

Just Us League is gathering First Nations stories for a language model. The stories stay theirs.

Just Us League acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we meet in the Illawarra, and pays respects to Elders past and present. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who join our programs.

The Just Us League Limited is a registered charity in Wollongong. Through our Australian AI Society program we work on language models for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and stories. The knowledge belongs to the communities it comes from. We look after a technical process. We don't own the material.

We've been sourcing training data from stories First Nations people have agreed, or may agree, to share. Nothing goes in without permission. Permission can be withdrawn. Some knowledge is restricted, by family, by initiation, by gender, by Country. That material stays out. It doesn't belong in a public model.

We've run some fine-tuning already. It's early work. It shows the method can learn from a small, agreed set. It isn't a finished model, and it isn't "an Aboriginal AI." A model trained on one community's material is exactly that.

Over the next 12 months we want to release our first dataset and a language model trained from it. That only happens if the right people still want it out, in writing, and on terms they set. Communities decide what goes in, what stays closed, and what comes back out again. If they want something removed later, it comes out.

This work moves slowly, and it should. We won't name communities or organisations here until they've agreed to be named. If you'd like to talk about it, write to Evan Morrison, Chair, at evan@jul.org.au.