

Media release

2021 Supplier Diversity Award winners announced at Supply Nation's flagship event

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Last week, Supply Nation hosted Australia's leading supplier diversity event, Connect, to unite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, corporate organisations and government departments from across the nation.

Hosted by Stan Grant, the two-day broadcast event included a Knowledge Forum with a spectacular line up of speakers including author Anita Heiss, Supply Nation Chief Executive Officer, Laura Berry, Managing Director of Microsoft Australia, Steven Worrall, and Managing Director of Tourism Australia, Phillipa Harrison, as well as a Tradeshow featuring over 90 Indigenous exhibitors and concluded with an Awards Show hosted by Brooke Boney and Aaron Fa'Aoso.

Highlights from the Supplier Diversity Awards included Leah Cameron for taking home both Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year and Certified Supplier of the Year on behalf of her business Marrawah Law, as well as JLL for winning Corporate Member of the Year and the Outstanding Impact Award.

Supply Nation's Chief Executive Officer, Laura Berry, says "After a very challenging year for the sector, Connect 2021 was able to bring together the supplier diversity community to celebrate their resilience and achievements.

"Not only did we hear from some of Australia's leading supplier diversity and business experts, but we were also able to engage our Indigenous businesses and showcase the diversity and vibrancy of their products and services and foster business opportunities through the Tradeshow element.

"The announcement of the Supplier Diversity Award winners concluded the powerful two-day event, and I would like to give a sincere congratulations to all of the winners in recognition of their leadership in supplier diversity in Australia.

Ms Berry also announced in her keynote address a new milestone for Supply Nation: "Since 2009, Supply Nation has been the first and pre-eminent supplier diversity organisation in Australia. Today, we are excited to announce that after 12 years leading the charge, our directory of Indigenous businesses – Indigenous Business Direct – has now reached 3,000 Registered and Certified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses."

2021 Supplier Diversity Award winners

Award Category	Winner
Corporate Member of the Year	JLL
Government Member of the Year Proudly sponsored by Evolve FM	Department of Defence
Certified Supplier of the Year Proudly sponsored by Telstra	Marrawah Law
Registered Supplier of the Year Proudly sponsored by BP	Marawar
Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year Proudly sponsored by Laing O'Rourke	Helen Slater, Sodexo
Procurement Professional of the Year	Hamish Johnston, ATCO Australia
Young Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year Proudly sponsored by EY	Nathan Martin, Yalagan Group
Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year Proudly sponsored by Westpac	Leah Cameron, Marrawah Law
Emerging Indigenous Exporter of the Year Proudly sponsored by Austrade	Tagai Management Consultants
Supplier Diversity Partnership of the Year Proudly sponsored by ANZ	Commonwealth Bank of Australia and BlackCard
Outstanding Impact Award Proudly sponsored by Wesfarmers	JLL

About Supply Nation:

Supply Nation is the Australian leader in supplier diversity. Since 2009, Supply Nation has worked with over 3,000 Indigenous 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 verification process provides peace of mind by ensuring that all businesses listed on Indigenous Business Direct are not only Indigenous owned but are regularly audited for changes in company structure. Supply Nation's support, combined with a range of business tools, helps our members develop their supplier diversity practices, and build a strong, successful and sustainable Indigenous business sector.

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