


AUSTRALIA INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL

First Nations Roadmap 2023-2026



Australia India
Business Council

By Indu Balachandran
and Susan Moylan-Coombs
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Australia India Business Council acknowledges the strength, courage, wisdom and culture of First Nation peoples, on whose land we work. We recognise that sovereignty was never ceded and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Message from National Chair

There is much to be learned by Australia and India about our cultures and ways of doing business. This roadmap is our commitment to being part of the education journey, as we recognise and celebrate Australia's First Nations' peoples, their history, and their place in trade and economy.

We thank the organisations who have supported the development of this Roadmap and the process.

- The Gaimaragal Group
- Scale Institute
- Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity
- NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Kinaway Chamber of Commerce
- Supply Nation

Jodi McKay, National Chair

Overview

Australia India Business Council (AIBC) is committed to proper engagement with First Australians. Established in 1986, the AIBC was founded to foster bi-lateral relations between the two countries. We are a non-profit member-based organisation with a mission to promote trade dialogue between India and Australia through nurturing and maintaining close relationships in both Australia and India, with Federal and State government, diplomatic agencies and industry and community organisations.

Given the 60,000+ year history of trade and international relations established by Indigenous (global) and First Nations (Australia) peoples, the AIBC has formally begun our own journey of bringing this history and contemporary Indigenous knowledges on trade and international relations into our work. We will do the necessary work to make visible Indigenous knowledges and peoples which is critical to sustainable relationships and business outcomes.

This roadmap is a way of sharing the AIBC's vision, our process and the various streams of activity planned for the next three years to build relationships and trade outcomes between First Australians and India-facing people and businesses. It has taken shape, with four different events, engaging 150 participants representing Indigenous businesses, state and federal government groups, peak bodies, industry bodies and businesses.

Three foundational principles have emerged:

1. Respect
2. Community-First
3. Culture-Centred

Four priority areas have been identified for AIBC's First Nations engagement:

1. Share Culture
2. Joint Initiatives
3. Knowledge Resources
4. Ongoing Engagement



3-Year Plan

The AIBC has developed a roadmap of initiatives to be implemented over the next three years, that give shape to the four priority areas above.

PHASE 1: 2024

- Make First Nations visible in everything we do
- Develop a knowledge resource for Indigenous businesses on the past, present present and emerging opportunities for Australia-India trade
- Co-design cross-cultural events incorporating food, art and music
- Develop a textile industry collaboration & storytelling project

PHASE 2: 2025-2026

- Focus on young people
- Focus on women-led businesses
- Target tourism, arts, food, health, environment/ sustainability sectors
- Digital upskilling and tech innovation
- Procurement and supply chain opportunities
- Digital community platform for connection, information and knowledge
- Organise an international exchange

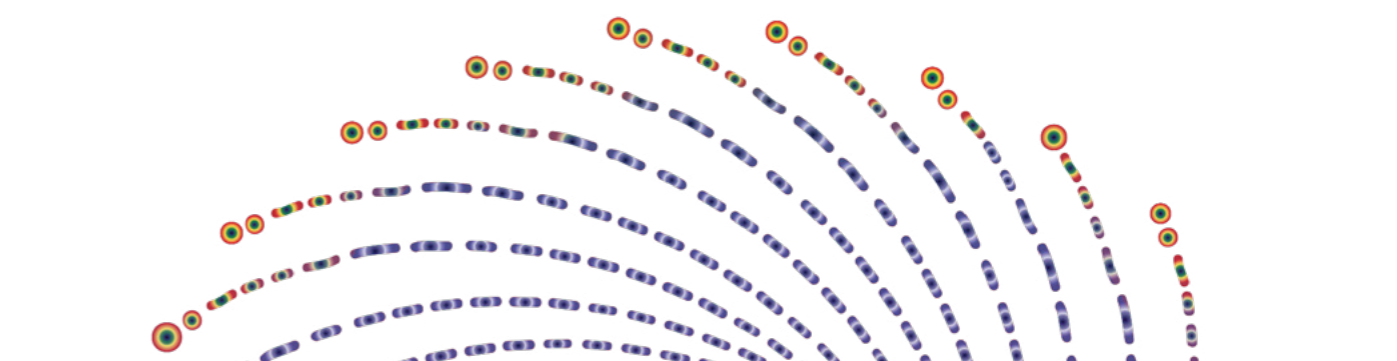
The Process

There were two critical catalysts in the AIBC First Nations engagement process and success.

First, the establishment of a core group of people who were committed explicitly to First Nations engagement: NSW President Irfan Malik, NSW Committee Member Indu Balachandran, AIBC friend and Gaimaragal Group founder Susan Moylan-Coombs (Gurindji-Woolwonga), and Stephen Rutter (Tebrakkunna) of the Scale Institute.

Second, the development of four events in 2022 to develop the idea within the AIBC leadership, to engage our broad stakeholders, and to specifically engage Indigenous businesses and voices. These events had a total attendance of over 150 participants.

The roadmap has been developed from the consultation and outputs from these events.



“We want to explore and understand what success means for Australian, Indian, and Indigenous people and businesses”

26 JANUARY 2022: MANY VOICES

2022 was a momentous year for AIBC, with Republic Day on 26 January marking 75 years of India's independence from British rule. It is the same date that marks the beginning of colonisation in Australia, and the devastation to First Peoples' way of life. The AIBC held an event on this date to bring many voices to the table. We heard from First Australians on survival, from diplomats on India's celebrations and achievements, and from business and community leaders on the fast-growing Australia-India relationship. Seventy-five Indian businesses, consular representatives, diplomatic representatives, members, and First Nations businesses joined the online event. It was an occasion of learning, and building relationships based on truth.

AUGUST 2022: LEADERSHIP BRAINSTORM

Members of AIBC national and state leadership and First Nations stakeholders met to brainstorm a shared vision and ideas on how to engage First Nations businesses. The fifteen attendees worked over an afternoon to share thoughts on the question posed by our First Nation's facilitator:

How might we engage a strong Indigenous business community voice into the activities of AIBC?

Eight themes emerged:

1. Include many "business" voices that are diverse
2. Share culture
3. Engagement is relational, reciprocal, aware
4. Articulate shared vision, principles and values of "success"
5. Listen, trust, respect
6. Demonstrate the value of trade and business
7. Value Indigenous to Indigenous connections
8. Identify and develop projects in specific industries



AUGUST 2022: AIBC INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SUMMIT

The International Business Summit hosted by AIBC provided a platform for broader engagement. A specific session was held titled “Indigenous Business Engagement and Pathways” with speakers from the Australian political sphere, from Indigenous businesses and from the Indian diaspora. The attendees shared their thoughts on opportunities and aspirations.

Key themes that emerged:

1. Culture
2. Digital skills
3. Grow awareness
4. Food/agriculture
5. Environment
6. Women-led businesses
7. Do business differently

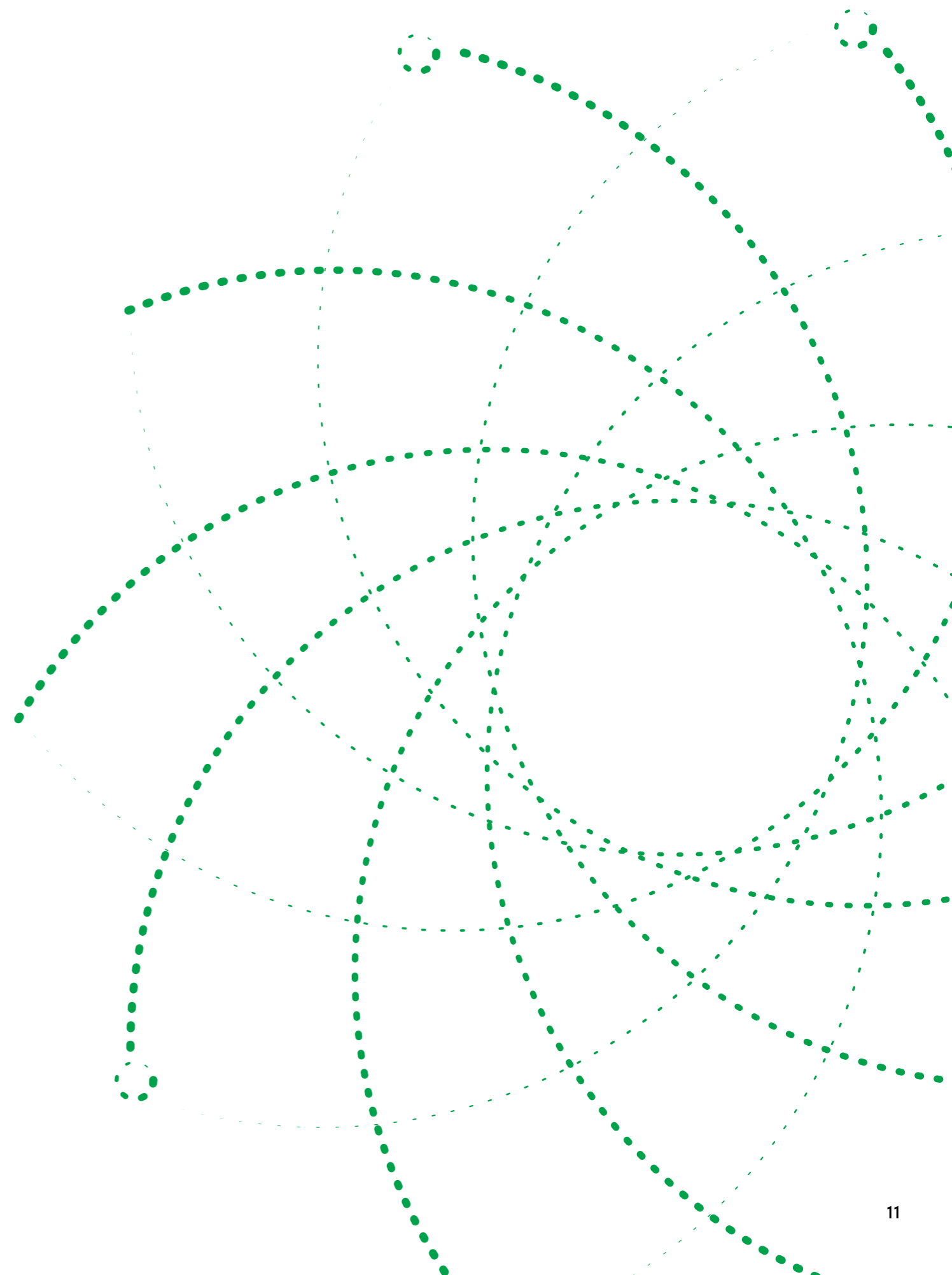
SEPTEMBER 2023: FIRST NATIONS ROUNDTABLE

Recognising that a critical part of engagement is the centering of Indigenous perspectives, a partnership with New South Wales Indigenous Chamber of Commerce (NSWICC) was developed. The roundtable provided an opportunity to introduce the Australia-India bilateral relationship, history of trade, and Indigenous communities in India. Fifty-eight people registered, and forty-three people attended in person from Indigenous businesses, AIBC membership and leadership, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Indigenous peak bodies such as NSWICC, Supply Nation, Indigenous Business Australia, and Kinaway.

Participants were asked to consider and redefine a problem statement. The original statement and amended statements by working groups are shared below:

How might AIBC support Indigenous Business Communities with bilateral opportunities for a greater First Nations voice?

1. How might AIBC collaborate with network of Indigenous business communities with each other to leverage unique strengths of all parties to achieve greater First Nations successes/trade outcomes from AUS-IND Bilateral opportunities?
2. How will AIBC support indigenous business representation in both countries?
3. How might trade between support Indigenous Business and Indigenous communities through trade?
4. Supporting young people in starting enterprises that are authentic to their First Nation heritage
5. How might AIBC synchronise with Indigenous Businesses to deliver outcomes through bilateral opportunities for greater first nations economic development and access to cross global markets.



Foundational Principles

The AIBC's work with First Nations and Indigenous peoples will be founded on key principles which have emerged from the consultations.

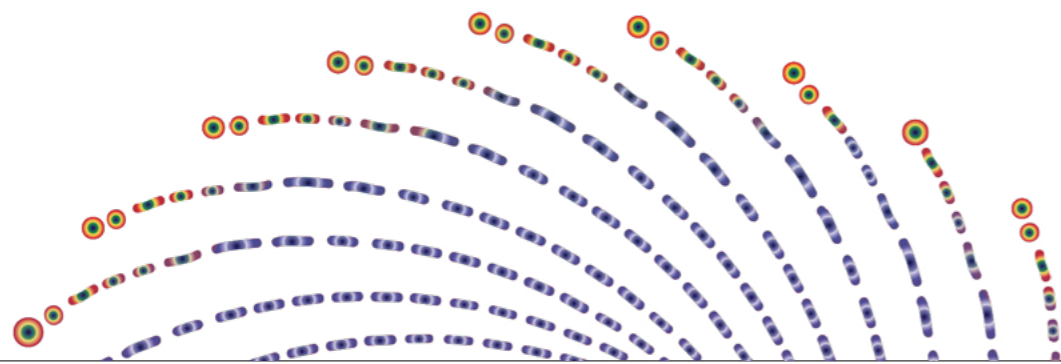
RESPECT

COMMUNITY-FIRST

CULTURE-CENTRED

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the General Assembly in 2007, by a majority of 143 states in favour, 4 votes against (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States) and 11 abstentions (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Samoa and Ukraine).

Today the Declaration is the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples. It establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world and it elaborates on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the specific situation of indigenous peoples.



“Lets define cultural business principles”



Priorities and Outcomes

Four priority areas emerged from the conversations, as well as outcomes within each area that signify success.

SHARE CULTURE



- Awareness of culture, histories, strengths
- Growth in insight into our cultures

JOINT INITIATIVES



- Co-designed projects that deliver shared benefits
- Build capacity together on doing and growing business
- Growth in economic sustainability through a unique way of doing business

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE



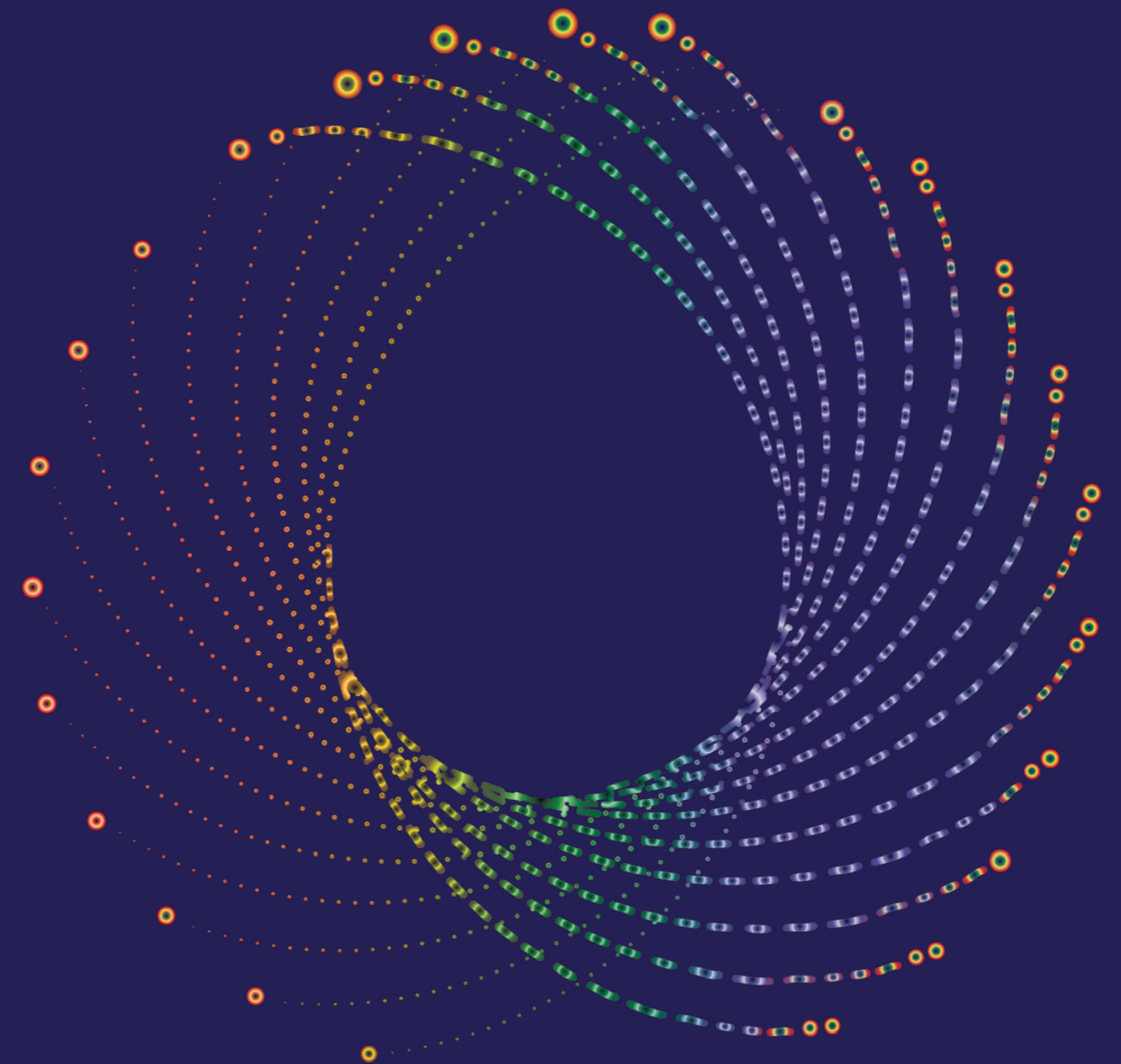
- Shared vision and roadmap
- Backgrounder on Indigenous India, Indigenous Australia and the Australia-India relationship
- Capability built for business growth

ONGOING ENGAGEMENT



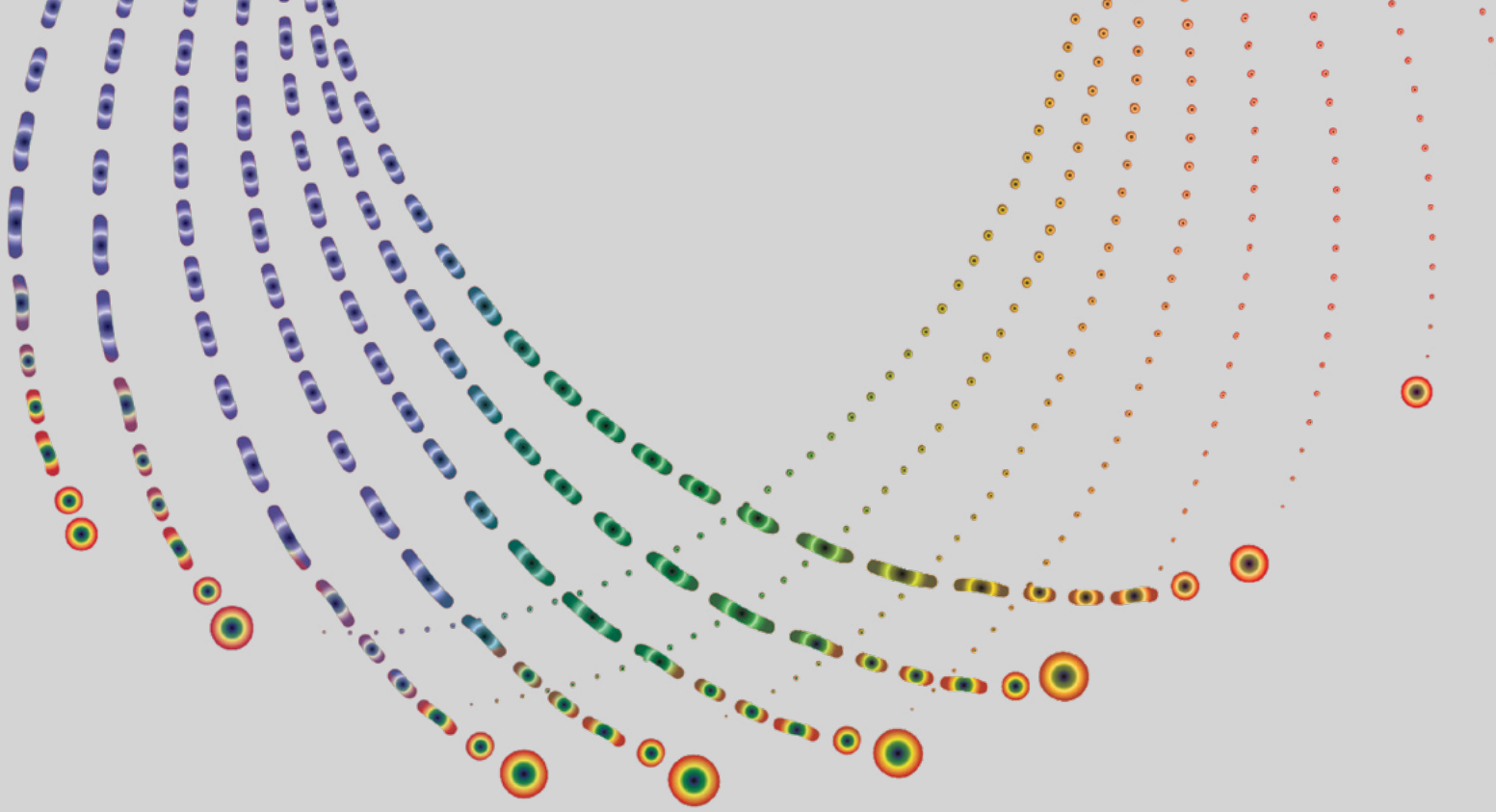
- Deepened cross-cultural relationships
- Multiple entry points into the initiative
- Increased access to networks, new markets and customers
- Success celebrated

"Join us in this journey"



Motif Meaning

A visual representation of the harmonious dance between the countries and cultures forming a rhythmic pattern moving as one.



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