



Victor Dominello MP

Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW BUSINESS PORTAL TO SHOWCASE ABORIGINAL SUPPLIERS

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello today launched a new Aboriginal Business Portal, which will make it easier for both the public and private sector in NSW to procure goods and services from Aboriginal owned and operated businesses.

Mr Dominello, who launched the portal at Lisant People Solutions, an Indigenous recruitment firm in Sydney, said the initiative was developed by the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the NSW Office of Finance and Services.

"This initiative will enable Aboriginal businesses to increase their exposure to private sector and government procurement opportunities and will help to showcase their expertise and capabilities," Mr Dominello said.

"The portal is an interactive database on the NSWICC website which already features approximately 170 Aboriginal businesses, and is linked to the popular NSW Buy website which offers a search engine for NSW Government contracts and supply arrangements.

"NSWICC will maintain the portal and verify the credentials of all the Aboriginal businesses featured. Companies and government agencies using the portal will be able to see information about the suppliers including their business certifications and work history.

"It's about increasing access and transparency as well as providing reassurance to companies looking to procure goods and services from Aboriginal owned businesses."

Mr Dominello said suppliers listed on the Aboriginal Business Portal would also gain exposure to opportunities through the NSW Buy website, which attracts over 12,000 unique searches per month.

"The NSW Government, through the work of OFS, is helping to improve access for Aboriginal businesses so they can compete for and win work through the thousands of government procurement opportunities on offer every month," he said.

"At the end of 2014 there were 109 Aboriginal suppliers contracted to the NSW Government and this initiative will help to grow that number."

CEO of the NSWICC Debbie Barwick said private sector and government representatives had expressed the need for a 'one-stop-shop' to go to when seeking to procure products and services from Aboriginal companies.

"There is enormous potential within NSW Government and the private sector for Aboriginal business growth and this portal will enable anyone to search for Aboriginal businesses by region and industry type," Ms Barwick said.

“NSWICC engages directly with an amazing range of Aboriginal businesses, and provides them with support to help identify opportunities and meet industry requirements.

“Growing successful Aboriginal businesses will strengthen our communities, not just economically but socially and culturally. The portal will give these businesses the opportunity to grow and thrive.”

The NSW Government has provided \$50,000 to support the creation of the portal as part of its commitment to economic development under *OCHRE*, its Plan for Aboriginal Affairs.

For more information about the Aboriginal Business Portal, including registering your business, please contact the NSWICC by email admin@nswicc.com.au or phone (02) 4932 7722. The portal can be accessed at: <http://nswicc.com.au/>.

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