

## First Nations Principles Statement

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Australia's participation in World Expo Osaka 2025 will project Australia's shared and full identity – celebrating our modern diversity and the rich heritage of First Nations people. First Nations perspectives, experiences and interests are foregrounded in Australia's contribution, taking a leading and dynamic position on the world stage.

The Australia Pavilion at Expo is grounded by our rich tradition of immersive storytelling and emphasises the strength and power of 'Country'. This approach is guided by First Nations knowledge holders and contemporary cultural practice. This statement outlines the guiding principles for the design and delivery of Australia's participation in Expo 2025 Osaka. The principles-based approach ensures that First Nations stories, traditions and knowledges are honoured and feature centrally in a strong and shared national vision.

### First Nations-led

Adopting a First Nations-led approach from the onset with defined objectives and evaluation frameworks to drive meaningful partnerships with First Nations Australians. Ensuring First Nations perspectives, experiences and interests are represented accurately and in accordance with Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights to heritage and culture.

### Cultural Integrity

Cultural integrity is at the core of our approach. The design and delivery of all aspects of First Nations representation will be informed by expertise drawn from First Nations community representatives, businesses, creatives and subject-matter specialists to ensure authentic representation of First Nations people and culture.

### Promotion of First Nations leadership

The Australia Pavilion and the Expo will serve as a platform to showcase First Nations excellence and leadership in cultural, business and artistic sectors. The Australia pavilion will elevate the First Nations contributions and innovations that shape Australia's full identity and presence on the international stage. First Nations perspectives, experiences and interests are valued in Australia's foreign policy and are central to strengthening many of our global relationships.

### Education and Awareness

The Australia Pavilion and its programming will promote awareness and education about First Nations cultures, history, knowledge systems and ongoing contributions to society. This approach is about making sure we tell our full story to enable us to find common ground and alignment with other countries. Through interactive and immersive experiences and engaging content, visitors will learn about the global significance of Australian First Nations knowledge and perspectives stimulating cross-cultural understanding.

### Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility

First Nations cultures are based on networks of connection with the land. The concept of Country tells of this deep, enduring connection and continuities over 60,000 years. The design and operation of the Australia pavilion will align with principles of sustainability and environmental responsibility, drawing on knowledges of Country to promote practices that respect the land and natural resources. By sharing First Nations' expertise in sustainable environmental management, we will demonstrate how First Nations wisdom can guide us toward a more sustainable future.

## **BACKGROUND**

Under the theme, “Designing Future Society for Our Lives,” Expo 2025 Osaka will highlight best practices from around the world to design a sustainable and inclusive society that embraces emerging sciences and evolving technologies to solve global challenges.

Aligned with this theme, Australia will showcase innovative and collaborative approaches to addressing global challenges, with a focus on First Nations priorities, sustainability, diversity, and inclusion, and regional collaboration. Under the theme “Chasing the Sun”, the Australia Pavilion will host a strategic business program, dynamic cultural program, and visitor experience.

We will use our participation in Expo 2025 Osaka to deepen our bilateral strategic, economic, and people to people relationship with Japan; create new opportunities for Australia in Japan and the region; and project a modern Australia to the world. We will ensure First Nations people and businesses lead, partner and share in the benefits of this work.

### **First Nations Priorities**

As a cross-cutting value, the contributions, perspectives, experiences and interests of First Nations people are embedded in and will be elevated throughout the Australian pavilion and our programming at Expo 2025 Osaka. Our approach is grounded in integrity and developed through engagement and consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Australia Pavilion will serve as a platform to support and maximise opportunities for First Nations Australians by promoting First Nations cultures, voices, contributions and stories on an international stage, enhancing cultural understanding and fostering diplomatic ties.

We will make space for cultural diplomacy led by First Nations people and support international First Nations dialogues to share experiences and knowledge on First Nations issues. Important to Australia’s First Nations approach to international engagement are our efforts to boost First Nations trade and investment.

### **Collaboration and Recognition of Japan’s Indigenous People, the Ainu**

Our program streams include partnerships and events that encompass business, academic, diplomatic, and cultural collaborations. We are committed to engaging with a wide range of organisations representing First Nations interests globally to ensure strong and continuous representation. This includes recognition of Japan's Indigenous people, the Ainu, promoting shared learning and respectful exchange.

### **Visitor Experience & Exhibition**

The visitor experience and exhibition at the Australia Pavilion will both share and demonstrate our pride in the 60,000 year continuum that underpins all Australian’s contemporary relationships with land. By upholding principles of care and connection to Country, Australia seeks to create an Expo experience that reflects our commitment to reconciliation, inclusion, and the celebration of First Nations cultures on the world stage.

Inside the Australia Pavilion, visitors will embark on a one-of-a-kind immersive adventure following the sun across Australia. This multisensory experience will allow visitors to hear the sounds of our unique fauna, gaze into the night sky, and celebrate our coastal and ocean environments. Visitors will be introduced to First Nations’ concept of ‘Country’ by being immersed within it. They will be introduced to a landscape that has shaped a great cultural diversity over tens of thousands of years and how ancient knowledges of place is helping build a future society of care and connection.

The cultural narrative for the visitor experience and exhibition has been developed to align with the principles of ‘Caring for Country’; a common value system that is shared across Australia. It explores land, sea and sky country and demonstrates the connections and linkages between Indigenous societies throughout Australia.

Any future society must protect the natural heritage of the past. Australians envisage a future where connection and care are central to a happy and healthy life.