

Media Release

Celebrating Indigenous business excellence – Supply Nation announces Supplier Diversity Awards 2025 Winners

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Supply Nation is pleased to announce the winners of the annual Supplier Diversity Awards.

The Awards honour and recognise businesses, government agencies, not-for-profit organisations and individuals making a significant contribution to supplier diversity and excellence in driving a prosperous and vibrant Indigenous business sector.

Winners were announced at the Gala Awards Dinner on Thursday 21 August at ICC Sydney on Gadigal land as part of Connect 2025, the largest and longest running national Indigenous business event.

Connect 2025: Beyond the Horizon, attracted 280 businesses exhibiting at the Indigenous Business Tradeshow with more than 4000 participants travelling from all over Australia and overseas to attend the two-day event.

Supply Nation Chief Executive Officer and proud Awabakal woman, Kate Russell said the Supplier Diversity Awards are a way to support and recognise excellence amongst businesses that are committed to diversified procurement policies and the benefits of working with Indigenous businesses.

“Our recently released research report *The Sleeping Giant Rises* found that Indigenous-owned businesses are generating \$42.6 billion in social value for their households, employees and their families, and they create this social value purely by operating as a business, it excludes any funding support or other philanthropic programs that might be out there,” she said.

Social value refers to the positive changes seen through an Indigenous lens of wellbeing. This value includes improved agency and control over life, expanded aspirations, financial security, pride, physical health and mental wellbeing and stronger connections to Community, Culture and Country.

“Indigenous businesses remain resilient, optimistic, and committed to their values, and this is driving growth and success. The Supplier Diversity Awards honour organisations and individuals that are making a positive difference to prosperity and their communities, and that is something worth celebrating,” said Ms Russell.

Supply Nation verified Indigenous businesses and members sponsor each category of the Supplier Diversity Awards, with the Dr Dean Jarrett Award for Outstanding Impact, recognising one individual or business for significant and long-lasting contributions to the sector.

Supply Nation is pleased to be partnering with Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) as the exclusive Media Partner for Connect 2025. Central to this partnership is National Indigenous Television (NITV), created by, for and about First Nations Australians.

Award category and sponsor	Winners
Certified Supplier of the Year Telstra	Hardy Fencing Australia
Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year Department of Industry, Science and Resources	Amy Crookes – EY
Corporate Member of the Year Ethan Indigenous	CPB Contractors
Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year Westpac	Tammy O'Connor – KingKira Group
Registered Supplier of the Year bp	TVN On-Country
Procurement Professional of the Year Killara Services	Matthew Plichta – Rio Tinto
Government Member of the Year Laing O'Rourke	Department of Defence
Sam Tjengala Reuben Award Recognising Young Entrepreneur of the Year EY	Steven Fordham – Blackrock Industries
Indigenous Exporter of the Year Export Finance Australia	WV Technologies
Supplier Diversity Partnership of the Year ANZ	Djinda Produce and Cater Care Group
Dr Dean Jarrett Award recognising Outstanding Impact Commonwealth Bank	TVN On-Country

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 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.

Supply Nation has a zero-tolerance approach to any commercial fraud, dishonest or anti-competitive behaviour that impacts the successful growth and reputation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses. Allegations of fraudulent behaviour, including the unauthorised use of Supply Nation's brand and logos signifying Certified and Registered business will be investigated. In the year 2023/2024, Supply Nation enabled over \$4.6 billion to the Indigenous economy. To find out more, visit: [Supply Nation](https://www.supplynation.org.au)

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