

## Media Release

### Supply Nation records 5,000 Indigenous businesses

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Supply Nation today announces a significant milestone for the Indigenous business sector with the number of verified businesses on its database reaching 5,000.

Australia's leading advocate of supplier diversity, Supply Nation was established in 2009 with a cohort of just 13 Indigenous-owned businesses.

In 2024, Supply Nation proudly celebrates 15 years of working to grow the Indigenous business sector. The milestone is testament to the significant contribution of Indigenous businesses to the Australian economy, a contribution that Supply Nation has been instrumental in fostering.

Registration of the 5,000<sup>th</sup> business, Arnya Consulting, has been finalised, and details are available through Supply Nation's public database, [Indigenous Business Direct \(IBD\)](#).

Arnya Consulting is a business solutions provider specialising in bridging the distance between urban and remote areas by blending Indigenous knowledge with cutting-edge digital solutions. Based in Weipa, in Queensland's Cape York Peninsula, Arnya Consulting is dedicated to creating opportunities that value Indigenous knowledge and help businesses connect authentically with Indigenous communities.

Indigenous businesses are active in every sector of the Australian economy. Supply Nation's database contains businesses operating in agribusiness, food and beverages, construction, engineering and professional services, logistics and transport, hospitality and training, tourism, energy and resources, aerospace, satellite services, creative industries as well as cybersecurity and data protection.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome Arnya Consulting to the Supply Nation family – another fantastic example of the excellence in business being displayed by our First Nations business leaders and women entrepreneurs," said Kate Russell, Supply Nation CEO.

"The diversity of the Indigenous business sector cannot be underestimated. I am constantly overwhelmed and inspired by the passion and maturity of Indigenous businesses, particularly those in remote regions, and the growing contribution they are making to economic and jobs growth as well as the communities and customers they serve," she said.

"It is wonderful to be part of this significant milestone for Supply Nation and other Indigenous businesses. I am deeply invested in driving the digital economy, to support economic growth in remote and discrete communities around Australia. It is critical for communities to have energy and digital infrastructure for them to become all that they can be," said Sheridan Teitzel, Arnya Consulting.

Supply Nation's members now number over 850. These are organisations committed to supplier diversification and procuring products and services from Indigenous businesses, including government (federal, state and

territory)), corporates, many of which are ASX listed top 100, industry associations, not-for-profit organisations, and education providers.

In the year 2022/2023, Supply Nation facilitated and enabled \$4.1 billion of spend with verified Indigenous suppliers.

“The Indigenous business sector is growing from strength to strength, and we will see that represented at our Connect 2024 event this year and reflected in our Supplier Diversity Awards. Australia is starting to fully appreciate how deadly Indigenous-owned business can be, here in this country, and in our international markets,” said Ms Russell.

Connect 2024 will for the first time be held in Meanjin on the lands of the Turrbal and Jagera peoples at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on Wednesday 28 August and Thursday 29 August 2024.

Over 2,000 participants are expected to attend the Connect 2024 Knowledge Forum, Indigenous Business Tradeshow and Gala Awards Dinner.

### **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 robust 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](https://supplynation.org.au)

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

Connect 2024 will take place on Wednesday 28 August and Thursday 29 August 2024 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on the lands of the Turrbal and Jagera peoples in Meanjin. Find out more: [Supply Nation Connect 2024](https://supplynation.org.au/connect-2024)

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