

**OAKTREE**  
**DECOLONISING THE**  
**CLIMATE MOVEMENT**  
2024 REPORT



# OVERVIEW

Climate change remains as one of the most concerning issues for young Australians [1]. Whilst climate education has steadily grown across educational curriculums nation-wide, there remains a gap in providing decolonised climate justice training for marginalised young people, including refugees and immigrants.

In 2023, Oaktree received a \$9,000 grant from LotteryWest and the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, to deliver 3 climate justice trainings for young people from refugee backgrounds. We set out to ensure these trainings provided a comprehensive approach in recognising that for many **humanitarian refugees**, their stories are also **impacted** by the severe effects of **climate change**.

This program sought to **diversify Australia's climate justice movement** to include the perspectives of young refugee and immigrant leaders.

We would like to thank LotteryWest for their support in funding this program.

Oaktree Australia is Australia's largest youth-led international development organisation. We work, play, and learn on Aboriginal land, and we recognise that this always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Oaktree delivered three climate justice workshops across metropolitan Perth, in **Mirrabooka** and **Bentley**. Both suburbs were selected as priority areas due to the significant representation of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds residing, working, and studying in these areas [2].

Whilst the objective was to run these workshops across Western Australia, there were significant challenges beyond our control that impact the regional scope of this project.

Oaktree was able to reach **67 participants**, with around 22 participants attending each workshop. The attendees of these workshops included young people between the ages of 16 to 25 from refugee and migrant background from: **Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Ethiopia, Syria, Lebanon, South Africa, India, Pakistan, and Palestine**.

Our research showcases **78% of participants** did not believe the Australian climate justice movement was inclusive of refugee and migrant perspectives.

We are, however, optimistic that this workshop transformed the understanding of diverse young leader's power in transforming the climate justice movement.



# INTRODUCTION

Our climate justice workshops sought to challenge the status quo of climate education to include the diverse lived experience of young refugees and immigrants nation-wide. This program was the first of its kind, and upheld Oaktree's values of decolonisation and innovation.

In our goal to ensure young people are strengthening their civic engagement within the climate justice movement, Oaktree incorporated the following elements:



This program enhanced a **decolonised model of participatory learning**. Oaktree was excited to learn as much from the attendees stories to strengthen our future work, as we were to upskill and train young leaders.

This workshop encouraged the creation of **policy recommendations and priorities** that young refugees would like to see prioritised in decolonising climate education.

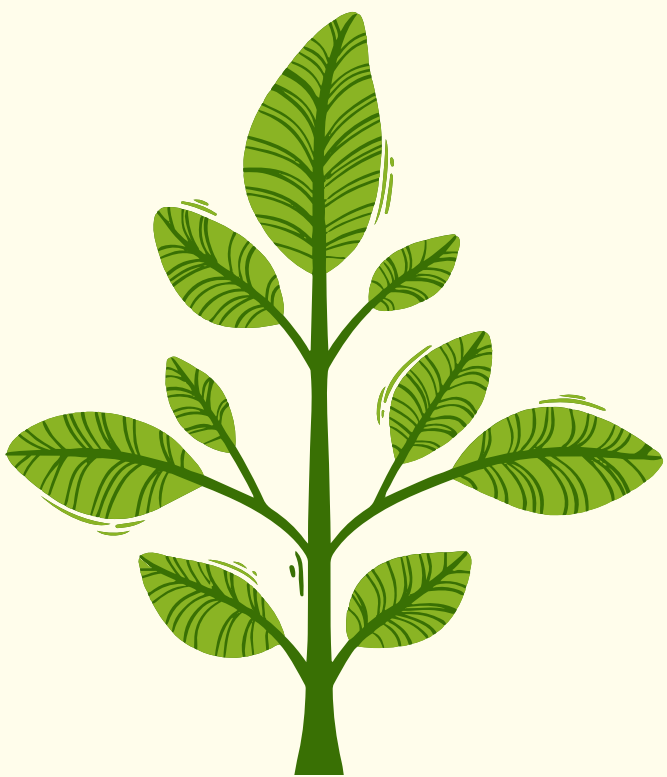


The incorporation of **story-telling techniques** were prioritised in creating a safe space to **combat polarisation and misinformation**.

# PROJECT OUTLINE

## PART ONE: STORYTELLING

In creating safety and trust for a room full of strangers, our goal was to ensure young people could individually map their stories prior to having open discussions about the intersection of the refugee and climate crisis'. Attendees were then encouraged to share these stories in the wider group.

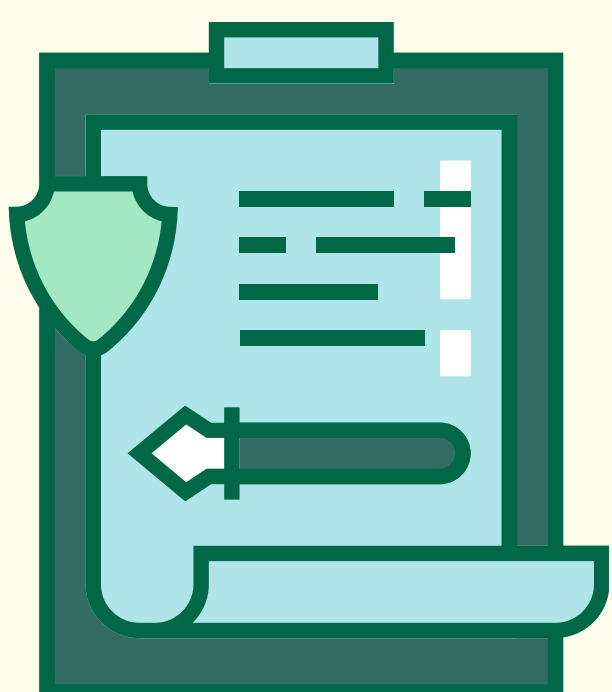


## PART TWO: UNDERSTANDING AUSTRALIA'S CLIMATE MOVEMENT

Participants were provided a comprehensive overview of Australia's current climate crisis, with a specific focus of how different communities are experiencing different challenges. We also dove into the actions different stakeholders are taking to mitigate climate change.

## PART THREE: INTERSECTING OUR STORIES

Participants then dove into different activities to explore how their individual journey's are also connected to the climate crisis through group consultations.



## PART FOUR: POLICY

To encourage the long-term sustainability of this training, participants were encouraged to work in groups and to explore different policy recommendations that can be utilised in our future work, especially in the Duty of Care Bill.



# OUTCOMES

## RECOMMENDATION ONE

**Provide more community based programs to integrate intergenerational perspectives between cultural communities.**



## RECOMMENDATION TWO

**The creation of more long-term and sustainable leadership programs for refugee leaders to be included and amplified within climate policies.**

## RECOMMENDATION THREE

**Providing an intersectional approach within school curriculums to empower the next generation of young leaders.**

## RECOMMENDATION FOUR

**Providing young refugees with more opportunities to engage in pre-existing climate programs.**

These recommendations were the most recurring suggestions across all workshops.



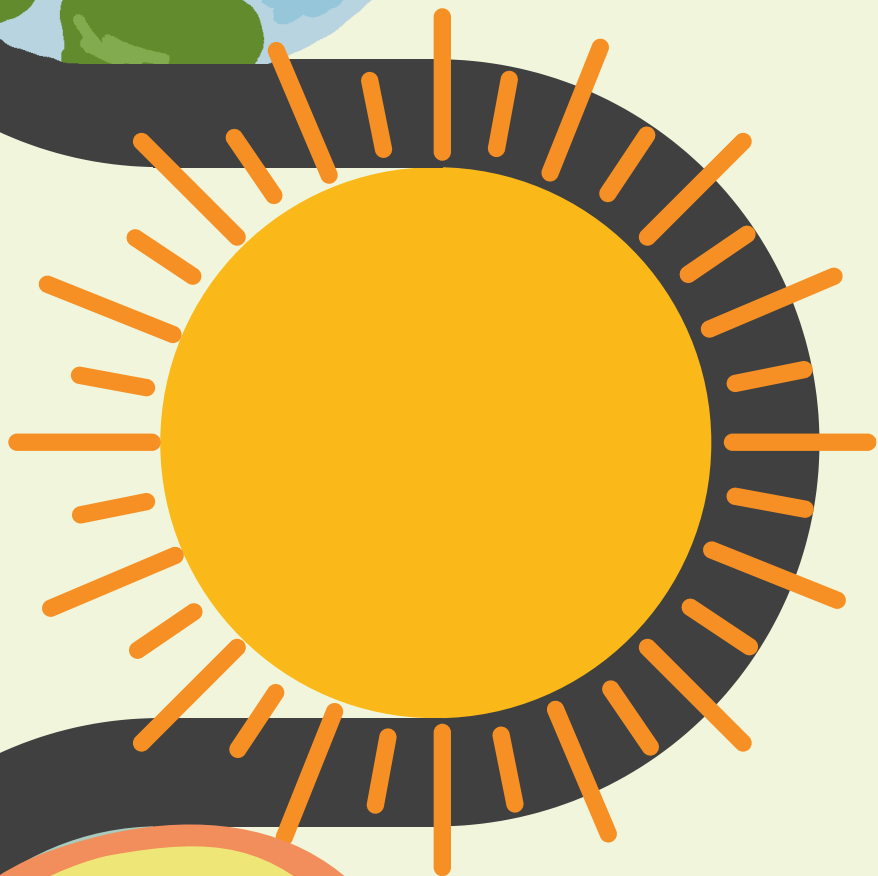


# TESTIMONIES



"I have gained an understanding of the ways in which colonisation has impacted not only climate justice but understandings of climate justice."

• **PARTICIPANT**



"I was really interested to hear about how we can influence policy and how Oaktree can help change how climate advocacy can be more diverse"

• **PARTICIPANT**



"I was also interested in hearing other people's stories about how they have never had access to climate change education, but have all been affected by [climate change]"

• **PARTICIPANT**



"I also have gained a new community of people who help me understand and navigate my immigrant identity."

• **PARTICIPANT**



"I gathered new information on the ways in which climate policies can be applied for and integrated into local and government policies"

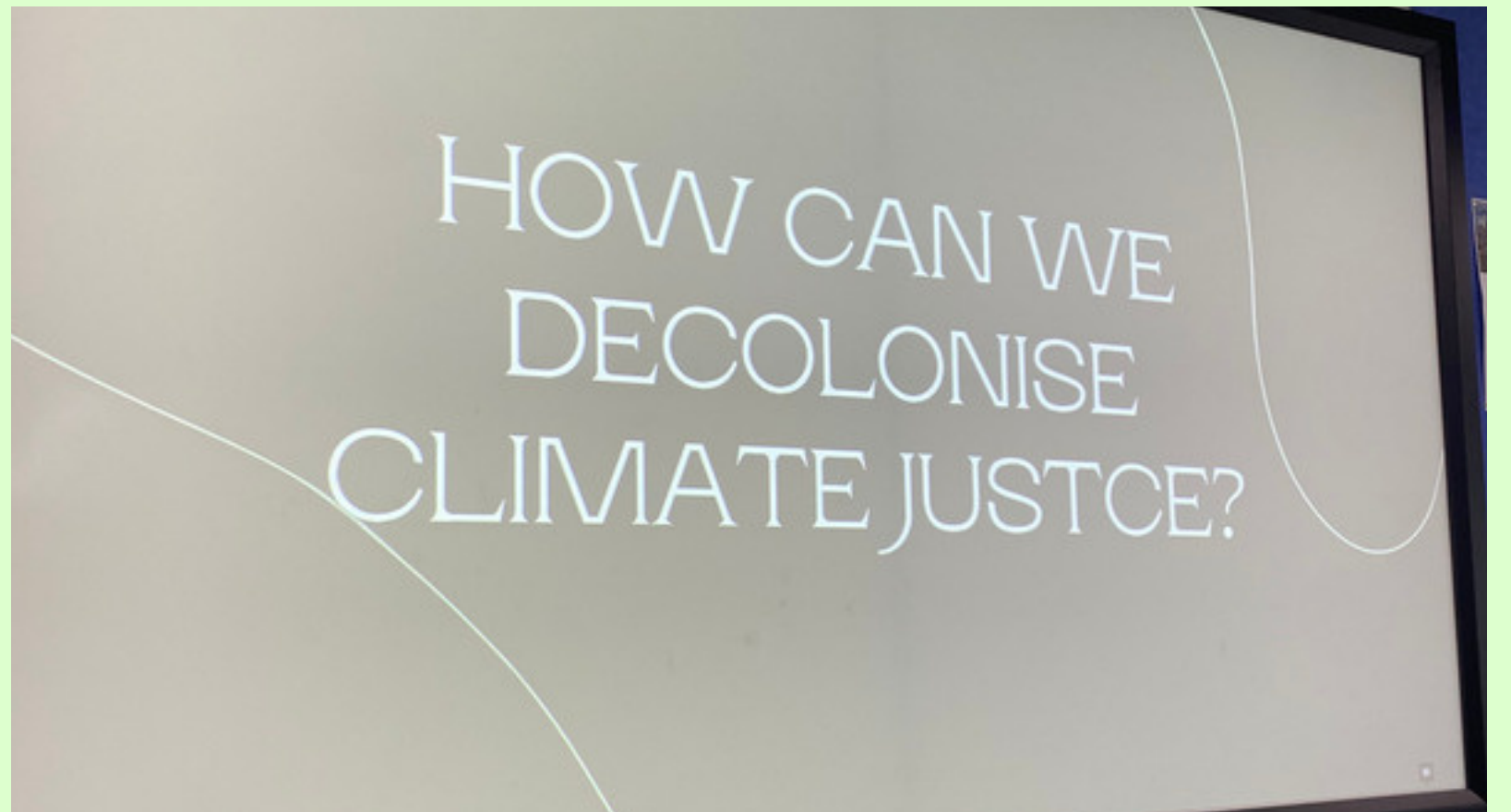
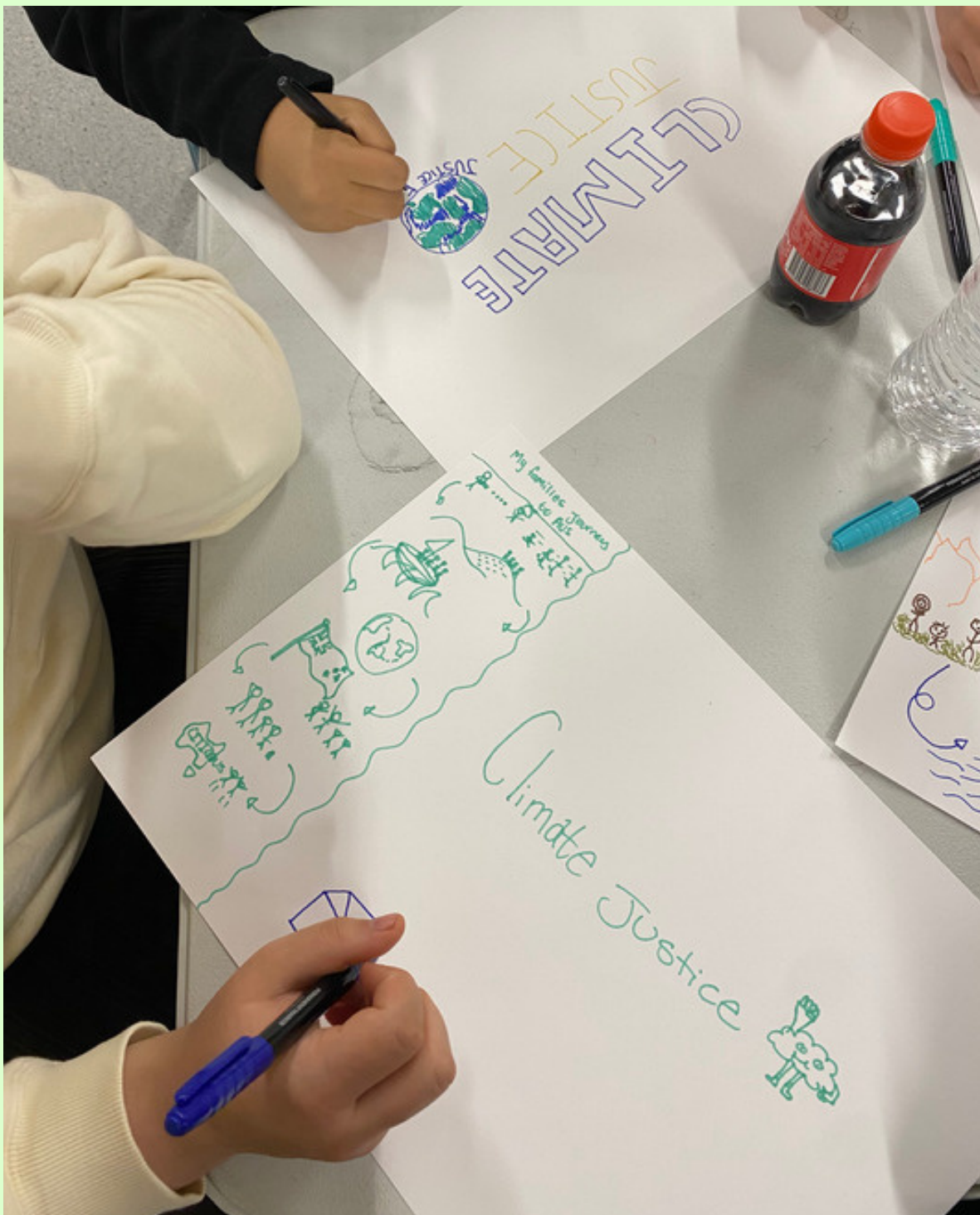
• **PARTICIPANT**



# REFERENCES

[1] World Health Organization. Climate Change, Health, and Intergenerational Equity, 2022. [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/climate-change/who-unfccc-cop27\\_cchie\\_11122\\_lc.pdf?sfvrsn=f93abe44\\_3&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/climate-change/who-unfccc-cop27_cchie_11122_lc.pdf?sfvrsn=f93abe44_3&download=true)

[2] Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2021 Perth Census All Data, 2021. <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/CED513>



Please note, all images utilised cover the faces of attendees to ensure their safe and protection is prioritised.