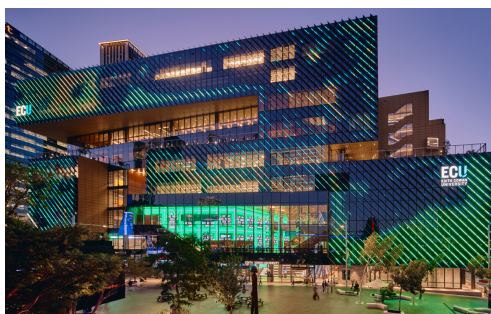




AAUN Australia Forum 2026

Africa Week Welcome Reception: Evening Monday 31 August 2026
AAUN Forum: All-day Tuesday 1 September 2026

Host: ECU City Campus, 500 Wellington Street, Perth, Western Australia



Registration (in-person or virtual) is essential [via this link](#).

Registration deadline: 8 August 2026

For more information, see: <https://www.aaun.network/aaun-annual-forum/>

Contact AAUN Australia Secretary Ms Ruvi Goredema: aus-secretariat@aaun.network

PROGRAM (draft @ 10 AUG)

Venue: ECU City Campus, 500 Wellington Street, Perth CBD

Map pin: <https://share.google/Xxi55OSRqICyB5n67>

DAY & TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
MONDAY 31 August Welcome Reception, Australia-Africa Week 2026 Function Room, Level 7		
18.30-20.30	Welcome speeches, networking ECU student musical performance	• TBC ECU VC/DVC • Mr Bill Repard, CEO Paydirt Media/Africa Down Under • Mr Nigel Stanier, Assistant Secretary, Africa Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia • Hon. Ayor Makur Chuot MLC, Member for the North Metropolitan Region, Parliament of WA (tbc) • A/Prof. David Mickler, Co-Chair (Australia), Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) • Dr Casty Nyaga-Hughes, President, Organisation of African Communities in Western Australia (OACWA)
TUESDAY 1 September AAUN Australia Forum 2026 Function Room, Level 7		
08.30-09.00	Registration	AAUN Secretary and student volunteers
09.00-09.30	Welcome Session	Session Chair: ECU VC/DVC • Welcome to Country (Speaker TBC) • Hon. Ayor Makur Chuot MLC, Member for the North Metropolitan Region, Parliament of WA (tbc) • A/Prof. David Mickler, AAUN Co-Chair (Australia) • Prof. Francis Petersen, VC University of Pretoria (for AAUN Africa) • Dr Ralph King, FAS, Middle East and Africa Division, DFAT • H.E. Amb. Joe Tapera Mhishi,

		Ambassador of Zimbabwe and Dean African Diplomats in Australia • Jemima Schilling, Australian Trade Commissioner for Africa, Austrade
09.30-11.30	<i>Deepening Australia-Africa Relations to 2040</i> Launch of the AAUN ELAAD Policy Report	Session Chair: TBC • AAUN ELAAD Fellows (Joel Odota, Victo Nalule, Faith Mulwanda) • Mr Titus Gwamende, Director of Programs, Africa, Judith Neilson Foundation (ELAAD program sponsor) Panel discussion: • Australian Ambassador • African Ambassador • ELAAD Fellow • Vice-Chancellor
10.30-11.30	Group photo Extended morning tea & guided walking tour of new ECU City Campus	
11.30-13.00	<i>African Impact in Australia: Understanding Social, Political and Economic Agency in the Diaspora</i> Launch of Australian Research Council Discovery Project Report	Session Chair: TBC Presentation of report by ARC project team • Prof. Farida Fozdar, Curtin • A/Prof. Sarah Prout-Quicke, UWA • A/Prof. Dominic Dagbanja, Curtin Panel discussion with WA African diaspora community leaders, professionals and researchers • A/Prof. Gizachew Tessema, OACWA • APA Representative • Community representative
13.00-14.00	Group lunch	
14.00-15.15	AAUN ECR Hackathon	Session Chair: TBC Presentations by competing teams led by AAUN ECR representatives
15.15-16.30	AAUN Partnership & Research Development Fund (PRDF) Grants	Session Chair: TBC Research project update presentations (7 mins each) by 2025 winning CIs • Dr Gloria Odo, MU (ECR)

		• Dr Dierdre Rule, UCT (ECR) • Dr Sashah Mutasa, ECU (ECR) • A/Prof. Manickam Minakshi, MU • A/Prof. Libby Thomas, CU
16.30-17.00	Closing Session: AAUN Business & Announcements	Session Chair: AAUN Co-Chairs Announcements: - AAUN Strategic Plan 2026-30 - AAUN Website and YouTube - PRDF 2026 grant winners - ECR Hackathon winning team - John Hearn Memorial Lecture 2026