

# Celebrating Dilin Duwa's 2-Year Anniversary

*"Through esteem and belonging, we empower individuals and organisations to lead and to create a self-determined economic future."*



It has been two years since the Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership was established. We look back on the past 24 months with gratitude for all that we have achieved.



### Centre

Thank you to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Aunty Gail Smith for gifting us the name "Dilin Duwa" which means everlasting flow in the Woi Wurrung language of the Wurundjeri people on whose lands our Centre is located. It signifies the merging of our three streams of activities – programs, research and engagement - into one everlasting flow of impact and generational change.

We are honoured to have our Indigenous Advisory Group guide us in our strategy and work, and a global membership of experts partner with us in groundbreaking research and program development. Together with community groups and individual changemakers, we collaborated on a range of projects united by a common goal of Indigenous economic empowerment.



### Why this matters

Through the provision of culturally appropriate and innovative content, our participants feel welcomed and empowered to continue their educational journey and strengthen their networks.

Within a few years of completing MURRA, 10% continue on to enrol in further studies including MBA programs and PhDs, and 30% of firms experience growth. Within six years of completion, many are assuming leadership roles, whether as heads of their organisations, chambers of commerce, community initiatives or as advocates for the sector.

Through esteem and belonging and investing in the development of their business acumen, members of our ecosystem are empowered to create and lead initiatives for the benefit of their community.



### What's next

We are in the planning stages of more education programs to address the needs of vibrant national Indigenous businesses and organisations and look forward to announcing these shortly. In 2024, Research will be a major focus. On topics that our community stakeholders have indicated are relevant to them, led by Indigenous steering committees, we will be drawing a line between how decision-makers can use research to inform their actions in a way that has direct practical outcomes for community and the sector.

Our Ochre Papers will be launched - a series of research articles on Indigenous business that sheds a light on the barriers and opportunities utilising academic rigour while being accessible and useful for practitioners and those outside the academic space.

Also in 2024 we will be celebrating the 10th year of Indigenous Business Month.

### Our invitation to you

Share this journey with us. To find out more, please contact us at [dilin-duwa@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:dilin-duwa@unimelb.edu.au) or visit [dilinduwa.com.au](http://dilinduwa.com.au)



## HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR PAST TWO YEARS

Created by Marcus Lee (MURRA Gen 1), our stream artwork tells the story of what we do.

- **Programs** – a fishnet scooping up changemakers to nourish them with skills and knowledge before release to effect impact for their firms, organisations and communities.
- **Research** – a spider’s web, reflecting data captured at a moment in time, can strengthen our knowledge and ecosystem
- **Engagement** – a coral ecosystem, bringing fresh and salt water together, providing a safe haven for ideas and people to develop



### Programs

*“A big thank you for bringing us together in a safe space to explore important conversations about the future of our mob”*

#### Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Business Leadership student

- MURRA Gen 14 (our largest cohort ever), brings our MURRA Alumni to over 240 amazing changemakers across the nation
- Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Business Leadership introduced two new subjects taught by eminent international Indigenous business academics.
- National Indigenous Business Summer School welcomed its largest ever cohort who visited in January to study Indigenous fashion label, and MURRA alumni business, Ngali.
- Introduction of the MBS Indigenous MBA scholarship leading to the largest number of Indigenous enrolments to the MBA



### Research

*“I’ve researched Indigenous social mobility for quite some time and the buzz in the room when presenting at a global conference in Melbourne this year has been amazing. It feels as though the momentum is with us.”*

#### Associate Professor Rochelle Cote

- Six research projects including the 3rd annual Snapshot study about to launch this year, yielding rich insights into the Indigenous business and organisations sector.
- Over 30 global research collaborators in our membership contributing to projects with two visiting scholars each year
- Two prestigious Australian Research Council grants to evaluate Indigenous preferential procurement programs and the impact of historical frontier violence across Australia
- Two international research grants to explore Indigenous social mobility and decolonising business education
- Over \$1m in research funding



### Engagement

*“Until now, I thought that business was a political thing. The Regional Business Workshops gave me confidence to explore my business ideas, to have that conversation with family members.”*

#### Participant in Mparntwe-Alice Springs

- Over 200 members in our online platform accessing our resources and networking with each other.
- The Dilin Duwa Regional Business Series has hosted two programs in Mparntwe – Alice Springs and Kannygoopna - Shepparton providing a template for how we can work on Country with communities
- Indigenous Business Month establishing itself as a grassroots-led movement celebrating Indigenous business excellence
- Growing body of work with community groups through MOUs – we provide access to expertise to help people realise the future that they want
- We’ve had a strong focus on regional business and have invested heavily in nurturing collaborative relationships with other Aboriginal business organisations across the country.

### Dilin Duwa Regional Business Series

Scan the qr code or click on this link to watch our Regional Business Series Program videos: [dilinduwa.com.au/regional](http://dilinduwa.com.au/regional)



Thank you to our partners

