

## Media release

### Boost to US-Australian Indigenous trade

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During the Prime Minister's state visit to the US, President Joe Biden announced \$250,000 in new funding for Indigenous business opportunities.

The announcement coincided with a roundtable between Australian and United States Indigenous businesses and government leaders, led by delegations from Supply Nation and the Native American Business Association (NABA).

NABA President, Amanda Smith said Indigenous Peoples in the US and Australia shared similar histories and common aspirations.

"Both of our peoples have survived colonisation and shown incredible resilience. Both of us know that a strong business sector and a growing Indigenous economy is essential to our survival as distinct, self-determining peoples," she said.

Supply Nation CEO, Kate Russell said that the announcement was a light at the end of a post referendum dark tunnel.

"Supply Nation works with partners like the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) and the Global Supplier Diversity Alliance (GSDA) to ensure Indigenous businesses are able to leverage every opportunity possible, particularly in relation to trade and export."

"The ongoing relationship we have with our NABA colleagues is based on cultural values, knowledge sharing, deep respect and opportunity creation," she said.

Ms Smith said the exchange of ideas went both ways.

"Our organisation has learnt a great deal from Supply Nation about how a centralised database can transform supplier diversity," she said.

The funding will support ongoing dialogue, knowledge-sharing and increased business opportunities for Indigenous businesses in trade between both countries.

Ms Russell thanked the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Austrade, Australia's Consul-General to Canada, Josh Riley and Professor Tom Calma for their support of the initiative.

"Tom has always been a great supporter of Indigenous businesses and it was fantastic that he mentioned our work to President Biden when they spoke earlier this week. It was a privilege to have him at the table," she said.

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## Background:

Extract from: *Delivering on the Next Generation of Innovation and Partnership with Australia*, issued by the White House, October 25, 2023

**Growing Economic Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples:** Australia and the U.S. have a shared interest in ensuring that our trade and investment agenda delivers inclusive economic growth and benefits for everyone. Today we have also committed to work together, and in genuine partnership with Indigenous businesses and stakeholders from both Australia and the United States, to grow opportunities for our Indigenous Peoples to enjoy the economic prosperity created by our two-way trade and investment. Leaders welcomed the opportunities that will be created by the United States announcement of \$250,000 in new funding that will work with Australian government programs to support ongoing dialogue, knowledge-sharing and increased business opportunities for our Indigenous Peoples over coming months and years.

This week Australia and the United States held a roundtable between Indigenous businesses and government leaders from both nations, including Supply Nation's Australian Indigenous Business Delegation, who are travelling across the United States to grow important Indigenous commercial and cultural ties.

## About Native American Business Association (NABA)

Native American Business Association (NABA) is an advocacy group that was established through cooperative efforts between Native American business owners, City of Dallas, Parkland Health & Hospital System, DFW MDBA, People Fund and the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCOK). Its mission is to serve as advocates for Native American owned businesses and aid in business resource and development. NABA's goals include increasing Native American participation throughout business commerce as well as serve as a voice for Native American business by leading, connecting, and empowering Native Americans in Businesses. Native American Business participation in the North Texas region is the least represented socio-economic group when measured under the M/WBE spend statistics, and issue experienced nationally. To learn more, visit: [nativeamericanbusinessassociation.org](http://nativeamericanbusinessassociation.org)

## About Supply Nation

Supply Nation is Australia's leading supplier diversity organization. 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 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](http://supplynation.org.au)