

We back bold ideas for radical change

Supporting ambitious, creative solutions
led by those closest to the challenges



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We believe people everywhere should have the opportunity to create positive change through innovation. Our Innovation Portfolio has a global outlook and is grounded in community. We back innovation as a process: from experimentation and adaptation to developing the capabilities that make systemic change possible. We stay flexible, support bold thinking and evolve as we connect, test and learn.

Urban Futures: Our starting point for innovation

Cities in many regions are growing rapidly, but infrastructure and services aren't keeping pace. Millions of people still lack access to secure housing, clean water, sanitation and affordable energy. These challenges are particularly acute for women, people with disabilities, low income communities and other marginalised groups, who continue to face systemic barriers to mobility, safety and opportunity.

Innovation can support urban growth that is inclusive, resilient and community led. It can also help create more vibrant, joyful places to live. We invest in early stage solutions and those with potential to grow, prioritising initiatives led by under-represented founders and people with lived experience. We are focused on three areas of opportunity:

Design for inclusion

Innovations that improve safety, access and participation

Construction for resilience

Climate responsive, community driven approaches and materials

Systems for transformation

Expand participation in finance, technology, mobility and planning

Our other portfolios:

Africa

Our vision is a self-determining, prosperous and resilient Africa.

We support African led solutions in public health, inclusive economic growth, and leadership, with a focus on community development centred on women, girls, and youth. We take a pan African approach that embraces regional diversity and fosters collaboration across borders. Our work focuses on three key areas:

- Strengthening public health systems and delivery
- Advancing inclusive digital and green economic growth
- Investing in African leadership, voice and regional influence

Australia

Our vision is equity for women and girls in Australia.

With a focus on economic equity, freedom from violence, and justice, we prioritise First Nations women and girls, marginalised migrant and refugee women and girls, older women, and those living in rural and remote areas. We also support work that benefits their children. Our work centres on:

- Investing in Sydney's support sector and strengthening systems at scale
- Backing First Nations women's leadership and economic participation
- Addressing the criminalisation of women and girls and improving access to justice

About the Judith Neilson Foundation

We invest in people, places, and ideas to tackle inequality and help communities thrive. Based in Sydney, we work across Australia and Africa, and globally through our Innovation Portfolio. Through strong partnerships, we support solutions led by those most affected and best placed to drive change.