

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

HERB FEITH INDONESIAN ENGAGEMENT CENTRE

Championing Connection, Social Justice & Climate
Resilience Across Australia and Indonesia

HERB FRAMEWORK

Higher Degree by Research •
Engagement • Research • Bahasa &
Cultural Literacy

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Advancing Monash University's Impact
2030 Priorities

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples of the Greater Kulin Nation who are the traditional owners and ongoing custodians of the land where Monash Australia stands. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and thank them for their deep knowledge of place and longstanding recognition of the importance of community and connection.

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About the Centre

The Herb Feith Indonesian Engagement Centre honours the legacy of Herb Feith, a pioneering scholar and social activist who dedicated his life to building bridges of understanding between Australia and Indonesia. The Centre serves as Monash University’s primary focal point for engaging with Indonesia, delivering impactful research, advancing educational excellence, and nurturing enduring community partnerships.

Welcome from the Director

Associate Professor Sharyn Graham Davies

Director, Herb Feith Indonesian Engagement Centre

It has been another exciting year building upon Herb Feith's legacy. Guided by our commitment to social justice, the Centre has continued to champion connection and understanding through its key focus areas: **H** for Higher Degree by Research, **E** for Engagement, **R** for Research, and **B** for Bahasa/cultural literacy—all encapsulated in our acronym, **HERB**.

In 2025, we have placed a particular emphasis on research, with projects exploring gender, social justice, and climate resilience at the forefront of our work. We have also been delighted to host talented interns, including AIYEP intern Fikri Ardiansyah, who played a key role in leading the development of this annual report.

Throughout the year, the Centre has continued to bridge the gap between Australia and Indonesia, embedding social justice into everything we do and contributing meaningfully to the priorities outlined in Monash University's Impact 2030 strategy.

We are particularly excited to see an uptick in initiatives to support Asian languages across Australia. From engagement with the House Standing Committee on Education, the Inquiry into Building Asia Capability, to the advocacy and groundwork led by Tim Watts and colleagues, there is real momentum inspiring Australians to engage more deeply with Asia.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to advancing our refreshed vision and purpose, deepening the Centre's impact through research, education, and engagement. Our gratitude goes to our partners, collaborators, supporters, and dedicated staff. Your contributions continue to be integral to our progress, and we look forward to 2026.

Sabina Puspita

Assistant Professor

Sabina Puspita

Deputy Director, Herb Feith
Centre

Welcome from the Deputy Director

Throughout 2025, our Centre has sustained Herb Feith's legacy by focusing our research activities in many places across Indonesia on proposing participatory and scientific approaches to building the resilience of vulnerable communities and biodiversity in the country amid accelerating climate change. In these research activities, we partnered with not only multidisciplinary researchers and civil society organizations but also East Indonesia's local government organizations.

Furthermore, our Centre has played a key role in connecting researchers from Monash Indonesia and Australia with our partners from Indonesian public universities such as the University of Indonesia, Gadjah Mada University, State University of Gorontalo, Mulawarman University, and the University of Papua; and from universities overseas

such as the University of Sussex, University of Warwick and Nottingham Trent University, for the success of these projects.

We are also honored to have been invited to two key events and channel our continuous efforts to bridge research with advocacy works for vulnerable communities' rights. In May 2025, we conveyed our key research findings on the Greater Jakarta Area's domestic workers' health and financial wellbeing to the national parliament's legislative body (BALEG DPR-RI). Then, in June 2025, we reflected on World Refugee Day together in-person with the inspiring members of the Sisterhood community who are women transit refugees.

Looking at a few of these highlights in 2025, we are excited by the prospects of engaging further meaningful and sustained collaborations in the near future, bringing us closer to the Monash Impact 2030 goals. *Ayo, kita terus semangat!*

Centre Focus & Strategic Framework

Our Vision

An interconnected, prosperous, and egalitarian relationship between Indonesia and Australia.

Our Mission

Delivering social justice-focused research, education, events and partnerships through Monash University, to strengthen connections between Indonesia and Australia.

The HERB Key Focus Areas Framework

H

Higher Degree by Research

Supporting PhD scholars & emerging researchers

E

Engagement

Fostering bilateral ties, policy & community dialogue

R

Research

Social justice, climate resilience & GEDSI focused

B

Bahasa & Literacy

Promoting language capability & cultural understanding

2025 Key Operational Highlights Timeline

FEB

Co-Design Workshop on Stroke Support Ecosystem in Manado & Gorontalo

SEP

Gender & Climate Fieldwork (Jakarta) & Paotere Harbour MoFCREC Project (Makassar)

MAY

BALEG DPR-RI Parliamentary Presentation & Australia Awards Climate Fellows Visit

OCT

Disability Inclusion Workshop (Kupang) & AIYEP Youth Exchange Delegation

JUN

World Refugee Day Reflection with Sisterhood Transit Community

NOV

AIMEP Welcome Dinner at Islamic Museum of Australia

JUL

Indonesian Language Holiday Program (ILHOP) at Clayton Campus

DEC

Annual Synthesis & 2026 Strategic Planning

AUG

KONEKSI KIE Roadshow in Makassar & Strategic Bilateral Engagement

IMPACT

Advancing Monash Impact 2030 across 5 key Indonesian provinces

Herb Feith on Gender and Climate Research

JAKARTA | SEPTEMBER 2025

Gender and Climate Research Team, Jakarta

With support from the Monash–Warwick Alliance, Professor Sharyn Graham Davies (Director of the Herb Feith Centre) joined a research visit to Jakarta to better understand how climate change is affecting women’s everyday lives. The visit brought together feminist climate activists, community members, and researchers who shared stories of living through flooding, coastal erosion, and rapid urban development.

Visits to the northern sea walls, the PIK reclamation area, and Muara Baru port offered a direct look at how communities are navigating rising tides and shifting coastlines. Conversations on the ground revealed a clear gap between official climate policies and what women face daily, especially those who carry the responsibility of caring for families during crises. This collaboration deepened connections between Monash, Warwick, and local partners, reaffirming the Centre’s commitment to climate justice that listens to and centres women’s voices.

KONEKSI Climate Change Research (MoFCREC Project)

PAOTERE HARBOUR, MAKASSAR | SEPTEMBER 2025

MoFCREC Team at Paotere Harbour

Community Dialogue in Makassar

The MoFCREC project at Paotere Harbour in Makassar brought together local leaders, community partners, and researchers to strengthen community-driven climate resilience. Key attendees included Dr Jufri Rahman (Provincial Secretary of South Sulawesi), Todd Dias (Australian Consul-General Makassar), Dr Amson Padolo (Head of South Sulawesi Disaster Management Agency), and Professor Sharyn Graham Davies.

During the visit, the team met with residents and local stakeholders to understand the challenges facing coastal communities, from rising sea levels and stronger storms to more frequent tidal flooding. Women, older adults, and people with disabilities often face greater risks and have fewer resources during emergencies, underscoring the need for climate planning that includes and prioritises vulnerable groups. The project demonstrates how meaningful climate solutions begin with communities themselves.

Community & Disability Inclusion Projects

Children's Book on Climate Resilience

KUPANG & NATIONAL OUTREACH | OCTOBER 2025

Children reading climate resilience book in Kupang

Prof Sharyn Davies presenting book to Dr Anies Baswedan

The Centre's children's book, inspired by real stories of community resilience, was showcased at the Kupang Literacy Festival and featured in the *Timor Suka Membaca* program. The book's impact crossed borders as WILTA incorporated it into Australian classrooms to teach Indonesian language and environmental awareness. During a visit to Monash Australia, Dr Anies Baswedan (former Governor of Jakarta) warmly endorsed the book, praising its role in empowering children. New editions tailored for Makassar and Lombok are currently in development.

Co-Design Workshop on Stroke Support Ecosystem

MANADO AND GORONTALO | FEBRUARY 2025

Stroke ecosystem co-design session

Stakeholders at Stroke Co-Design Workshop

The second co-design workshop to develop an online community platform for stroke survivors and caregivers brought together healthcare professionals, stroke survivors, and digital health experts in Manado and Gorontalo. Supported by KONEKSI, the project focuses on building responsive, inclusive digital health solutions grounded in everyday caregiving realities.

Disability Inclusion Workshop

KUPANG, NTT | OCTOBER 2025

Garamin Disability Inclusion Workshop Group in Kupang

Supported by Australia Awards, the Herb Feith Centre partnered with Garamin, a local NGO advocating for disability inclusion, to facilitate a community workshop in Kupang. The workshop engaged local leaders, government representatives, and advocates to ensure people with disabilities actively shape regional development policies and climate programs.

Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP)

CLAYTON CAMPUS, MONASH UNIVERSITY | OCTOBER 2025

AIYEP Delegates with Tim Watts at Clayton

21 Indonesian delegates representing all 21 provinces visited Monash University's Clayton Campus during their four-week stay in Australia. Delegates met with Centre leaders and engaged in discussions with Tim Watts on youth diplomacy, cross-cultural leadership, and strengthening bilateral ties. The Centre also hosted AIYEP intern Fikri Ardiansyah, who led the development of this 2025 Annual Report.

Indonesian Language Excellence & Culture

CELEBRATING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

AAA Award Excellence

We proudly congratulate **Olivia Evans**, recipient of the prestigious Australia Indonesia Association (AAA) Award. Her dedication to Indonesian language mastery and cross-cultural advocacy embodies the core ethos of the Herb Feith Centre's educational mission.

KONEKSI Knowledge & Innovation Exchange (KIE) Roadshow

MAKASSAR | AUGUST 2025

Prof Sharyn Davies on GEDSI Panel at KONEKSI Roadshow

Attended by Director Prof. Sharyn Davies, the KONEKSI KIE Roadshow focused on embedding Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) into climate and environmental research. Co-facilitated with the BaKTI Foundation, the event showcased innovative poster presentations and collaborative dialogue.

Bilateral Collaboration & Fellowships

Strengthening Australia–Indonesia Diplomatic & Academic Relations

MELBOURNE | AUGUST 2025

Prof Sharyn Davies with Indonesia Institute colleagues

Meeting with Consul-General Bapak Yohannes Jatmiko Heru Prasetyo & MP Tom McIntosh

Professor Sharyn Davies hosted leaders from the Indonesia Institute at Monash University and key dignitaries including Consul-General Bapak Yohannes Jatmiko Heru Prasetyo and MP Tom McIntosh to discuss expanding bilateral collaboration across trade, education, culture, and technology.

Australia Awards Climate Resilient Fellowship

MELBOURNE & EASTERN INDONESIA | MAY–JUNE 2025

Australia Awards Fellows holding certificates in Melbourne

The Centre was awarded an Australia Awards Fellowship by DFAT, bringing 6 fellows from partner organizations in Eastern Indonesia to Monash University Australia: Yafas Aguson Lay & Liani Nainatun (GARAMIN NTT), Nur Syarif Ramadhan (PERDIK Makassar), Rosmiati Sain (LBH APIK), Suryani Eka Wijaya (BAPPEDA NTB), and Tamhid (DP3A NTB). After completing intensive training in Melbourne, fellows returned to implement high-impact climate adaptation projects in Lombok, Kupang, and Makassar.

AIMEP: Connecting with Community in Melbourne

ISLAMIC MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA | NOVEMBER 2025

AIMEP Welcome Dinner Table

AIMEP Community Group Photo

As part of the Australia–Indonesia Muslim Exchange Program (AIMEP), delegates joined a Welcome Dinner on Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country. Opened with a Welcome to Country by Uncle Andrew Hassan Gardiner, speeches were delivered by Consul General Yohanes Jatmiko, AII Chair Lydia Santoso, Dr Jemma Purdey, Prof Sharyn Davies, and Mosaic Connections Director Brynna Rafferty-Brown.

Indonesian Language Holiday Program (ILHOP)

CLAYTON CAMPUS | JULY 2025

Cooking session and Angklung performance Pencak Silat demo and Congklak game

Held on 10–11 July 2025, ILHOP provided high school students with dynamic language instruction and immersive cultural activities, including *pencak silat* (martial arts), *angklung* music, traditional games (*conglak* and *lompat karet*), and cooking sessions (*sate ayam*, *martabak telur*, *bakwan*, *klepon*).

Our Newest PhD Students

Iuwita Nirmala Sari

Juwita Nirmala Sari

Monash Indonesia Inspire Doctoral Scholarship (2024)

Juwita holds a Bachelor's in Urban Planning from Brawijaya University and a Master's in Geo-information Science from Wageningen University. She spent 7 years at the World Bank as a Disaster Risk Management Analyst and Gender Focal Point. Her PhD explores socio-economic dynamics in large-scale infrastructure using Jakarta's Giant Sea Wall as a case study.

Jessica Kim

Jessica Kim

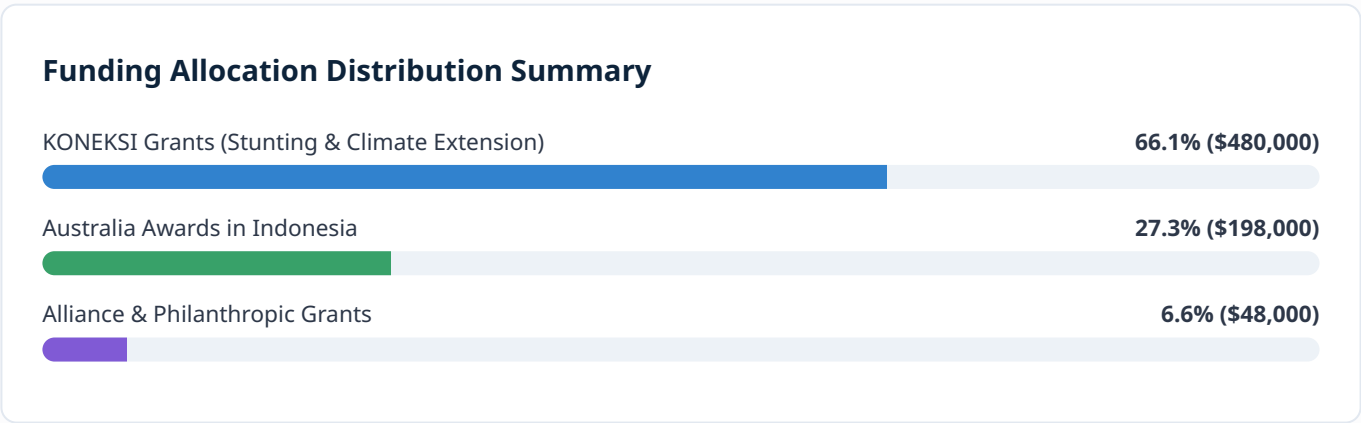
Herb Feith Scholarship Recipient

Jessica is a PhD student at Monash University Indonesia. Her research investigates land narratives and their intersections with gender, capital, and cultural production. Her current project explores how rural women's music and day-to-day resistance adapt to precarity in post-Reformasi Indonesia, using *Mother Bank* as a primary case study.

Research Funding & Financial Summary 2025

In 2025, the Herb Feith Indonesian Engagement Centre secured substantial competitive external grant funding and philanthropic gifts, empowering our multidisciplinary research teams to execute transformative initiatives across climate resilience, health equality, and community development.

Funding Category / Project Description	Amount (AUD)
Herb Feith Centre Philanthropic Gifts	\$18,000
KONEKSI Extension Project (Climate & Community Resilience)	\$200,000
KONEKSI Stunting Reduction Initiative	\$280,000
Monash–Warwick Alliance Research Fund	\$20,000
Inaugural Elaine McKay Indonesian Studies Award	\$10,000
Australia Awards in Indonesia (DFAT Fellowship Grant)	\$198,000
TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING & GIFTS SECURED (2025)	\$726,000



Herb Feith Indonesian Engagement Centre
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