals through a 12-month media and public policy training program.

The initiative builds participants' capability to contribute to national conversations on Australia's engagement with Asia, strengthens diverse representation in public discourse, and enhances the visibility of Asian Australian perspectives across media, government and business sectors. The program provides targeted public policy and media training to support participants' engagement in public discussion, policy processes, broader representation and leadership across professional and community settings.

# Advisory Board Members



## Ms Marina Go AM (Chair)

Marina Go AM is Chair of .au Domain Administration (auDA) and a non-executive director on the boards of Transurban, Metcash, Southern Cross Austereo and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

She is a member of UNSW's Business Advisory Council, Chair of National Foundation for Australia-China Relations Advisory Board, a member of ANU's Centre for Asian-Australian Leadership (CAAL) Advisory Board, and author of the business book for women, *Break Through: 20 Success Strategies for Female Leaders*.

Marina is a co-founder of Women's Agenda, a website about female leadership. *Boss* magazine named Marina as one of the 20 True Leaders of 2016. She was the 2021 recipient of the NSW Leadership Award, Women & Leadership Australia and she was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in 2023 for her services to business governance, sports administration and the media.

Marina has over 30 years of leadership experience in the media industry, having started her career as a journalist. Marina's media executive roles included Private Media CEO and Country CEO of Hearst Australia. Marina is also a former Chair of the Wests Tigers NRL Club, Super Netball Commission, Netball Australia, The Walkley Foundation and Ovarian Cancer Australia and was the inaugural Chair of the UTS Centre for Media Transition Advisory Board.

She is a member of O'Connell Street Associates, CEW and the AICD and is a mother of two adult sons. She has been actively progressing equitable outcomes for women and culturally diverse Australians in her working life and as a volunteer for more than three decades.



## The Hon Simon Birmingham

The Hon Simon Birmingham is Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Banking Association and holds directorships of Asia Society Australia and the International Banking Federation. Simon previously served as a Senator from 2007 to 2025, including nine years as an Australian Government Minister.

As Finance Minister Simon helped to shape Australia's recovery from the COVID pandemic and new security partnerships, while as Trade Minister he concluded negotiations on numerous agreements, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Australia and 14 other Asian nations.

Simon led the Government in the Australian Senate and served on Cabinet's National Security and Expenditure Review Committees. He previously worked in trade focussed roles in the banking and wine industries, holds a Masters of Business Administration, and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs.





## Rowan Callick OBE

Rowan Callick is an Industry Fellow at Griffith University's Asia Institute, an Expert Associate at the National Security College, ANU, and vice chair of the Australia Taiwan Business Council.

He was the Beijing-based China correspondent of The Australian for two terms, following 20 years with The Australian Financial Review including as China correspondent based in Hong Kong.

Mr Callick has written three books on contemporary China, published in both English and Chinese.



## Dr Yin Cao

Yin Cao is the curator of Chinese art at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. She is also a board member of the newly established Museum of Chinese in Australia (MOCA) in Sydney.

Ms Cao studied and worked as an art and museum management professional in China, the US, Japan and Singapore. She trained as an archaeologist at Harvard University and Peking University.



## Dr Wesa Chau

Dr Wesa Chau is Executive Director of Per Capita, a think tank with a focus on addressing inequality. She is an experienced board director, executive and speaker. She was a delegate of the Australia-China High Level Dialogue in 2017 and has served on the Victorian Government's Multicultural Business Ministerial Council and the Ministerial Council for Women's Equality.

Dr Chau is a former board member of Carers Victoria, Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria and Holmesglen Foundation. For her services and contribution to the community, Dr Chau was awarded the Australia-China Alumni Community Services Award 2025, inducted to the Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll in 2024 and recognised as a 40 under 40 Most Influential Asian Australian in 2020.



## Clinton Dines

Clinton Dines was born and raised in Queensland and subsequently lived and worked in China for 36 years, 21 as President of BHP Billiton's China business. He was educated in Asian Studies at Griffith University in Brisbane and in business at INSEAD in France and has extensive experience as an executive in a variety of China businesses.

Since 2009 Clinton has had an active career as a Non-Executive Director, serving recently on the Boards of Fonterra, Sky Renewables, Port of Newcastle, Zanaga Iron Ore and Freedom Road Travel.

He was previously a Director of KAZ Minerals, Aurecon and North Queensland Airports and Executive Chairman of Caledonia Asia from 2010 to 2013.



## Dr Courtney Fung

Dr Courtney J. Fung is Associate Professor in Security Studies in the School of International Studies at Macquarie University. She is concurrently Non-Resident Fellow at LSE IDEAS; the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University; at Asia Society Australia, and at the Lowy Institute.

Dr. Fung was a Fulbright Scholar at Georgetown University in 2024 through the DFAT-funded Professional Scholarship in Australian-American Alliance Studies.

She was previously an associate professor with tenure at the University of Hong Kong, and a post-doctoral fellow with the now-Columbia-Harvard China in the World Programme.



## Wendy Huang

Wendy Huang is the Publisher and Managing Director of the Chinese Herald, the longest-running Chinese-language newspaper in Australia, and 1688 Media Group. She manages print and digital media assets for the company, leading strategic oversight of editorial and operational activities.

Ms Huang is a Board Member of the Independent Multicultural Multimedia Association (IMMA) and engages widely with Chinese-Australian communities, promoting initiatives that advance recognition of their contributions to Australia.

She holds a Bachelor of Accounting and Business from Macquarie University.



## Professor Sharon Lewin AO

Professor Sharon Lewin is an infectious diseases physician and virologist and is the inaugural Director of the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity and Director of the Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics. Her research focuses on finding a cure for HIV and developing novel treatment strategies for COVID-19 and other pandemic respiratory viruses. She is the Immediate Past President of the International AIDS Society.

She played a major role in advising the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments on the COVID-19 response. In January 2020, the Doherty Institute were the first to isolate SARS-CoV2 and share the virus globally. She has overseen important medical research collaborations with China.

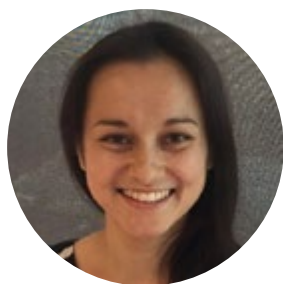


## Dr Darren Lim

Dr Darren Lim is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Politics and International Relations at the Australian National University. He researches and teaches in the field of international relations, at the intersection of international political economy, international security, and global governance. His major research interests focus on economic security, grand strategy, and Australian foreign policy.

Dr Lim hosts a podcast on Australian foreign policy called "Australia in the World".

Dr Lim received his PhD from Princeton University. Initially trained in law and economics at Monash University, he previously worked as Associate to the Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia, a corporate lawyer, and researcher at International Crisis Group in Brussels.



## Dr Jade Little

Dr Jade Little is the Chair of the Australia China Youth Dialogue, a track two dialogue for emerging leaders in the Australia-China relationship, and a past participant in the Australia-China High Level Dialogue. Dr Little is currently Head of Productivity (Mining) for APAC at Newmont Corporation.

She previously worked for BHP, UBS and McKinsey & Company. She was The Australian Financial Review BOSS Young Executive of the Year in 2017.



## Richard McGregor

Richard McGregor is a Senior Fellow for East Asia at the Lowy Institute. He is a former Beijing, Shanghai and Washington bureau chief for The Financial Times and was posted in Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong for Australian media outlets. He was also a visiting scholar at the Wilson Center and George Washington University in Washington DC from 2014-2016.

Mr McGregor has authored a number of highly acclaimed books on China and East Asia, most notably *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*.



## Professor Rory Medcalf AM

Professor Rory Medcalf is Head of the National Security College at ANU. He has three decades of experience across diplomacy, intelligence analysis, think tanks, academia and journalism.

In government, Professor Medcalf worked as a senior strategic analyst with the Office of National Assessments. He was also an Australian diplomat, with experience in India, Japan and Papua New Guinea, and he continues to lead informal strategic dialogues with a range of Indo-Pacific powers. Under his leadership, the National Security College has become a go-to institution for whole-of-nation capability development and policy contestability. In 2022 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for services to international relations and tertiary education.



## Mark McGowan AC

Mark McGowan AC was the Member for Rockingham from December 1996 until June 2023, when he stepped down as the Premier of Western Australia. He became Premier in March 2017 and during his term held various other portfolios, including Treasurer and Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade. Mr McGowan currently holds advisory roles with BHP Limited, Mineral Resources Limited, APM Services International Ltd and Bondi Partners.

Earlier in his career, Mr McGowan served as a Legal Officer in the Royal Australian Navy. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland.





## Alice Pung OAM

Alice Pung OAM is a Melbourne-based writer and lawyer, and an Adjunct Professor at RMIT University's School of Media and Communication.

She is the author of the bestselling books that have been published internationally, and translated into Italian, German, Indonesian and Chinese. Her books are studied in schools and universities in Australia and abroad. In 2022, Alice was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to literature.



## Jan Adams AO PSM (ex-officio)

Jan Adams AO PSM was appointed Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on 1 July 2022. Prior to this, Ms Adams was Australia's Ambassador to Japan from November 2020 to June 2022 and before that Australia's Ambassador to China from 2016 to 2019.

From April 2013 to 2016, Ms Adams was Deputy Secretary with responsibility for trade and economic issues. In this role she oversaw Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement negotiations and the conclusion of free trade agreements with China, Korea and Japan. She previously led the department's Free Trade Agreement Division.

Ms Adams served as Ambassador for the Environment and Ambassador for Climate Change between 2005 and 2008 and as Minister Counsellor (Trade) in Washington from 2000 to 2004.

Ms Adams joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1999 as Assistant Secretary, APEC Branch.

From 1993 to 1996, Ms Adams was an Adviser to the Minister for Trade and Minister for Industry, Science and Technology. She also previously worked in the OECD secretariat in Paris (Trade and Environment Directorates) and at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

In 2016, Ms Adams was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to international relations through the advancement of Australia's diplomatic and free trade relationships, particularly with the United States of America, South Korea, Japan and China. In 2007, she was awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM) for outstanding public service in pursuing Australia's international objectives on trade and the environment.

Ms Adams holds Honours degrees in Economics and Law from Monash University and is a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. She grew up in Wodonga, Victoria and is married with one adult son.

# List of 2025-26 Grant Recipients

| Grant Recipient                                     | Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Sector         | Amount                    | Location |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Australia New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) | Australia, New Zealand-China Exchange Program will promote key areas of engagement between Australia and China, and build China capability within Australia state, territory and federal public services, through supporting an outbound visit by Australian officials to China, and an inbound visit to Australia by participants from China.                                   | Capability     | \$500,000                 | ACT      |
| Australian Centre on China in the World             | China Studies Futures initiative will support the rebuilding of Australia's China expertise by preparing undergraduates for honours and masters programs, hosting two internationally leading visiting fellows in Australia and by supporting professional academic pathways through two postdoctoral fellows                                                                    | Capability     | \$650,000 over four years | NSW      |
| Macquarie University                                | China Strategic Knowledge Initiative will support the establishment of a centre focused on China's strategic policy through three postdoctoral positions and the hosting of leading international experts on China.                                                                                                                                                              | Capability     | \$745,000 over four years | NSW      |
| Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology             | Australia-China Dialogue for Regional Trade will advance APEC's Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) vision by delivering a track 2 dialogue in Melbourne, a 1.5 track dialogue in China and policy briefs.                                                                                                                                                               | Capability     | \$126,491 over two years  | VIC      |
| Lowy Institute for International Policy             | Australia-China Track 2.0 Strategic Dialogue will convene dialogues in Sydney and Shanghai with the Shanghai Institutes of International Studies to deepen understanding of China's foreign policy and communicate Australian perspectives.                                                                                                                                      | Capability     | \$250,000 over two years  | VIC      |
| Australian Academy of the Humanities                | Trajectories for Area Studies in China and Australia Future Dialogue will further Australia-China research cooperation through two in-person workshops with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. It will showcase cooperative research, teaching excellence and advance understanding of changing approaches to Australian Studies in China and Chinese Studies in Australia. | Capability     | \$128,500                 | ACT      |
| The Superpower Institute Ltd (TSI)                  | Australia-China Green Iron Value Chains will promote collaboration in green iron and steel decarbonisation by connecting Australian industry with Chinese markets and supply chains.                                                                                                                                                                                             | Climate Change | \$250,000                 | VIC      |

| Grant Recipient                      | Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Sector         | Amount                     | Location |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Griffith Asia Institute              | Australia-China Iron and Steel Decarbonisation Dialogue will deepen Australia-China cooperation on green iron and steel focusing on policy, investment, trade and technology (including clean energy). The project will deliver dialogues and site visits in China (Shanghai, October 2026) and Australia (August 2027) and two policy briefs for Government on green energy solutions, trade and investment barriers and application pathways. GAI will also deliver a COP31 related green iron and steel event in Australia (by November 2026).                                                                                                                                                                                               | Climate Change | \$400,000 over three years | QLD      |
| Adelaide University (formerly UniSA) | Australia-China Cooperation for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) will build on a previous UniSA SAF grant, to further build relationships and partnerships between Australian and Chinese SAF stakeholders. It will drive clean energy transition in the aviation sector – a hard to abate sector contributing around 3 per cent of global carbon emissions. SAF is also a priority Future Made in Australia climate research sector. Five SAF conferences will be held in Australia (Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane) and China (Beijing and Hong Kong). A student exchange competitive program will allow up to four students to attend each SAF conference. Two research reports, a SAF white paper and five conference reports will be delivered. | Climate Change | \$400,000 over three years | SA       |
| Meat & Livestock Australia           | Australia-China Livestock and Red Meat Industry Cooperation Forum will bring together emerging and established leaders from the red meat industries in Australia and China to foster collaboration and deepen relationships. Chinese delegates will undertake a study tour of Australia in July 2026 to identify and build areas of cooperation. An inaugural industry cooperation forum in China in September 2026 (TBC) will convene Australian peak bodies and Chinese representatives and will establish a MOU for future cooperation beyond the grant project period.                                                                                                                                                                      | Industry       | \$300,000                  | NSW      |



| Grant Recipient                                          | Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Sector         | Amount                     | Location |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) | <p>The Health Research Network will drive collaboration and exchange between Australia and China to strengthen long term biomedical research collaboration and train the next generation of scientific leaders to accelerate better health outcomes.</p> <p>The program will include four research symposia: Clinical immunology (Shanghai 2026), Global Health and One Health (Shanghai 2027), Drug Discovery (Hong Kong 2028) and an Outcomes showcase (Melbourne 2029). The project also includes exchange programs for up to 12 PhD students to work on collaborative research projects, taking four students (one from Australia, one from Hong Kong, and two from China) each year across 2027, 2028 and 2029 to conduct an in-depth study of the symposia topics.</p>                                                    | Health         | \$400,000 over four years  | VIC      |
| Macquarie University                                     | <p>Celebrating 30 Years of Australia–China Collaboration in Hearing Health will advance audiology collaboration in research, practice and education for an ageing population. This includes joint workshops, visits and programming that strengthens partnership in hearing care for elderly populations. Chinese delegates will undertake training at Macquarie and Melbourne universities, and site tours of some of Australia’s premier hearing centres. An Australian delegation will travel to Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu to deliver workshops and a seminar series, providing the opportunity to gain insight into China’s progress in audiology for ageing populations and build professional networks. The visit will include clinical workshops, seminars, roundtable discussions and site visits in each city.</p> | Health         | \$200,000 over two years   | NSW      |
| National Museum of Australia                             | <p>Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters exhibition will showcase First Nations culture through an outbound exhibition to China, including workshops and public programs led by Australian First Nations cultural ambassadors.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Arts & Culture | \$500,000 over three years | ACT      |
| Australian National University                           | <p>Bridging Cultures will strengthen dialogue between collecting institutions and researchers through dialogue, roundtables and pilot studies aimed at deepening opportunities for students and fostering professional exchange.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Arts & Culture | \$306,000 over three years | ACT      |

| Grant Recipient                            | Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Sector         | Amount                    | Location |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Australian Wooden Boat Festival (AWBF)     | Connected by the Sea: Australia–China Cultural Exchange through Maritime Heritage will showcase Australian excellence in boatbuilding and First Nations history and culture through a series of curated programs at the 2027 Australian Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart led by maritime scholars, specialists and boatbuilders from Australia and Taiwan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Arts & Culture | \$100,000 over two years  | TAS      |
| Big Hart Inc                               | Skate of Mind will connect Australian and Chinese youth culture through skateboarding, music and film. The exchange program will see 16 skateboarders, artists, producers and musicians participate across two tours - the Greater Bay Area in China and Tasmania, Alice Springs, Katherine, East Arnhem Land and the Tiwi Islands in Australia. Tours will include; interactive workshops, public showcases, community events and creative residencies. Participants will engage with remote and regional communities, Australia's First Nations culture and China's urban centres. Across the program, skate, art, music, and culture combine to produce a unique experience, one that will be captured through video, photography and storytelling. | Sport          | \$275,000                 | TAS      |
| Chinese Australian Forum                   | Democracy in Action - Civics Education for Chinese-Australian Communities 2025-26 will deliver civics and media literacy workshops to Chinese-Australian communities and Chinese-speaking international students in NSW, SA, QLD, ACT, TAS and NT. The workshops aim to engage our diverse Chinese-Australian communities and strengthen their voice and agency, empowering Chinese-Australians to actively participate in Australian civic life. This in turn builds resilience and fosters a great sense of inclusion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Communities    | \$160,000                 | NSW      |
| The Australia China Youth Dialogue         | 16th and 17th Australia-China Youth Dialogues and alumni symposiums will develop and maintain a network of young Australian and Chinese leaders (aged 25 - 40) to create long-term, mutually beneficial relationships.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Communities    | \$140,000 over two years  | NSW      |
| ANU Centre for Asian-Australian Leadership | The William Ah Ket Leadership Program will deliver three leadership programs between 2027 and 2029, to build and equip emerging Chinese-Australian leaders with the skills and expertise required to contribute to Australian public debate, including on engagement and collaboration with China. It also aims to address barriers to Chinese-Australian leadership progression. The five-day annual program will be held in Canberra.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Communities    | \$275,000 over four years | ACT      |

| Grant Recipient                     | Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Sector                 | Amount                   | Location |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Asian Leadership Foundation Limited | The Waratah Program 2026 & 2027 will deliver six programs across WA, VIC and a third state (TBC) in partnership with leading Australian universities. The program provides development for Chinese-Australian leaders on a bipartisan basis to fast-track political careers through training on leadership, strategic thinking and the skills needed to effectively service society and community.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Communities            | \$120,000                | VIC      |
| University of Sydney                | Queer Chinese Voices in the Arts will amplify queer excellence in the arts in Australia, Hong Kong and Taiwan through multilingual podcasts, public showcase events, and digital platforms, to foster visibility, inclusion and global queer networks and to promote long-term support for queer Chinese arts practitioners.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Communities            | \$150,000 over two years | NSW      |
| Royal Life Saving South Australia   | Beach Smarts and Creating Everyday Lifesavers in Australia will deliver water safety education to Chinese-Australians and Chinese international students in English and Mandarin nationally. The program will deliver six classroom-based water safety workshops and six skill development practical workshops at universities, aquatic centres, community facilities and beaches in SA, VIC, WA, NSW, QLD and NT across 2026 and 2027. It will Wbuild life-saving skills across Australia, offering training pathways to become lifeguards or water safety instructors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Communities            | \$200,000 over two years | SA       |
| Insider Guides                      | Bridging the Feed will support Chinese international students in navigating Australian news, social media, and the broader information landscape. Through a dedicated microsite of bilingual content (English and Chinese) and a communications campaign to amplify their toolkit, the initiative will deliver curated content at key stages of pre-departure, orientation, and arrival to help students better understand modern Australia and engage more fully in Australian life. This project is the first of its kind to combine student-friendly storytelling with a national strategy for uptake across institutions, agents, and governments. All content will be freely available via a microsite and distributed to over 7,000 sector stakeholders through Insider Guides' network, including universities, study clusters, agents and private colleges. | International Students | \$150,000 over two years | SA       |





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