

First Nations Women, Cultural Fire Knowledge, Wellbeing and Memory

Project T8-A5

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National Indigenous Disaster Resilience

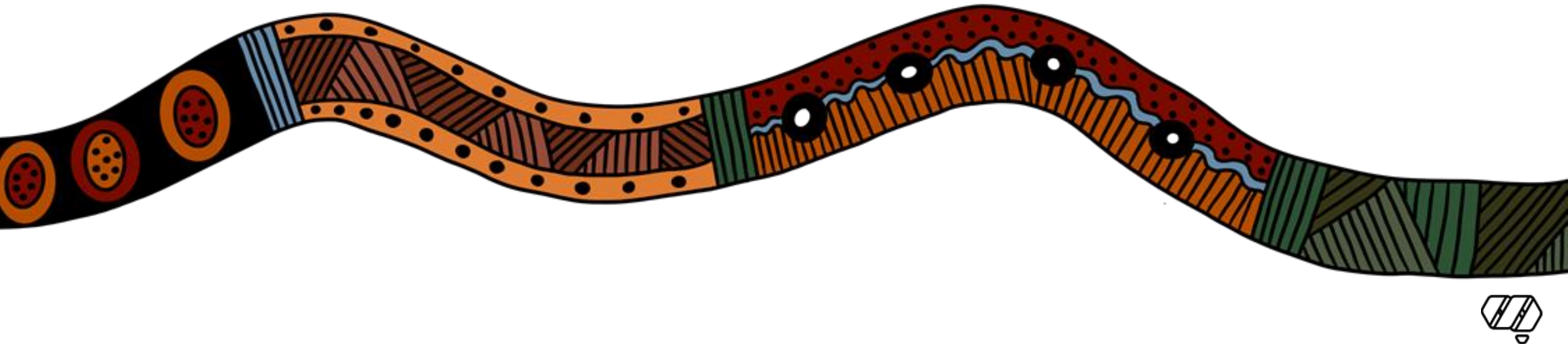


NATIONAL
INDIGENOUS
DISASTER
RESILIENCE



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge we are on Aboriginal Land.
Lands belonging to the Traditional Owners, the Kurna People.
We pay our respect to them, their culture, and Elders past and present.



AUSWTREX

The Australia Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (AUSWTREX) is a 12-day intensive training opportunity to enhance firefighting skills, with a specific focus on highlighting the role of Indigenous women in fire management and building a supportive international network.

The program is supported by the National Council for Fire and Emergency Services Australia and New Zealand (AFAC), Queensland Fire Department (QFD) and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and is being planned and implemented by the Indigenous Women's Training Exchange Working Group (Working Group). The Women-in-Fire Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (WRTEX) model was developed by Fire Networks, a North American based organisation established to restore relationships between people and fire so that responses to fire challenges are social, as well as scientific and environmental.



Research Project

AUSWTREX is the first of its kind in Australia and provides a unique opportunity to document evidence of the impact, for First Nations women, of gathering, engaging in cultural and other burning practices, and exchanging knowledge.

The research project is an impact evaluation of the AUSWTREX program and aims to understand if and how participating in the program impacts First Nations women's physical, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing, and their memory.

This project is significant as it will address current research gaps regarding the experiences of Indigenous women in caring for Country and cultural burning; contribute to a growing body of literature on the health and wellbeing impacts for Indigenous people in caring for Country through cultural burning practices, and explore novel concepts such as the impact of women-led gatherings, cultural burning and knowledge exchange on memory.

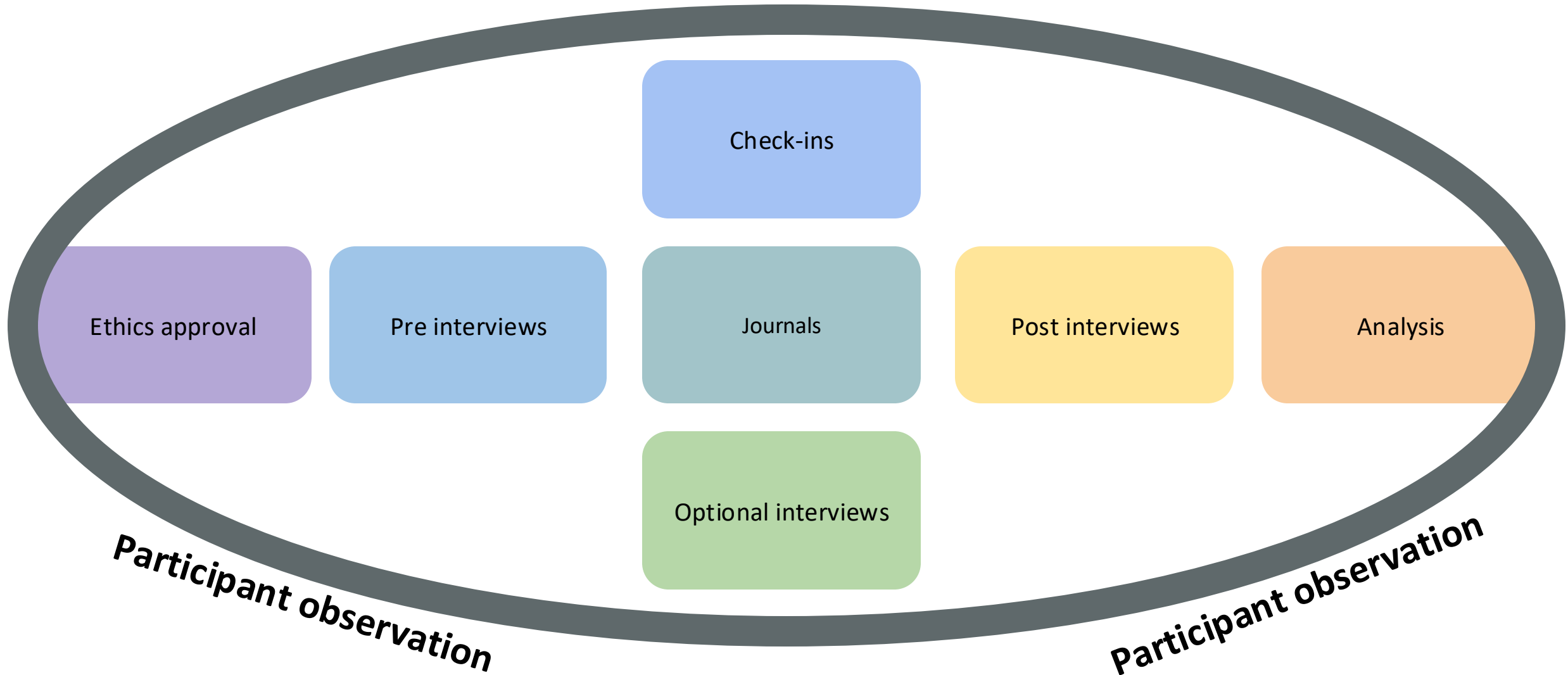


Project Objectives

- Understand the impact of First Nations women-led gathering and cultural fire exchange on First Nations women's wellbeing (physical, social, emotional and spiritual) and memory
- Inform future iterations of the WTREX program
- Contribute to a growing body of research on the health and wellbeing impacts for First Nations people engaged in caring for Country, especially in relation to the role of First Nations women and cultural burning



Methodology



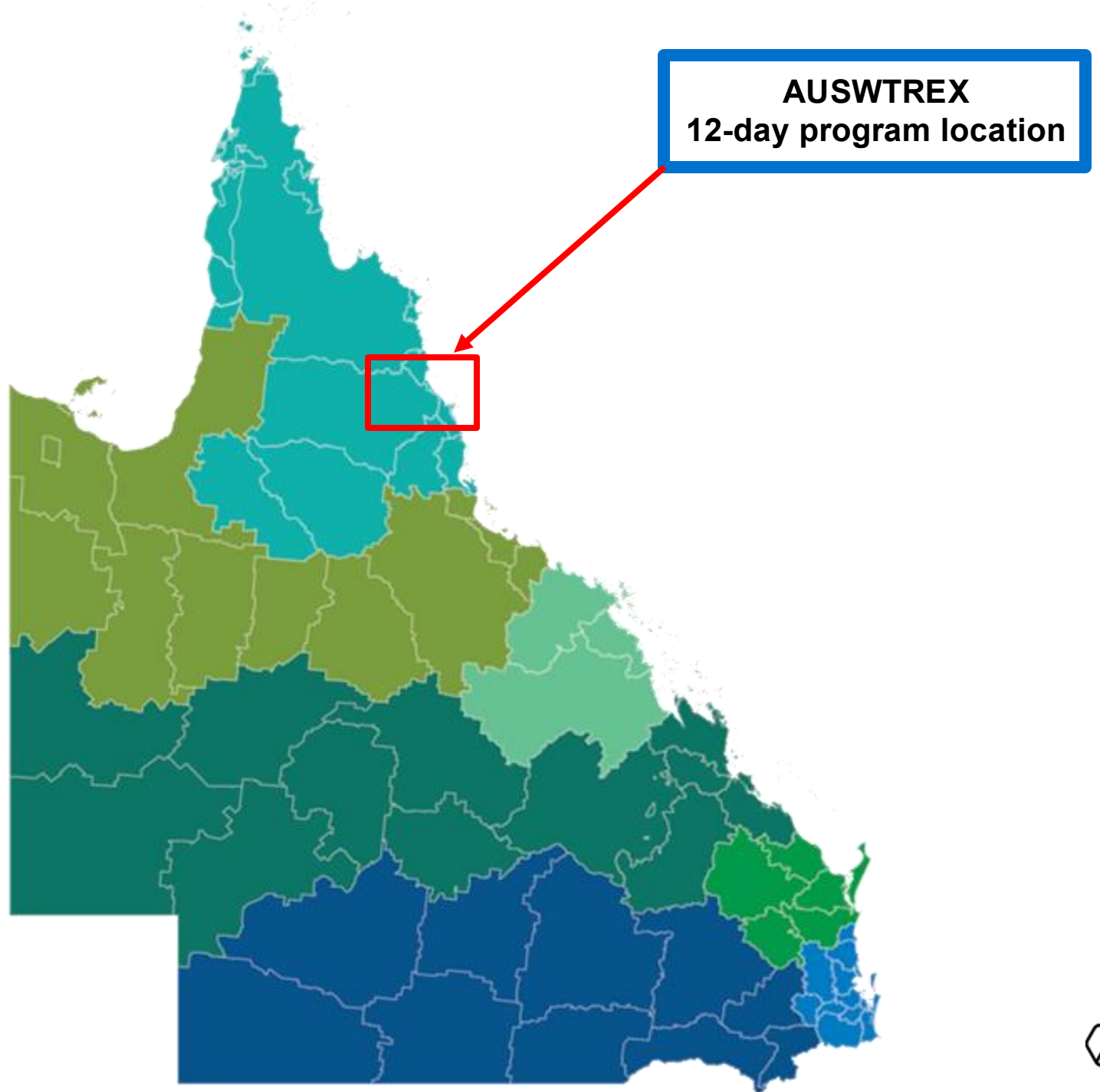
The Program

Gimuy Yirrganydji Country
(Cairns)

Ewamian Country
(Undara Volcanic
National Park)

**Bundarra and
Wadjanbarra Country**
(Tinaroo)

**Gunggandji Mandingalbaj
Yidinji Country**
(Yarrabah)



Meeting Everyone

Gimuy and Yirrganydji Country
Cairns



Different Backgrounds and Experiences

Ewamian Country
Undara Volcanic National Park



Different backgrounds and experiences coming together



Building Connections

Ewamian Country
Undara Volcanic National Park



Building comradery on the fireground



Building connections off the fireground



Sharing Knowledge and Skills

Ewamian Country
Undara Volcanic National Park



Sharing lived experiences



Sharing fire practitioner skills



Sharing culture



Sharing Country



Different Relationships with Fire

Bundarra and Wadjanbarra Country
Tinaroo

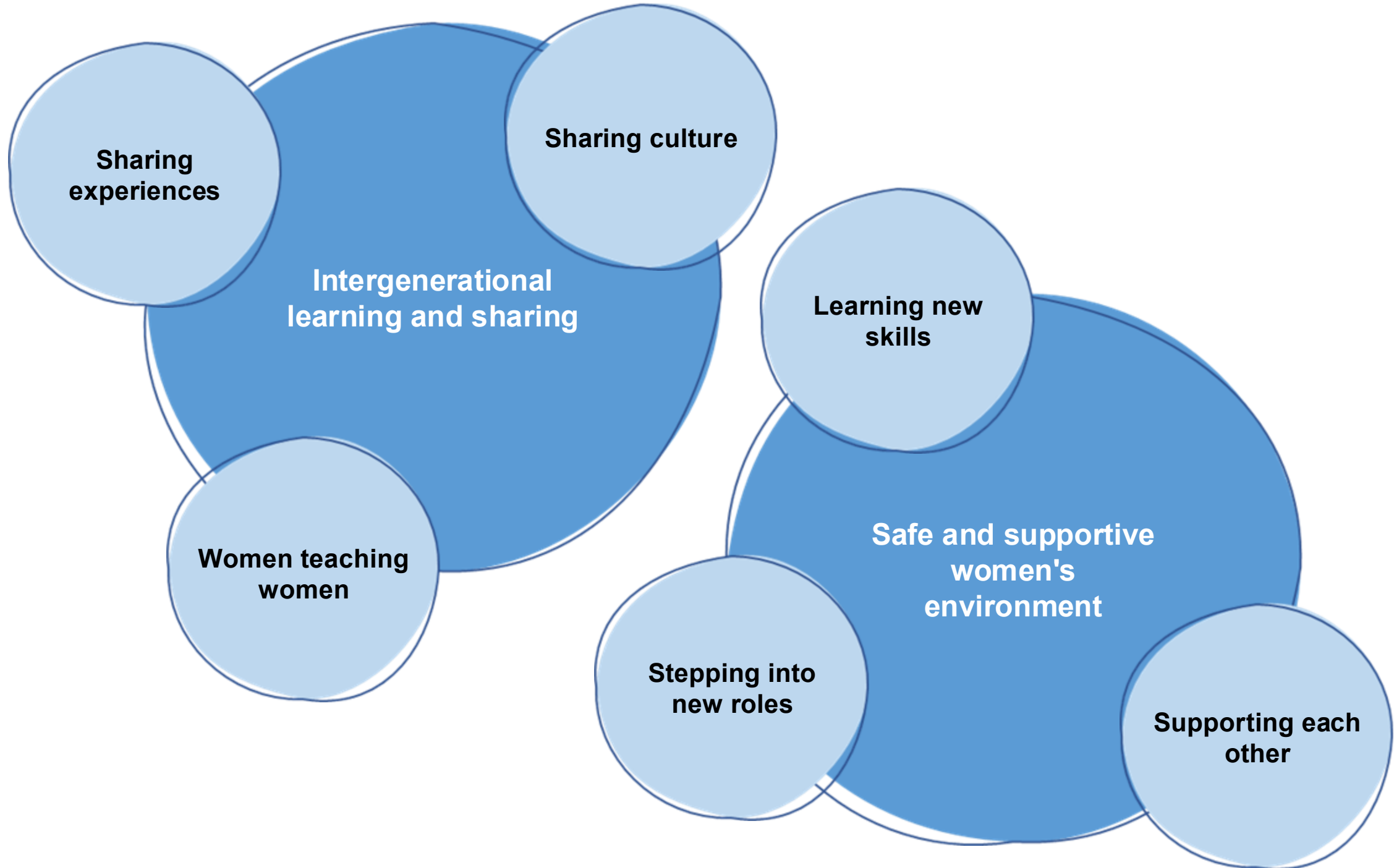


Cultural burning to protect cultural heritage and heal Country

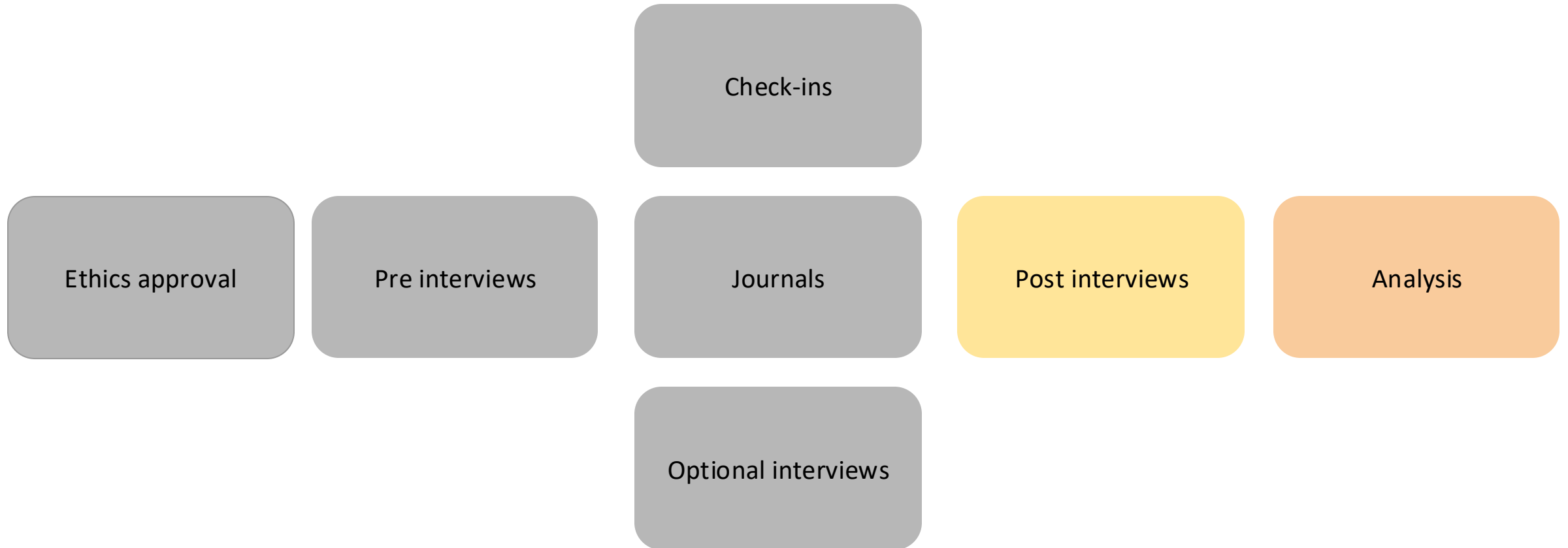


Prescribed burning for hazard reduction purposes





Where are we up to?



Comparative Analysis

To understand First Nations women's physical, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing **before** the program.

Pre-Interviews

AUSWTREX
program

Post-Interviews

To understand any changes for First Nations women's physical, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing and memory **after** the program.



