



Yulang's Indigenous data sovereignty and governance principles

May 2026

Right perspective

- ❖ Consistent with multi-level empowerment, socio-ecological lens
- ❖ Informed by and reflective of local Indigenous people, communities, organisations and cultures

Right purpose

- ❖ An overall, ongoing commitment and "by design" for specific reasons, fit for purpose
- ❖ For supporting responsibilities including relationships and partnerships, empowering nationhood, and promoting self-determination and self-governance
- ❖ For individual and collective use
- ❖ For individual and collective benefit
- ❖ For justice and equity
- ❖ For accountability and transparency
- ❖ For immediate and future use
- ❖ Influencing others' data, research and narratives to align rightfully with local Indigenous peoples' lifeworlds
- ❖ Affirmed by formal agreements that have timeframes

Right ownership

- ❖ We have ownership of individual and collective data
- ❖ Existing in ways ownership and control can be expressed and operationalised, supported by data infrastructure and resources, trusting relationships, and capacity and capability development

Right leadership

- ❖ We have autonomous decision-making about data, governed by Indigenous people with rightful standing in the local jurisdiction decided by the relevant local collective
- ❖ With Indigenous people leading governance and decision-making, beyond participation
- ❖ Relational, with critical reflection, dialogue, complaints processes, conflict resolution and recourse promoted



Right substance

- ❖ Both data about us, and data for us to use
- ❖ Inclusive of metadata
- ❖ Across the data lifecycle: idea, planning, creation, infrastructure design, collection, access, analysis, interpretation, reporting, management, distribution, translation and reuse
- ❖ Inclusive of knowledges, information, resources and other formats determined locally
- ❖ Representative of rights, cultures, diversity, needs, aspirations, priorities, protocols, values, worldviews, positions
- ❖ Holistic
- ❖ Framed respectfully, to strengthen and protect cultures and identities
- ❖ Able to be contextualised and disaggregated, available at individual, community, regional and national levels

Right form

- ❖ In consistently findable, accessible, interoperable and reuseable ways, with supportive stewardship and resources
- ❖ With methodologies, methods and data quality and gaps identified and strategies developed to improve these and their accessibility over time
- ❖ Compliant with local legislation, policies and lores in the jurisdiction
- ❖ Sustainable with integrity
- ❖ Ethical
- ❖ Safely gathered, stored and shared

Synthesised from ...

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- Maiaam nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collective. (2024). *Taking control of our data*. <https://www.lowitja.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Taking-Control-of-Our-Data-Discussion-Paper.pdf>
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- Trudgett S., Griffiths K., Farnbach S., et al. A framework for operationalising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data sovereignty in Australia: Results of a systematic literature review of published studies. *eClinicalMedicine*, 2022; 45
- Walter, M., Lovett R., Bodkin Andrews, G., & Lee, V. (2018). *Indigenous data sovereignty briefing paper 1*. Maiaam nayri Wingara Data Sovereignty Group and the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute. <https://www.maiaamnayriwingara.org/news-and-updates>
- Affirms commitments to Indigenous people's sovereignty in:

- the Australian Evaluation Society's First Nations Cultural Safety Framework (Gollan, S., & Stacey, K. (2021). *Australian Evaluation Society First Nations Cultural Safety Framework*, Australian Evaluation Society, Melbourne)
- in articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2008)
- research ethics statements by the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW (2020). *Ethical guidelines: Key principles* <https://www.ahmrc.org.au/publication/ahmrc-guidelines-for-research-into-aboriginal-health-2020/>) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (2018, *Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders*. NHMRC. <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research-policy/ethics/ethical-guidelines-research-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples> (AH&MRC, 2020; NHMRC, 2018).



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