

## Media release

# Supply Nation and BCA launch new Indigenous procurement targets for BCA members – Raising the Bar

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been running innovative, successful and sustainable businesses for 60,000 years. Today's announcement of the Raising the Bar initiative in Perth demonstrates the ongoing commitment of the Business Council of Australia and its members to supporting that tradition to build a successful, vibrant and prosperous Indigenous Business Sector in Australia.

Laura Berry, Chief Executive Officer of Supply Nation is in Perth for the announcement today: "The corporate sector has led the charge with Indigenous procurement since Supply Nation's inception in 2009. By any measure, the Indigenous business sector is growing exponentially. This initiative will provide a strong framework and accountability to further build and grow engagement and contracts with Indigenous businesses.

"Indigenous businesses face many of the same challenges as other businesses – but many are on a much steeper growth curve. Time invested working with Indigenous suppliers will help the sector scale effectively and multiply the overall capability and capacity gain.

"2019 is Supply Nation's tenth year of operation, and we have recently achieved the milestone of listing over 2,000 Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander businesses on Indigenous Business Direct (our online directory). The growth of the sector in the last 10 years illustrates how both government and corporate organisations can use their procurement spend as a lever to achieve social good."

The Raising the Bar program has been developed with input from Supply Nation and the Business Council of Australia's Indigenous Task Force to provide a framework for how BCA members could set Indigenous procurement targets. The process to set these targets has been developed – with a set of policies and procedures to support the next level of supplier diversity practice in Australia. These have been articulated in a comprehensive guide – the Raising the Bar Playbook, which is available to all Business Council of Australia members who sign up for the program.