

## Media release

### Reconnecting the Indigenous business sector in 2022 - flagship industry event returns to Sydney 25 May

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More than 160 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses from around Australia will be showcased at the International Convention Centre in Sydney this **Wednesday 25 May**, along with an international delegation championing supplier diversity on a global platform.

Supply Nation's flagship event, **Connect**, unites Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, corporate organisations and government departments to foster strategic opportunities, promote and celebrate the success of the Indigenous business sector. Supply Nation is Australia's leading supplier diversity organisation. Since 2009, Supply Nation has worked with 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 Chief Executive Officer, Laura Berry, said she was thrilled Connect's Indigenous Business Tradeshow was back in 2022, providing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses much needed connection and commercial opportunities. This will be followed by the Connect 2022 Supplier Diversity Awards gala dinner, hosted by renowned journalist, Stan Grant.

"We are proud to introduce the Export Nation Lounge this year – a dedicated space at the Tradeshow for Indigenous businesses to connect with global industry leaders, chat to our Export Nation team about expanding their market and network with international delegates," Ms Berry said.

"We are honoured to share that 10 international delegates from Native American-led non-profits, businesses and tribal enterprises, will join the First Nations Trade Mission at Connect 2022 to foster trade relationships in Australia."

Meanwhile, there has been a key development impacting the Supply Nation board with current Director Scott Wharton being appointed Co-Chair alongside current Chair Michael McLeod. Mr Wharton is Group Executive, Program Delivery at Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) and a member of CBA's Executive Leadership team. He brings a wealth of experience in global supplier diversity from previous roles, including as Managing Director and Global Head of Supply Chain at Citigroup in New York. Mr Wharton's elevation to Co-Chair comes as the Board leads a recruitment process for a new CEO, after Laura Berry announced she would be departing Supply Nation next month.

**Photo / Filming Opportunities at Indigenous Business Tradeshow:** *Please note this is a ticketed event and media attendance must be pre-arranged before the event via the contacts below.*

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Hosted by award-winning journalist and broadcaster **Dan Bouchier**, the Indigenous Business Tradeshow will take place from 8:30am – 4pm and will provide an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses to showcase the diversity and vibrancy of their products and services to some of Australia’s leading corporate organisations and government departments. **Formal welcomes and entertainment will commence at 9:30am.**

For more information about Connect 2022, visit: [connect.supplynation.org.au](https://connect.supplynation.org.au)

#### Connect 2022 sponsors:

Sponsorship type	Sponsor
Platinum Sponsor – Gala Awards Dinner	Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Gold Sponsor – Gala Awards Dinner / Official Airline Partner / Export Nation Lounge Supporter	Qantas
Gold Sponsor – Tradeshow	NAB
Gold Sponsor – Australian Government Link Sponsor	Australian Government
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Silver Sponsor – Charity Sponsor	Indigenous Business Australia
Silver Sponsor – Charity Sponsor	Stockland
Silver Sponsor – Activation Hub Sponsor	McKinsey & Company
Silver Sponsor – Activation Hub Sponsor	Woolworths Group
Procurement Professional of the Year Award	Killara Services
Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year Award	Westpac
Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year Award	AusIndustry
Sam Tjengala Reuben Award recognising Young Entrepreneur of the Year	EY
Certified Supplier of the Year Award	Telstra
Corporate Member of the Year Award	Kulbardi
Government Member of the Year Award	Laing O’Rourke
Registered Supplier of the Year Award	BP
Emerging Indigenous Exporter of the Year Award	Austrade
Supplier Diversity Partnership of the Year Award	ANZ
Dr Dean Jarrett Award recognising Outstanding Impact	Wesfarmers