

Media release

Supporting Indigenous businesses amidst the COVID-19 crisis with a generous Google.org grant to Supply Nation

Date of release 30 March 2021

Supply Nation is pleased to announce it has secured a grant from Google's philanthropic arm, [Google.org](https://www.google.org), supporting research activities and the development of an Indigenous business capability building program for 200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business owners.

Chief Executive Officer, Laura Berry, said the generous funding would assist the Indigenous business sector as it managed the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

"Design and development work is currently underway on a pilot Indigenous business capability building program, and we are also looking forward to working with Google.org to tailor digital engagement training – equipping Indigenous business owners with the skills and expertise to navigate the evolving commercial landscape.

"Supply Nation recently launched the first two reports from a '**State of Indigenous Business**' series of evidence-based research projects, and I'm thrilled to acknowledge that a portion of our Google.org grant is supporting our research program, which is a key component informing our program design" Ms Berry added.

Details around Supply Nation's 'knowledge hub' initiatives can be found via [here](#).

"We have introduced a range of diverse initiatives to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses throughout the COVID-19 crisis, and we are thrilled that Google.org is supporting us on our next range of support programs informed by our research – fostering opportunities to support the long-term viability of the Indigenous business sector," Ms Berry concluded.

Jes Kane, Government Affairs Lead for Australia, adds, "We know that Indigenous businesses are integral to our communities, providing vital services and supporting jobs in the local economy. At Google, we have seen countless businesses benefiting from the use of digital skilling programs and believe it is important that we continue to support small, micro businesses as they navigate the reopening of our economy.. We are proud to support this initiative led by Supply Nation as we have a shared desire to help underserved communities, unlock economic opportunities, and improve the livelihoods of many Indigenous individuals here in Australia. We look forward to seeing this initiative come to fruition in the coming months."

As part of the program, Google employees will also be volunteering their time to share their knowledge and expertise with these business owners to upskill and adapt to the current crisis.

About Google.org

Google.org, Google's philanthropy, supports non-profits that address humanitarian issues and apply scalable, data-driven innovation to solving the world's biggest challenges. We accelerate their progress by connecting them with a unique blend of support that includes funding, products, and technical expertise from Google volunteers. We engage with these believers-turned-doers who make a significant impact on the communities they represent, and whose work has the potential to produce meaningful change. We want a world that works for everyone—and we believe technology and innovation can move the needle in four key areas: education, economic opportunity, inclusion and crisis response.

Media contacts:

Google.org

Camilla Ibrahim

Communications and Public Affairs Manager

Email: camillai@google.com

Supply Nation

Jodie Taylor

General Manager, Corporate Affairs

Email: Jodie.Taylor@supplynation.org.au

Phone: 02 9056 1341