

# NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK MAY 27-JUNE 3

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## Indigenous business sector empowering reconciliation

This year marks 25 years of Reconciliation Australia, with the 2026 theme, 'All In', shining a spotlight on the role every Australian can play.

A key driver of progress is the Indigenous business sector, which continues to deliver significant economic, social and cultural outcomes across the nation.

Established in 2009, Supply Nation is Australia's leading supplier diversity organisation, supporting the growth of Indigenous-owned businesses through procurement opportunities across corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors.

Supply Nation CEO and proud Awabakal woman Kate Russell said the Indigenous business sector was far more than a contributor to the economy.

"It is a powerful multiplier," she said.

"Behind the numbers are real contracts, real jobs and real economic momentum."

Supply Nation research shows spending with verified Indigenous-owned businesses by its members reached a record \$5.83 billion during the 2024-25 financial year – a significant increase from \$4.6 billion the previous year.

Western Australian businesses continue to play a critical role

in Indigenous procurement growth, particularly across the mining and resources sectors.

The mining industry remains the primary driver of Indigenous procurement in WA, accounting for about \$1.1 billion in spending during 2024-25.

Supply Nation's recently released *State of Indigenous business WA Insights Report* found procurement from Indigenous businesses by Western Australian corporates, government agencies and not-for-profit organisations reached \$2.1 billion in 2024-25, representing 36 per cent of the national total.

Western Australian Indigenous-owned businesses also secured more high-value contracts than any other state or territory, with 306 transactions valued at more than \$1 million.

These contracts represent a substantial share of total procurement spend and reflect the growing participation of Indigenous businesses in major supply chains.

WA is also leading nationally in procurement with female-owned Indigenous businesses, which received \$708 million in procurement spend and accounted for almost half of the national total spent with female-owned Indigenous suppliers.

Notably, 73 per cent of Western Australian transactions valued above \$1 million were awarded to female-owned businesses, with the mining sector alone contributing \$572 million.

Industries such as mining, construction and government procurement are helping drive positive change.

Supply Nation's research also highlights the strong multiplier effect generated by Indigenous businesses.

*The Sleeping Giant Rises* report found that for every dollar generated by an Indigenous-owned business, \$3.66 in economic and social value flows back into the Australian economy.

That impact includes improved health outcomes, stronger educational attainment, greater financial security and deeper cultural connections within communities.



Kate Russell.

Yet despite this success, much of the sector's contribution remains largely unseen by the broader Australian public.

Ms Russell said across industries ranging from aerospace and cybersecurity to creative services and environmental management, Indigenous businesses were not only participating but innovating, competing and leading.

"National Reconciliation Week provides an important opportunity to recognise the contribution Indigenous businesses are making to Australia's prosperity and future economic resilience," she said.

"At a time of global economic uncertainty and rising cost-of-living pressures, Australia cannot afford to overlook a sector already delivering innovation, inclusion and sustainable growth.

"Broader recognition and deeper commitment from all stakeholders will create even greater success and economic stability, while investing in a shared future will help deliver meaningful and lasting reconciliation."

Australia's largest and longest-running event for the Indigenous business sector, Connect 2026, will be held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre from August 11-12.

To register or learn more, visit [connect.supplynation.org.au](https://connect.supplynation.org.au)



Connect 2025 at the International Convention Centre Sydney.



**TICKETS SELLING FAST**

**11 - 12 August 2026**  
**Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre**

**Australia's premier Indigenous business event**

Connect 2026 brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, corporate organisations and government to share knowledge, build relationships and celebrate the sector's achievements. Join us in Perth for two inspiring days of connection and celebration, featuring the Knowledge Forum, Tradeshow and Gala Awards Dinner.




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