

Media release

Australia's leading supplier diversity event – Connect – returns to Gadigal Land in 2023

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Supply Nation's annual flagship event for the Indigenous business sector, **Connect**, is returning to the ICC Sydney on Gadigal Land on **Tuesday 8 August 2023**.

Connect is Supply Nation's annual flagship event that brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, corporate organisation and government departments to foster new business opportunities and celebrate the success of the sector.

The one-day event will connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses with motivated buyers at the **Indigenous Business Tradeshow** and will celebrate the Supplier Diversity Award finalists and winners at the **Gala Awards Dinner**.

Supply Nation's CEO, Michelle Deshong, said this year's event represents an important opportunity to celebrate the continued growth and success of the Indigenous business sector, especially against the backdrop of the global pandemic and an increased visibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs more broadly.

"Despite the global pandemic and myriad of natural disasters over the past few years, Supply Nation has seen substantial growth in our membership base, as well as an increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses listed on Indigenous Business Direct. Not only does this growth highlight the commitment from corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors, it also signifies the strength, resilience and capability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses across Australia."

Nominations for the **Supplier Diversity Awards 2023** are officially open. The awards recognise companies, government agencies and individuals who are helping create a prosperous, vibrant and sustainable Indigenous business sector.

"The Supplier Diversity Awards provide an occasion for Indigenous businesses and member organisations to be recognised for their achievements and celebrate their success alongside their team, business partners, family, peers and community," said Ms Deshong.

The Supplier Diversity Award finalists will be announced ahead of Connect 2023 and the award winners will be announced at the Gala Awards Dinner on Tuesday 8 August 2023.

For more information about the Supplier Diversity Awards, visit: connect.supplynation.org.au/supplier-diversity-awards-2023

Tickets for Connect 2023 will be released soon. To stay up to date with important information and announcements, subscribe to our Connect newsletter or visit the official website: connect.supplynation.org.au

About Supply Nation

Supply Nation is Australia's leading supplier diversity organisation. 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 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. To find out more, visit:

supplynation.org.au

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