

## Media Release

### New data shows Indigenous-owned businesses making serious contribution to national economy

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Supply Nation today launches its most recent State of Indigenous Business research report. The 2024–25 financial year showed significant growth in procurement spending with Indigenous suppliers, reflecting ongoing efforts to strengthen supplier diversity and economic participation across Australia.

A new national milestone was reached with Supply Nation members (corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors) recording a total of over \$5.83 billion in procurement spend with verified Indigenous-owned businesses up from \$4.6 billion the previous financial year. Of this figure 90% was with small- to-medium-sized (SMEs) businesses.

The State of Indigenous Business report draws on data from Supply Nation’s supplier and member records to provide a comprehensive view of trends, challenges and opportunities shaping the Indigenous business sector. The report showcases how Supply Nation’s members are leveraging procurement to drive economic participation and self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The report confirms that businesses led or owned by women are making a significant contribution to the sector, receiving \$1.52 billion in procurement spend. Construction was the leading sector for female-owned Indigenous businesses.

The mining and resources industries recorded the largest procurement spend at \$1.65 billion, followed by construction with \$1.26 billion. Government departments and agencies recorded \$1.53 billion. Procurement in the financial and Insurance services sectors increased from \$47 million to \$145 million.

Members based in Western Australia and New South Wales had the highest spend with Indigenous-owned suppliers. Suppliers in urban centres received 82% of the spend, while remote and rural businesses accounted for 18%. Read the full report [here](#).

“In a difficult year with trade disruptions, economic uncertainty and cost of living challenges, our members and suppliers have continued to seek opportunities for commercial collaboration, driving growth and resulting in positive economic and social outcomes,” said Kate Russell, proud Awabakal woman and Supply Nation CEO.

“The report found that the overwhelming majority of procurement spend went to Certified Suppliers, businesses that are 51% or more Indigenous owned, managed and controlled, rather than with Registered Suppliers, 50% or more Indigenous-owned. This supports the recent reforms by the Federal Government to increase the definition of an Indigenous business to 51%,” said Ms Russell.

Supply Nation’s recently released [The Sleeping Giant Rises](#) report found that for every dollar of revenue produced by Indigenous-owned businesses, \$3.66 of positive economic and social value was generated into the Australian economy.

Social value refers to the positive changes seen through an Indigenous lens of wellbeing – one that encompasses people, Country, and Culture. This value includes improved agency and control over life, expanded aspirations, financial security, pride, health and wellbeing, and stronger connections to Community, Culture and Country. Indigenous businesses create this value purely by operating as a business, it excludes any formal or informal support or other philanthropic programs.

### **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 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: [Supply Nation](https://www.supplynation.org.au)

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.

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