

Media Release

Supply Nation 15-Year Legacy Report Released

Date of release 30 September 2024

Supply Nation today announces the release of *Legacy: Supply Nation's 15-year Anniversary Report*.

This month, during Supplier Diversity September, Supply Nation celebrates 15 years of support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned businesses and growing the Indigenous business sector. The Report provides analysis of the contribution Supply Nation has made to the growth and achievements of Indigenous businesses over its 15-year history.

In 2008, a submission was made to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs – Inquiry into Developing Indigenous Enterprises. The submission recommended that a supplier diversity initiative based on a United States model be established in Australia.

In 2009, the Australian Indigenous Minority Supplier Council (AIMSC), later known as Supply Nation was established by the Rudd Government.

In its first year of operation, Supply Nation facilitated \$300,000 of procurement spend with 13 Indigenous businesses. The Indigenous Business Direct database now lists over 5000 verified Indigenous businesses, and in 2023 procurement spend from members (corporate, government, non-profit organisations) totalled \$4.1 billion.

Key findings in the Report include:

- From 2009 to 2023, Supply Nation facilitated more than \$14.7 billion in procurement spend between our members and suppliers (verified Indigenous businesses).
- Numbers of suppliers grew from 2009 to 2024 at 41 percent per annum.
- Numbers of members grew at 25 percent per annum.

“It is an honour and a privilege to be Chief Executive Officer of this unique organisation at such a significant milestone,” said Supply Nation CEO and proud Awabakal woman Kate Russell.

“Supply Nation commenced as a three-year pilot program and has well and truly proved its worth, bringing significant benefits to Indigenous businesses that in turn contribute to economic and jobs growth and the prosperity of all Australians.

“We are seeing strong progress across diverse industries, driven by a commitment to innovation and sustainability, with core values that place improving education, health and social outcomes within communities at the centre of business culture. That is something to celebrate and support,” she said.

A copy of the Report is available [here](#).

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 rapidly evolving Indigenous business sector. Supply Nation's rigorous 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.

Media contact:

Paul Sanda
Media Manager, Corporate Affairs and Engagement
Paul.Sanda@supplynation.org.au