

## Media release

### Finalists announced for Supply Nation's Supplier Diversity Awards 2023

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Supply Nation is thrilled to announce the finalists for this year's **Supplier Diversity Awards**. The Supplier Diversity Awards recognise companies, government agencies, not-for-profit organisations and individuals who are helping create a prosperous, vibrant and sustainable Indigenous business sector.

Supply Nation CEO, Michelle Deshong, said "The Supplier Diversity Awards provide an occasion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, as well as member organisations, to be recognised for their achievements and to celebrate their success alongside their team, business partners, family, peers and community."

The finalists for this year's awards were selected by an independent judging panel drawn from business leaders and procurement specialists across the Indigenous business sector. The sheer volume of submissions – which saw a 30% increase from 2022 – along with the strength of each nomination, provides a shining example of the Indigenous business sector's continued growth and the prosperous, equitable, sustainable future it is helping to create for First Nations peoples.

The winners of the Supplier Diversity Awards will be announced at the **Connect 2023 Gala Awards Dinner**, taking place on Gadigal Land at the ICC Sydney on **Tuesday 8 August**. Hosted by Whadjuk Noongar journalist, presenter and commentator, Narelda Jacobs and Wiradjuri theatre, film and television performer, Luke Carroll, the dinner will bring together the Indigenous business sector to celebrate the achievements of outstanding individuals and organisations, with performances from First Nations artists.

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

The theme for this year's event – **Empowering Indigenous Futures** – acknowledges the significant political, social and economic changes that have led to greater outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

To view all award finalists, see the table below, or visit: [connect.supplynation.org.au/supplier-diversity-awards-2023](https://connect.supplynation.org.au/supplier-diversity-awards-2023)

To find out more about Connect 2023 and to purchase tickets to the Indigenous Business Tradeshow, visit: [connect.supplynation.org.au](https://connect.supplynation.org.au)

## Supplier Diversity Awards 2023 finalists

Award Category	Finalists
<b>Certified Supplier of the Year</b> Sponsored by Telstra	Baidam Solutions Killara Services Muru Office Supplies
<b>Procurement Professional of the Year</b> Sponsored by Killara Services	Fran Peterson – Shell Mina Ibrahim – Laing O’Rourke Tanya Martens – Department of Defence
<b>Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year</b> Sponsored by AusIndustry	Rikki Cooper – BGIS Sarah Rodwell – JLL Matthew Inkster – Fulton Hogan
<b>Supplier Diversity Partnership of the Year</b> Sponsored by ANZ	Bunji Hire and CPB Contractors Kooya Australia Fleet Solutions and Telstra Yaru Water and QANTAS
<b>Registered Supplier of the Year</b> Sponsored by BP	Kany Bidi TVN On-Country WV Technologies
<b>Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year</b> Sponsored by Westpac	Mundanara Bayles – BlackCard Petina Tieman – Complete Business Solutions Rachelle Towart OAM – Pipeline Talent
<b>Indigenous Exporter of the Year</b> Sponsored by Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)	Aldridge Railway Signals Jala Jala Treats Young Guns Container Crew
<b>Government Member of the Year</b> Sponsored by Laing O’Rourke	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet TAFE NSW
<b>Corporate Member of the Year</b> Sponsored by Kulbardi	Buildcorp Group Laing O’Rourke Ventia
<b>Sam Tjengala Young Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year</b> Sponsored by EY	Kevin Wilson – Nani Creative Sarah Hyland – Together Business Australia Jarrad Oakley Nicholls – Oaks Civil Construction
<b>Dr Dean Jarrett Award recognising Outstanding Impact</b> Sponsored by Wesfarmers	The winner is selected from the finalists of all other award categories.

## Connect 2023 sponsors

Sponsorship type	Sponsor
Platinum Sponsor – Gala Awards Dinner	Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Platinum Sponsor – Indigenous Business Tradeshow	Woolworths Group
Gold Sponsor – Gala Awards Dinner / Official Airline Partner	Qantas
Silver Sponsor – Event App / Indigenous Business Tradeshow	Accenture
Silver Sponsor – Indigenous Business Tradeshow	CPB Contractors
Silver Sponsor – Indigenous Business Tradeshow	Stockland
Silver Sponsor – Indigenous Business Tradeshow	Google
Silver Sponsor – Indigenous Business Tradeshow	Shell
Silver Sponsor – Indigenous Business Tradeshow	McKinsey and Company
Government Link Participant	NSW Government
Government Link Participant	Department of Defence
Government Link Participant	Department of Finance
Government Link Participant	NIAA
Government Link Participant	Indigenous Business Australia
International Lounge Participant	AMOTAI
International Lounge Participant	New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
First Nations Media Partner	Koori Mail

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