

SEDI Deep Experience Learning Community

Ethical storytelling for social change

Workshop 3: Getting specific

1 April 2026





“When I think of the Acknowledgement of Country, I think of the land and the relationship of First Nations people, its plants, its waterways. **Everything this land was before First Contact.**

There are the waterways through the piece that feeds the plant life. I’ve placed us within the plants, to show our connection to them. **We aren’t separate from country, but exist with it, as a bond that can’t be broken.”**

[Charlotte Allingham](#) – Wiradjuri, Ngiyampaa woman from Central West New South Wales (living in Naarm)

no stories are neutral - tell bettr stories

@DRJOEYLIU

Choosing our stories has the power to change our worlds.

Choosing better stories is all at once an act of refusal and reclaiming, of unlearning and generating. Choosing better stories starts with seeing what harmful stories are operating as background programming in our daily life, bringing them into the realm of conscious evaluation, revision, and agency.

Rather than letting systemic conditioning shape our worldviews and actions, we begin the complex work of naming our internal biases and intentionally selecting the better frameworks and evidence we desire for our internal architecture.

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01 Better stories are blueprints.

We know resistance requires action but we don't acknowledge enough that action wants clarity and safety. While it's impossible to eliminate uncertainty and risk in change work, stories as evidence become an invaluable resource. Every testimony of someone doing the unthinkable - the thing that required so much courage and offered so little guarantee - feeds our collective nervous system with motivation that we too can attempt something brave and maybe not perish.

We don't need replicable playbooks; we just need to hear the voices of those who have walked through the fire and lived to tell the tale. And somehow our feet will find their way.

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02 Better stories are lineage.

Since time immemorial, humans have connected with one another through story. This connection doesn't just happen among contemporaries. Stories weave us from generation to generation, past to present to future. As we stand among systems that aim to divide us and obscure our knowledge and belonging, the stories that flow through our communities and histories remind us of our constant interconnection. We are never alone.

Even though others have tried to bury our truths - remember, roots grow better underground anyways - let your voice access all that comes to you from your forbears' stories. Then bloom boldly.

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03 Better stories are culture.

Paradigm-shifts will never happen at the bidding of the few; culture is always a collective phenomenon. Look at the trillions of dollars that go into suppressing and conditioning public thought. You'll see how powerful collective culture-shaping is. When we understand how stories move us, we can choose better stories to believe and to tell. When many of us do this choosing work with one another, moving through tensions, considering multiple perspectives, deciding what's best for all of us...

...we refute top-down propaganda and reclaim culture-making as an ever-dynamic, aggregated, symbiotic process born from dialogue and reciprocity.

Instagram: @dr.joey.liu

Today's workshop



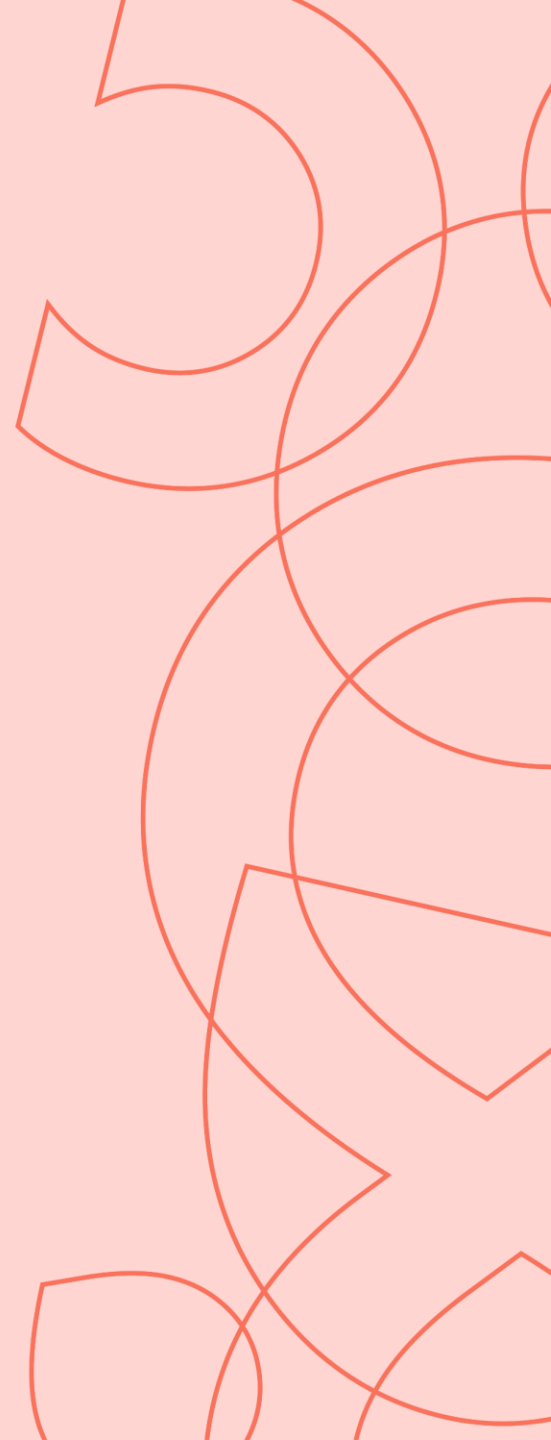
Workshop arc

1. Starting points 	2. Going deeper 	3. Getting specific 
<p>What brings us together? What values and driving purpose do we share?</p>	<p>What do we want to challenge, change and build?</p>	<p>What advice do we want to give so that more people and systems tell better stories?</p>
<p>Friday 13 Feb 2026 10am – 2pm (AEDT)</p>	<p>Tuesday 3 March 2026 10am – 2pm (AEDT)</p>	<p>Wed 1 April 2026 10.00-14.00 (AEDT)</p>

Session agenda

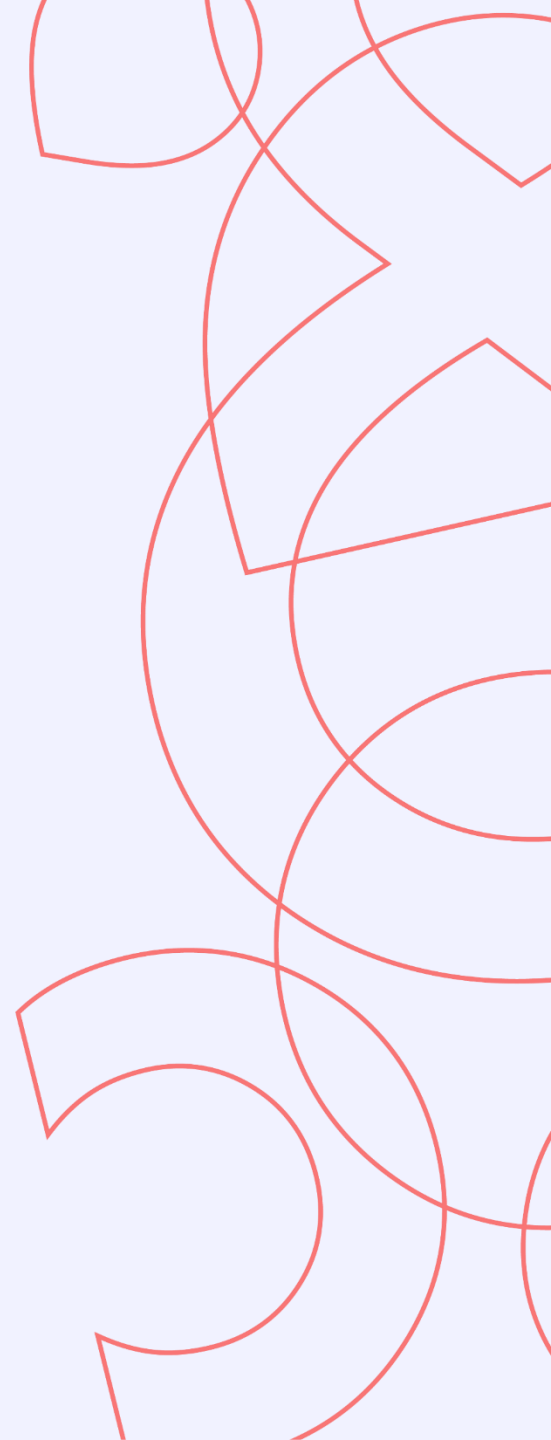
Timing		Activity
10.00-10.20	20 mins	Checking in & grounding
10.20-11.20	60 mins	Conversation about draft output
11.20-12.00	40 mins	Things we want to develop further
12.00-12.30	30 mins	Stretch break 🐾
12.30-13.00	30 mins	Sharing back from breakouts
13.00-13.45	45 mins	Reflections on our Learning Community
13.45-14.00	15 mins	Next steps & close

Checking in & grounding

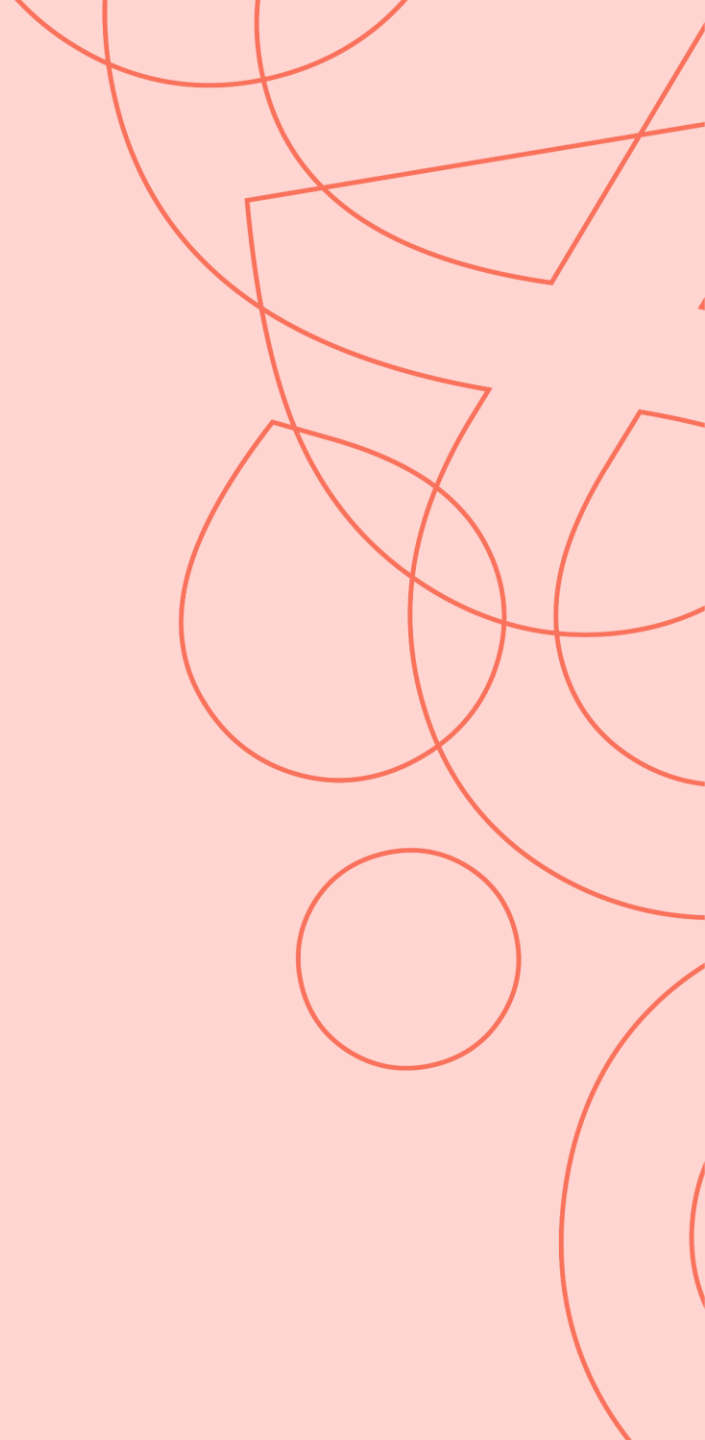


Check-in & grounding

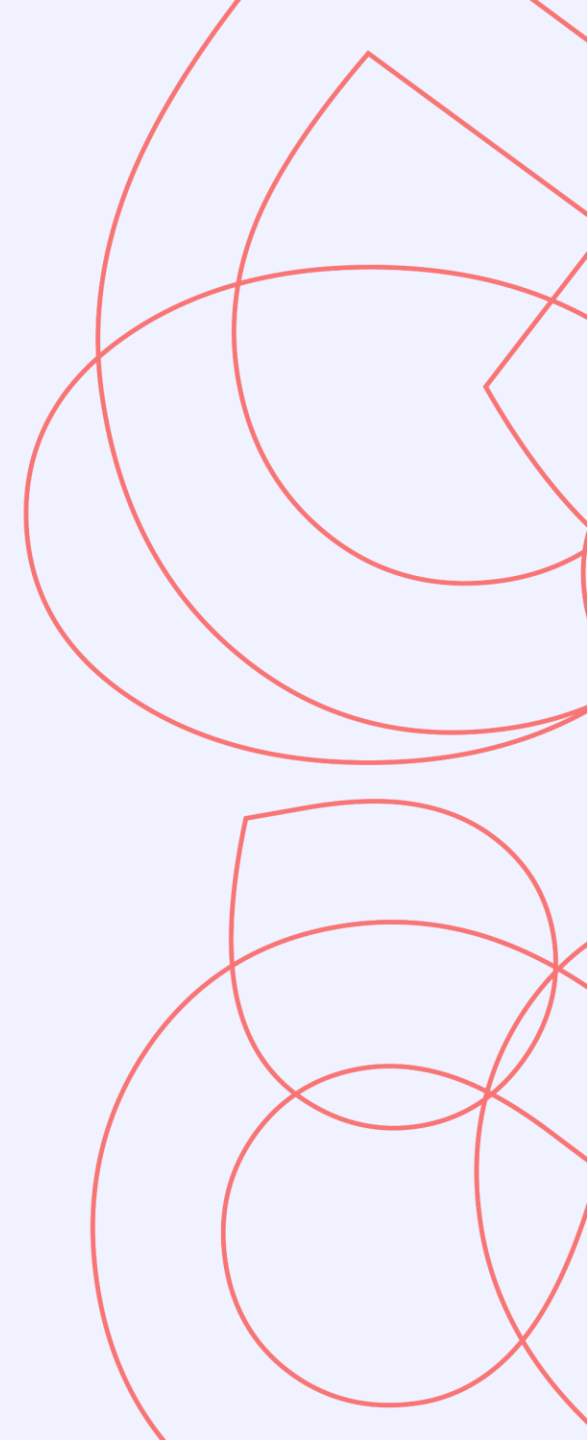
- How are you arriving into the space today?
- Anything you've been thinking about since last time?



Conversations about draft output



- First impressions?
- How does it make you feel?
- What do we need to talk about?
- What do we want to strengthen?
- What's missing?



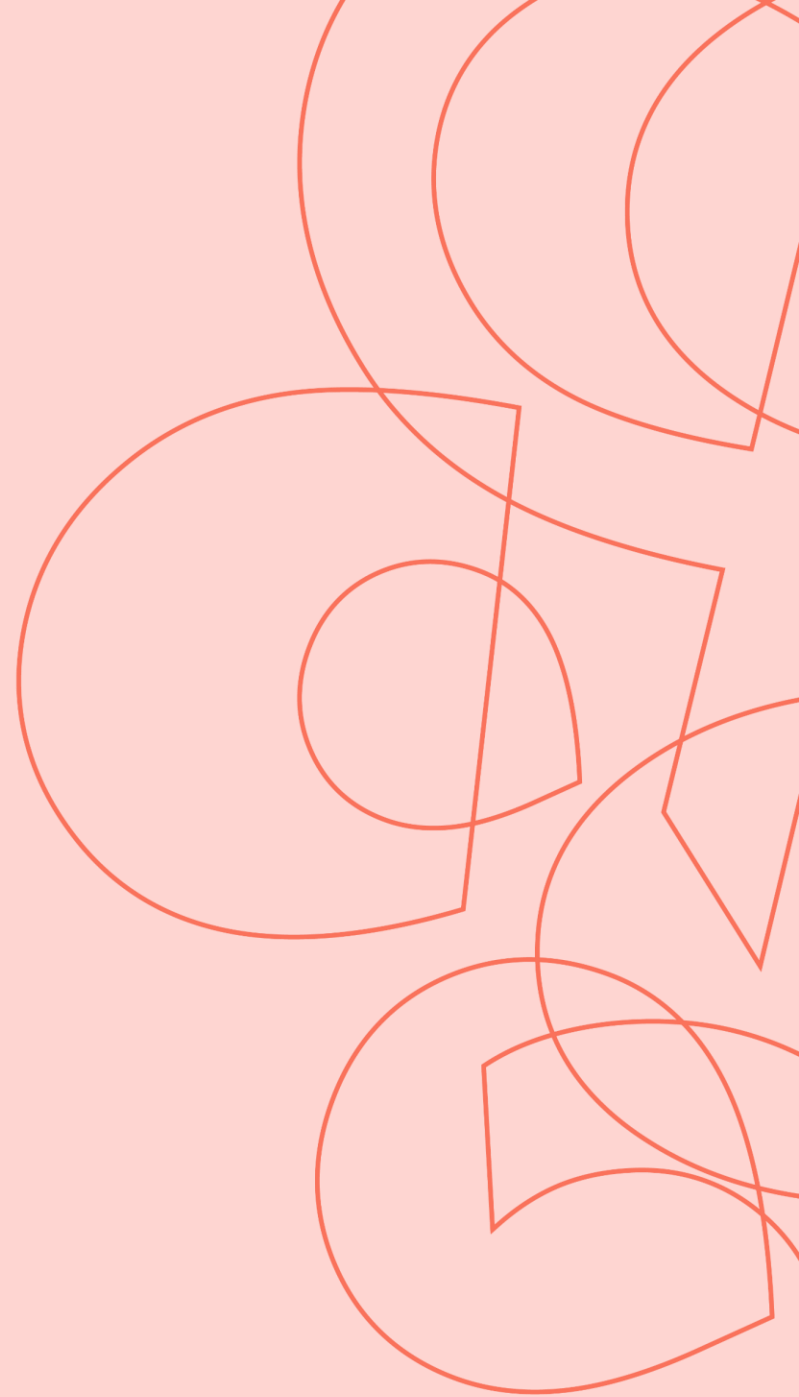
**Things we want to
develop further**



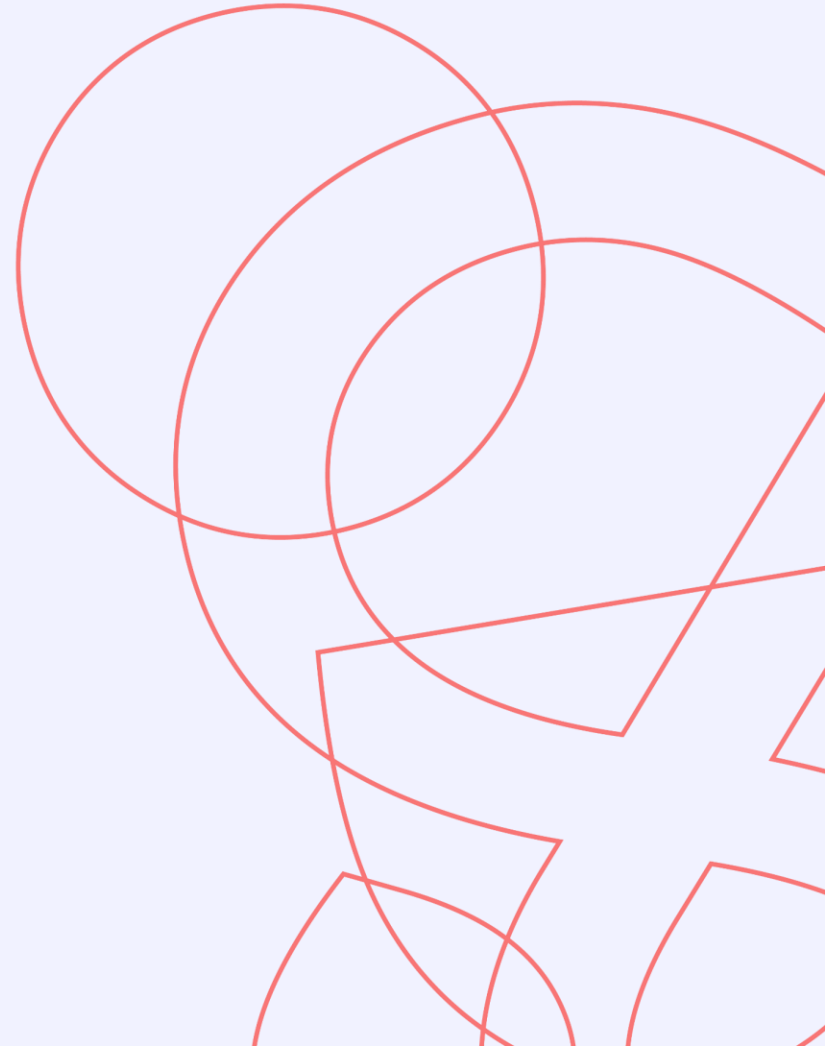
- Where are you drawn to?
- Full group or breakouts?



Sharing back from breakouts



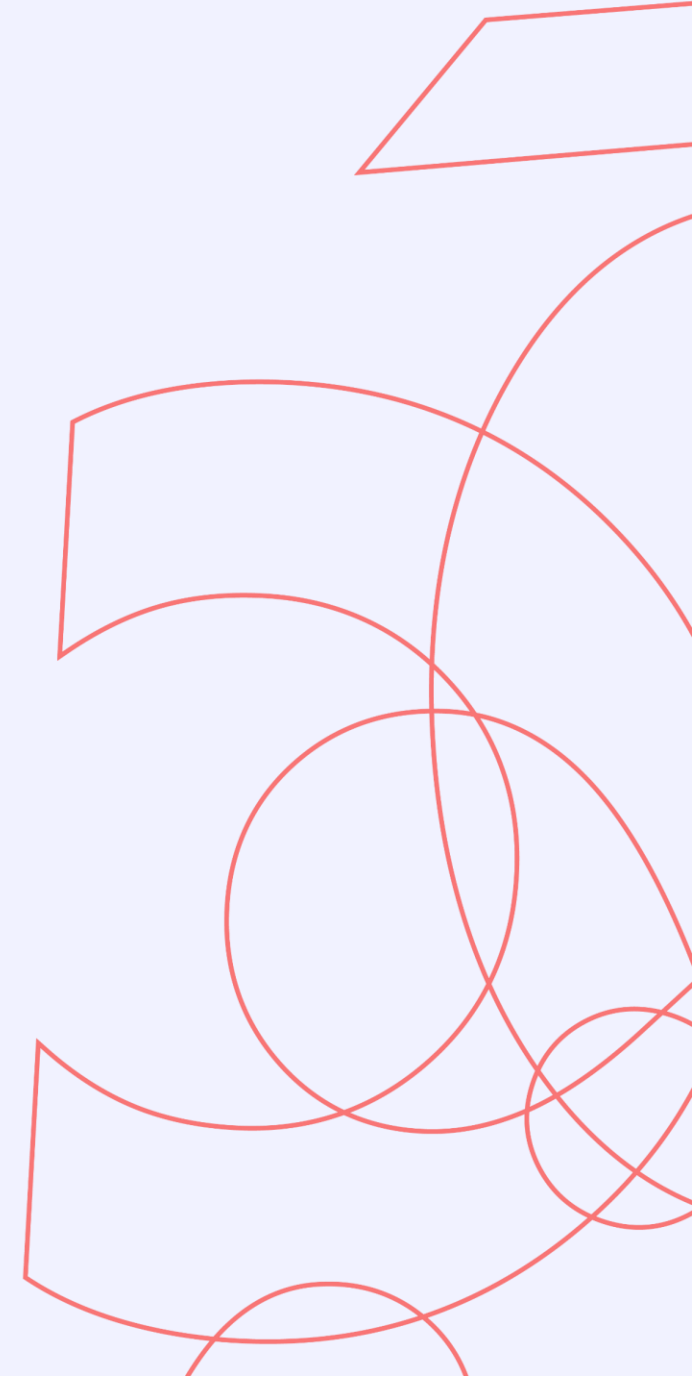
Are there any new things we want to build into the output?



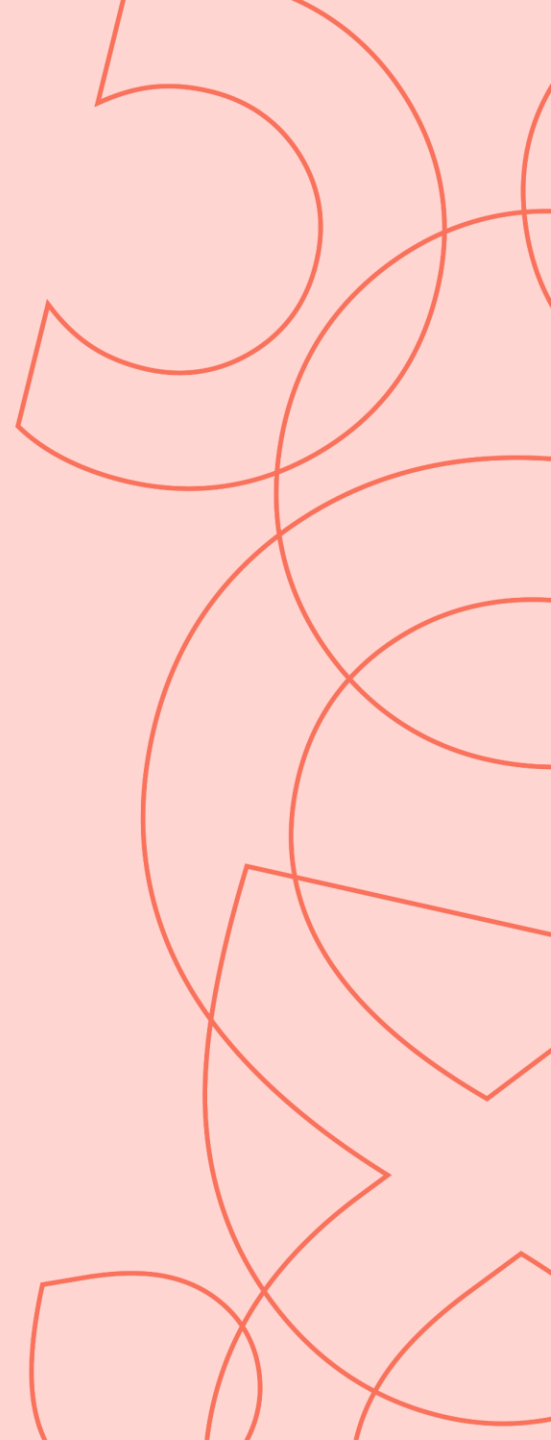
Reflections on our Learning Community



1. What's been helpful & valuable?
2. What would we change to improve the experience?
3. Are there things we want to do together next?
4. What additional support do we need for our work?



Checking out & next steps






Check out

- Are there any truths about storytelling that feel clearer?
- One-word describing where you're landing

Final things

- Are you comfortable with the workshop slides being uploaded to our Understory project page?
- Opportunities for further engagement:
 - Finalising the resource
 - Open Learning online event

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Our commitment to SEDI

1. Learning Community	2. Workshops	3. Create resource 	4. Learning event
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit a group of up to 10 practitioners via EOI process. Cross-section of social enterprises and locations from across Australia who are committed to telling more ethical stories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and facilitate 3x half-day convenings over 12 months. Share learnings, lived experiences and good practices that inform co-creation of a learning resource to support social enterprise sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a draft learning resource and test with the core group. Share and test the draft learning resource with a wider group of social enterprise organisations in collaboration with SEA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver an Open Learning online event (1-2 hours). Between May-June 2026, to share key learnings with the wider social enterprise community.

“Nothing ever ends poetically. It ends and we turn it into poetry. All that blood was never once beautiful. It was just red.”

– Kait Rokowski

Thank you

