

Insights from May 2024 Learning Circle
Investing in First Nations Advocacy for self-determined futures



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The Current Landscape

- Limited investment into First Nations communities
- Funding opportunities are built from relationships, positionality and privilege
- Lack of funding for advocacy, movement building, and cultural strengthening
- Ecosystem enablers are rarely funded
- Grounds have shifted since the referendum
- Movements decentralising settler responsibility – we all have a role to play

What role can philanthropy play in supporting First Nations? **8 Recommendations**

- ✓ **Trust-based partnerships** that centre respect and mutual obligation to community and Country
- ✓ **Unrestricted funding** that enables communities to make their own decisions
- ✓ **First Nations-led funding models** that ensure equity across regions, intersections and contexts
- ✓ **Long-term investment** for intergenerational change and aspirations
- ✓ **Community-led impact measurement** and evaluation that centres First Nations knowledge
- ✓ **Accessible application and acquittal processes** that support autonomy and self-determination
- ✓ **Less strict eligibility** that is not predetermined through colonial worldviews
- ✓ **Remuneration for First Nations people's time and expertise** – respect (don't expect) labour

Questions for reflecting on your giving

- ? **How are you investing** in First Nations communities currently?
- ? **How does your giving compare** to the best-practice recommendations above?
- ? **What actions will you take going forward** to drive economic justice and self-determination of First Nations communities? What is your next step?

Learn more

Supporting First Nations Self-Determination is one of four focus areas of the Impact Fund, Australian Communities Foundation's flagship fund, which harnesses the power of collective giving to address the most critical issues facing Australia.

Stay tuned for ways you can get involved in supporting First Nations justice through the Fund in 2024.

communityfoundation.org.au/impact-fund

This resource has been developed in partnership with First Nations leaders from Australian Progress, First Nations Futures and Common Ground. Australian Communities Foundation thanks all partners for sharing their knowledge and expertise with our giving community.

