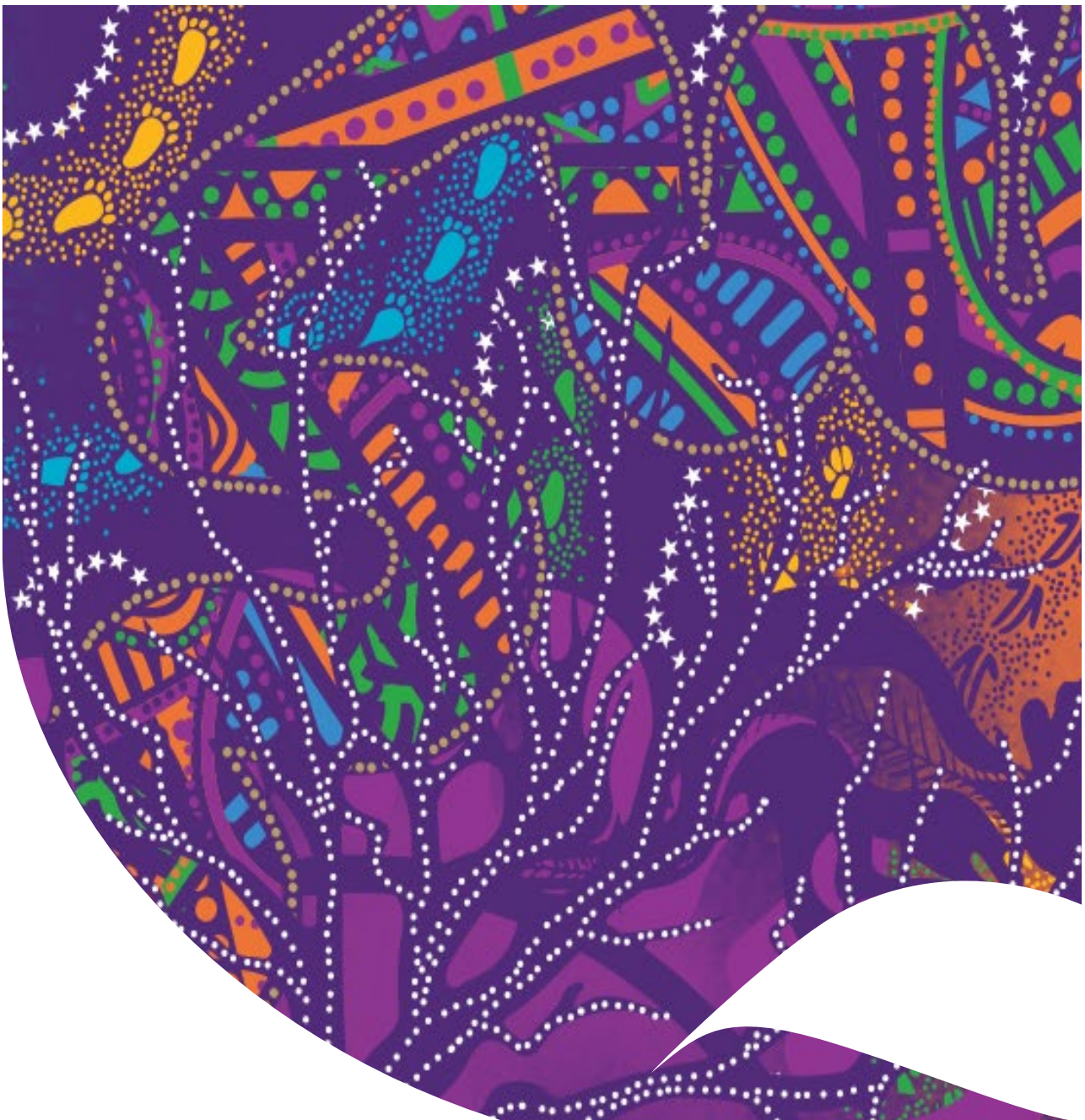


Indigenous Procurement Strategy

2022 Progress Report



Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Queensland (UQ) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which UQ operates.

We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country.

We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.

Summary

In April 2022, the UQ Indigenous Procurement Strategy ('the Strategy') was released to formalise UQ's commitments to supplier diversity as detailed in UQ's Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2022. The activities carried out in support of the Strategy over the past year are summarised in this report.

We saw an increase in the total spend with Indigenous suppliers from \$1,654,050 (0.45%) to \$3,244,203 (0.78%) in 2022. This increase reflects not only an increase in engagement with Indigenous businesses but also the changes to reporting to recognise payees other than traditional businesses, such as Indigenous Local Councils and Not-For-Profit organisations. Only \$0.90m (0.11%) in 2021 and \$2,686,896 (0.51%) in 2022 would be recognised under previous reporting methods.

In order to understand the commercial realities and supplier availability, we also reviewed the categories in which there are currently no Indigenous businesses operating. The total number of Indigenous businesses recognised on UQ's supplier list increased to 95, and we were better able to see where we have genuine opportunities to increase our spend.

A survey was conducted in November 2022 to better understand Indigenous purchasing behaviours across the University and remind the buying community about the strategy and its goals. The majority of respondents were aware of the Strategy but were unsure about available Indigenous businesses or where to find them. Barriers to purchasing were also identified, particularly with cost or budget considerations and payment processes. The results of this survey have informed 2023 plans, particularly in relation to communication and buyer awareness.

These developments provide a solid foundation for us to progress our ambitions in 2023-2025. We look forward to another year of working with colleagues across UQ to ensure that UQ's purchasing contributes to real benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and communities.

Compiled and presented by:
UQ Procurement & Payment Services
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Strategy Implementation Update

Targets

	Target	Actual
% of addressable spend	2%	0.78%

Note: Spend includes products manufactured by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, but purchased via distributors (i.e. via UQeMarket suppliers - \$4938). This does not include spend via UQ corporate card or purchase order commitments.

Governance

Action	Measure	Status	Progress
When updating UQ's procurement and payments policies, procedures and practices consider barriers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses supplying UQ with goods and services or otherwise engaging with UQ	Review and endorsement by UQ and external SMEs	Ongoing	Considerations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses were included in all new documents drafted in 2022. These will be released for implementation in 2023.
Engage with Supply Nation, PASA Connect or other procurement professional associations to better understand what barriers to participation might look like and how to positively impact those barriers	Attendance by senior UQ procurement stakeholders in at least one relevant session each calendar year	Ongoing	Supply Nation First Step training was completed by the Principal Project Officer (Procurement). Sessions and training facilitated by the Queensland Government on Increasing spend with Indigenous businesses were also attended. Attendance of these sessions is encouraged among the Enterprise Procurement team and other procurement stakeholders across the University.
UQ will first look to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses for any goods or services that inherently relate to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture	100% engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses for target expenditure	Ongoing	A definition of 'inherently related' goods and services has been included in the 2023 update to the Indigenous Procurement Strategy. As the definition is broad and not restricted to specific categories, reporting may not be possible. This requirement will be included in awareness and capability activities to ensure this initiative is implemented across UQ.

Action	Measure	Status	Progress
<p>UQ Finance will undertake a review of payment strategies to identify any barriers to Indigenous peoples engaging meaningfully with UQ and receiving timely and appropriate payment for that engagement</p>	<p>Identification and implementation of appropriate processes and governance artefacts to support timely and adequate payments</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The process for making payments to Traditional Owners or Knowledge Holders was reviewed to determine major issues that have occurred and the potential blockers in UQ's policies and procedures. A new Outgoing Payments Procedure and supporting resources, including allowances for cash advances, are designed to minimise the impacts of many of the noted issues. Further awareness and communication is needed to reduce issues with late notification of necessary payments.</p> <p>Payment terms for Indigenous businesses were also reviewed and recommendations will be provided to the CFO to inform policy changes in 2023.</p>
<p>UQ will investigate the use of the Supply Nation Member Opportunity Board and adapt practices to communicate UQ procurement activities to Supply Nation members</p>	<p>Usage of Board in 50% of appropriate procurement activities</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The Supply Nation Member Opportunity Board (MOB) was evaluated in terms of overall benefits and drawbacks of its use. Based on current technical limitations, usage of the MOB was not mandated. It was recommended that the MOB be used in procurement activities related to inherently related goods and services. Procurement teams were made aware of the Board and its capabilities and invited to make use of the MOB where possible.</p>

Awareness

Action detail	Measure	Status	Progress
<p>Use knowledge of existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suppliers to design and implement awareness campaign addressed to UQ procurement stakeholders</p>	<p>Increased expenditure by value and number of contracts/purchase orders with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses</p>	In progress	<p>A survey of UQ stakeholders was run in November 2022 to determine the current level of awareness of both the Indigenous Procurement Strategy 2022-2025 and of Indigenous suppliers generally. Most respondents were aware of the Strategy but were not aware of available Indigenous suppliers. Further work to create awareness of how to find Indigenous suppliers and the goods and services that can be purchased will be completed in 2023.</p>
<p><i>*extension of UQ's 2021-2022 RAP initiatives</i></p> <p>Implement inclusion of an icon in UQeMarket to identify products sourced from socially responsible businesses, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses</p>	<p>Move into production use of icon(s) – dependent on UQeMarket platform supplier implementing development into production</p> <p>Increased expenditure within UQeMarket on products manufactured by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses</p>	In progress	<p>The icon was not available from the supplier of the UQ eMarket platform in 2022. Some items are marked as 'Indigenous' items through text to allow searching within eMarket. The eMarket vendor has advised that this function will be available in 2023.</p>
<p>Use by Enterprise Procurement team of Reconciliation Week email signature</p>	<p>80% of Enterprise Procurement team use of email signature</p>	Complete	<p>The Reconciliation Week email signature is used widely by the Enterprise Procurement team.</p>

Capability

Action detail	Measure	Status	Progress
Attendance at Supply Nation or other socially responsible procurement training as opportunity arises	Attendance by at least one Enterprise Procurement staff member per year	Ongoing	Supply Nation First Step training was completed by the Principal Project Officer (Procurement). Additional training sessions will be attended as available.
Invitation to Supply Nation or other Indigenous procurement representative to present at UQ Finance Town Hall (or similar event)	Attendance for presentation	In progress	An invitation was issued but the presentation was unable to be completed in 2022. An invitation was accepted by Supply Nation to present to the Procurement Community of Practice in 2023.
Delivery of workshop(s) to procurement specialists of UQ (Enterprise Procurement, ICT & P&F category teams) on specific topics as available via Supply Nation or other industry bodies	Attendance of at least 5 procurement specialists annually	Ongoing	Through an opportunity provided by the Queensland Government, UQ procurement stakeholders participated in a workshop with Social Traders . Social Traders are a not-for-profit organisation who offer social enterprise certification to businesses and work with organisations to incorporate these social enterprises into their supply chains. Indigenous businesses whose purpose is to offer a public or community benefit can be certified with Social Traders. This workshop identified several areas where UQ can improve and expand engagement with social enterprises and Indigenous businesses.

Engagement

Action detail	Measure	Status	Progress
<p><i>*extension of UQ's 2021-2022 RAP initiatives</i></p> <p>Establish and maintain ongoing commercial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses</p>	End 2022 – three commercial relationships	Complete	UQ has established ongoing relationships with a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses. Expanding the definition of an Indigenous business has revealed significantly more ongoing relationships than previously estimated.
	<p>End 2023 – five commercial relationships</p> <p>End 2024 – seven commercial relationships</p>	In progress	<p>Indigenous suppliers are included on a number of UQ and Queensland Government supplier panels (accessible by UQ). Most notably in 2022 was the signing of Carbon Media as part of the Creative Services panel of 6 suppliers. This contract is for an initial 3 years, with total spend across the panel around \$100k per year.</p> <p>Geared Up Culcha continued to be utilised as part of the Print Panel. The Print Panel will be refreshed in 2023, where a strong contribution from Indigenous suppliers will be sought.</p>
Maintain Supply Nation membership	Payment of membership fee by due date annually	Ongoing	Annual membership maintained throughout 2022 and renewed for 2023.
Explore opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business expo on UQ location(s)	Hosting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business expo on UQ location(s) by mid-2024	To commence	Discussions to commence in 2023.
Include in all procurement category management plans consideration of strategies to identify opportunities to increase engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses	All category management plans created or updated during the period to include explicit analysis of opportunities.	Ongoing	No new category management plans were formalised in 2022. Indigenous suppliers will be included in several 2023 procurement activities. The UQ Procure system includes options for evaluation criteria related to Indigenous or social considerations, which will enable this work.



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