



CONNECT  
2018  
shaping an  
inclusive economy



Supply Nation

## MEDIA RELEASE: SUPPLY NATION CONNECT 2018

DATE OF RELEASE: 24 May 2018

DATE OF EVENT: 22 May and 23 May 2018

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## Supply Nation celebrates the 2018 Supplier Diversity Awards with a live cross from the Prime Minister

Each year Supply Nation holds the Connect Gala Awards Dinner on the final night of Connect, Supply Nation's annual flagship event.

During a live cross to the event Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said that the evening was about "Switching the narrative away from despair and deficit to one where you can say that being an Indigenous Australian means that you are successful, innovative, enterprising, realising your dreams and getting ahead. Economic empowerment is what this is all about."

At this black-tie event, the prestigious Supplier Diversity Awards are announced. This year over 850 guests attended the event at The Star Event Centre, and celebrated as the winners were revealed. The guests represented a cross-section of the 1,500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses that are listed on Indigenous Business Direct (Supply Nation's directory) and of Supply Nation's 347 members.

From the most successful organisations to the individuals who are creating change through their own advocacy or business acumen, the Supplier Diversity Awards are the highest recognition of achievement in Australian supplier diversity.

Laura Berry, CEO of Supply Nation, welcomed the guests to the Gala Awards Dinner, referencing the theme of this year's Connect: 'shaping an inclusive economy'.

"Shaping an inclusive economy is not only the theme of this year's Connect, it's also at the heart of everything we do at Supply Nation. We believe that if we all work together we can achieve a more inclusive economy, where all Australians have equal opportunities," Ms Berry said.

"Supplier diversity is an inclusive practice. Everyone from CEOs to procurement specialists; from start-ups to successful enterprises; from advocates to entrepreneurs with big ideas: must work together to build a truly inclusive economy for all Australians."

Ms Berry continued "Tonight is about recognising the organisations and individuals who are leading the way in supplier diversity. Tonight is about identifying and rewarding excellence, so we can continue to set the bar higher.

"The award finalists and winners show us the art of the possible."



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## 2018 Supplier Diversity Awards winners

**Corporate Member of the Year – proudly sponsored by Kulbardi Fortescue Metals Group**

**Government Member of the Year – proudly sponsored by Evolve FM**  
The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Certified Supplier of the Year – proudly sponsored by Telstra**  
Indigenous Professional Services (IPS)

**Registered Supplier of the Year – proudly sponsored by BP**  
Evolve FM

**Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year – proudly sponsored by Westpac**  
Peter Critchley, Specialist, Procurement Policy and Procedures, Broadspectrum

**Procurement Professional of the Year – proudly sponsored by Every Trade Group**  
Donna Reddin, Contracts Administrator – Social and Sustainability Manager, Laing O'Rourke

**Supplier Diversity Partnership of the Year – proudly sponsored by ANZ**  
Rusca Environmental Solutions and Shell Australia

**Young Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year – proudly sponsored by EY**  
Sharna Collard, Co-owner and Fleet Manager, Kooya Australia Fleet Solutions

**Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year – proudly sponsored by IAG**  
Petina Tieman, Director and Owner, Complete Business Solutions (QLD)

**Outstanding Impact Award – proudly sponsored by Lendlease**  
Evolve FM



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## THINK: Knowledge Forum and Networking Drinks, 22 May 2018

International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour 8.30am – 6.30pm

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PLATINUM SPONSOR Winc

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SILVER SPONSOR Inspire Travel Management (Indigenous business)

### KEY FACTS:

- Full day conference program
- Almost 400 attendees
- Keynotes by Clifford A Bailey and Jamila Gordon
- Speakers drawn from Supply Nation's members, global experts and Indigenous businesses

## ACT: Indigenous Business Tradeshow, 23 May 2018

International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour 8am – 3.30pm

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GOLD SPONSOR Australian Government

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GOLD SPONSOR NAB

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SILVER SPONSOR Accenture

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SILVER SPONSOR Maybell Group

### KEY FACTS:

- Australia's largest Indigenous Business Tradeshow
- Over 160 businesses exhibiting
- Over 1,000 attendees
- Senator the Honourable Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs addressed the attendees, and spent time visiting Indigenous businesses
- Contracts worth millions conceived after meetings at Connect each year



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CELEBRATE: Gala Awards Dinner, 23 May 2018

The Star Event Centre, Pyrmont 6pm - late

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PLATINUM SPONSOR

Commonwealth Bank

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ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR

Cushman & Wakefield

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GOLD SPONSOR

Carey Mining (Indigenous business)

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GOLD SPONSOR AND OFFICIAL AIRLINE OF CONNECT 2018

Qantas

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#### KEY FACTS:

- Over 850 guests
- Indigenous inspired menu
- 10 Supplier Diversity Awards announced
- Hosts: Luke Carroll and Brooke Boney
- Entertainment: The Giz; Harley Mann; Casey Donovan (headline act)

#### FOR EDITORS

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For more information about Connect 2018:

[www.supplynationconnect.com.au](http://www.supplynationconnect.com.au)

For more information about the Knowledge Forum speakers:

<http://supplynationconnect.com.au/speakers/>

For more information about the Knowledge Forum program:

<http://supplynationconnect.com.au/schedule/>



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## WHO WE ARE

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Supply Nation is the Australian leader in supplier diversity and is proud to be the first and pre-eminent supplier diversity organisation in Australia. Since 2009, Supply Nation has worked with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and procurement teams from government and corporate Australia to help shape today's emerging and rapidly evolving Indigenous business sector.

Supply Nation's world-leading 5-step verification process provides peace of mind by ensuring that all businesses listed on Indigenous Business Direct (with over 1400 suppliers) are not only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned, but are regularly audited for changes in company structure.

Supply Nation partners with its paid membership of government, corporate and NFP organisations to develop procurement policies that modify and redirect spend to include the traditionally underutilised Indigenous business sector.

For further information about Supply Nation, visit [www.supplynation.org.au](http://www.supplynation.org.au)

## INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE

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Interviews with Supply Nation's Chief Executive Officer, Laura Berry are available by appointment.

Should you wish to arrange an interview with Supply Nation CEO or with any of the 2018 award winners, please contact Sybil Williams:

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