



COOEE | Connecting Indigenous Enterprise

DECEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026



WELCOME BACK

As we begin a new year, we welcome our members, partners and community back and look ahead to what 2026 has in store.

The year ahead brings new opportunities to connect, collaborate and strengthen Indigenous business across New South Wales and beyond. Building on the momentum of 2025, NSWICC remains committed to advocating for Indigenous enterprise, supporting our Assured Members and creating pathways for sustainable economic participation.

This edition of Cooee shares key updates, upcoming opportunities, member achievements and important dates, as we continue working together to drive strong outcomes for Indigenous businesses and communities.

Thank you for being part of the NSWICC network. We look forward to another year of connection, collaboration and impact.

EXPLORE THE NSWICC OPPORTUNITIES BOARD

The Cooee Opportunities Board is a dedicated platform for NSWICC Assured Members and Partner Organisations to share employment, training, and contract opportunities with the Indigenous business community.

Whether you're looking to grow your workforce, promote a training program, or advertise a contract, the Opportunities Board connects your opportunity with the right audience.

Want to feature an opportunity? [Contact us today.](#)

To view the latest opportunities, [CLICK HERE.](#)



SAVE THE DATE: THE SUMMIT 2026

We are pleased to announce that The Summit will return in 2026, continuing its role as a leading national platform for Indigenous business, employment, collaboration, and economic opportunity.

Following a powerful year of connection, insight, and impact, The Summit 2026 will once again bring together Indigenous businesses, corporate leaders, government representatives, and changemakers from across the country to drive meaningful outcomes — including stronger pathways to employment, workforce development and economic participation.

Event details

- Dates: 2–3 November 2026
- Venue: Rydges Resort Hunter Valley
- Location: On Wonnarua Country

Across two impactful days, The Summit 2026 will focus on:

- Strengthening Indigenous business growth and capability
- Creating employment and career pathways
- Supporting workforce participation and skills development
- Building partnerships across business, government, and industry

The full program and speaker lineup will be announced in the coming months.

We encourage you to save the date and share this opportunity with your networks. We look forward to welcoming you to The Summit 2026. To register for presale access, [CLICK HERE](#).



HOLIDAY CHEER AT NSWICC

NSWICC closed out the year with its final Member and Partner Networking Event for 2025, bringing together members, partners and families for a joyful and meaningful end-of-year celebration.

The event was filled with laughter, connection and festive spirit, providing a relaxed and welcoming space to reflect on the year that was and celebrate community before the holiday break.

Guests enjoyed decorating wooden, native-inspired ornaments, which now proudly hang on the NSWICC Christmas Tree — each one a lasting reminder of creativity, culture and connection.

A highlight of the afternoon was a beautiful cultural dance workshop delivered by Waagan Galga Aboriginal Corporation, with jarjums enthusiastically taking part and filling the space with smiles and

energy. Guests also enjoyed a thoughtfully prepared grazing board by the NSWICC team, complemented by delicious condiments from Dreamtime Kullilla Art.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, Uncle Santa made a surprise visit, spreading cheer and treats and quickly becoming a favourite with attendees.

NSWICC thanks everyone who joined us and contributed to making the event such a special way to close the year. We wish our members, partners and community a happy, safe and restful holiday season, and we look forward to reconnecting in 2026.

NSWICC NETWORKING EVENTS 2026

NSWICC Member and Partner Networking Events will return in 2026, offering exclusive opportunities for NSWICC Assured Members and Partner organisations to connect, collaborate and grow together. These events provide a relaxed and welcoming environment to build meaningful relationships across the Indigenous business ecosystem, explore collaboration and procurement opportunities, and strengthen connections within the NSWICC network. Light refreshments will be provided.

2026 Event Dates

Thursday 12 March | Tuesday 16 June | Thursday 10 September | Friday 4 December

NSWICC Members are encouraged to register early and bring a small selection of marketing materials. Partner organisations must register to attend and are invited to connect with NSWICC Assured Indigenous suppliers, explore collaboration opportunities and strengthen their supply chains.

Registrations are now open for our first event of the year on Thursday 12 March. To Register, [CLICK HERE](#).





ISDP COHORT 4 GRADUATION

ISDP Cohort 4 recently reached an important milestone, marking the culmination of months of learning, development and hard work as participants delivered their final business pitches.

Delivered in partnership between the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce and The University of Sydney Business School, the Indigenous Supplier Development Program (ISDP) supports Indigenous businesses to strengthen capability, refine their value proposition and prepare for tender and growth opportunities.

Six outstanding Indigenous entrepreneurs presented with confidence, clarity and purpose:

- Jenny De Meo – South Coast Earthworks
- Shawn Orcher – Yuala Group
- David Gordon – Ngemba Services
- Clinton Camilleri – Dreamtime Construction and Maintenance
- Jason Holland – Australian Landscape Solutions
- Eric Brown – Natcha Tong Nong Ga

Each participant demonstrated not only the strength of their business, but also the depth of leadership, resilience and community commitment that sits at the heart of the program.

NSWICC extends sincere thanks to the ISDP sponsors and panellists who generously shared their time and expertise, including Phil Kienstra (HKA), Sharon McKinney (Turner & Townsend), Nicolas Gombault (LogiKal), Stephen Porter (Deloitte) and Jonathan Gold (The University of Sydney).

We also acknowledge the dedication of the academic team — Dan Caprar, Dr Maegan Baker, Guy Ford, Danika Wright and Kevin Lowe — whose expertise continues to shape the strength and impact of the program. Finally, a special thank you to Rebecca Ryan and Lyndal Reed, whose commitment and work behind the scenes are central to the success of ISDP.

ISDP | FINAL SCHEDULED COHORT

NSW Indigenous businesses are invited to apply for the final scheduled cohort of the Indigenous Supplier Development Program (ISDP) — an accelerated, fee-free program designed to support businesses to become tender-ready and secure opportunities in the NSW construction and infrastructure sectors. With four successful cohorts already delivered, Cohort 5 represents the final opportunity to participate under the current funding arrangement.

Program highlights

- Accelerated delivery over three full days
- Program dates: 3, 4 and 5 March 2026
- Pitch and Presentation Day: 20 March 2026
- Faster access to a digital participation badge
- Delivered in partnership with The University of Sydney Business School
- Location: Djiyagiyulang-gal Enterprise Hub, Redfern
- Fee-free for successful applicants

The program supports Indigenous business owners and entrepreneurs to strengthen business capability, refine their value proposition and develop a tender-ready portfolio, guided by academic experts and industry leaders.

Applications are now open. [CLICK HERE](#) to see full program details.

FINAL COHORT

**Indigenous Supplier
Development Program**

**FEE FREE
TRAINING**

Accelerated program supporting Indigenous businesses to become tender-ready & win more business

Cohort 5

3–5 March 2026

Pitch Day: 20 March

NSWICC Djiyagiyulang-gal Hub - Redfern

Delivered in partnership with USYD



NSWICC attends the Lord Mayor's Christmas Reception 2025

NSWICC ATTENDS THE LORD MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

The NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce was pleased to attend the Lord Mayor's Christmas Reception on Wednesday, 26 November 2025, held at the historic Centennial Hall, Sydney Town Hall. The evening brought together civic leaders, community organisations and businesses from across the city to reflect on the year and acknowledge the contributions of those working to strengthen Sydney's social and economic fabric.

During the event, Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore AO, shared an overview of key projects recently completed and those currently underway, highlighting the continued growth, development and vibrancy of the city. It was particularly encouraging to see small businesses securing City of Sydney contracts, reinforcing the important role local enterprises play in delivering meaningful outcomes and contributing to a strong, inclusive economy.

NSWICC values opportunities such as this to connect with civic leaders and partners, reflect on progress and continue advocating for greater participation of Indigenous businesses in procurement and economic development across NSW.

"CONNECTING INDIGENOUS VOICES" WITH USYD BUSINESS SCHOOL

In December, Josiah Younes, Business Development Manager, had the opportunity to attend The University of Sydney Business School's "Connecting Indigenous Voices" event on behalf of the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce. The event brought together Indigenous students, alumni and industry partners to celebrate leadership, cultural strength and collective endeavour, creating a powerful space for connection, learning and shared purpose. It was especially inspiring to hear Adam Goodes share his story — grounded in his Indigenous heritage and identity — reflecting on how he developed leadership throughout his AFL career and the continued lessons shaping his journey in business today.

Events like this reinforce the importance of strong Indigenous voices, leadership and collaboration across education, business and community.



"Connecting Indigenous Voices" with USYD Business School



WESTBOURNE COLLEGE: NATIONAL AWARD WIN

NSWICC Assured Member Westbourne College has achieved national recognition, being awarded the Gold Medal for Innovation in VET at the 2025 Australian Training Awards. This prestigious award recognises Westbourne College's leadership, innovation and commitment to delivering high-quality, culturally strong education outcomes for Indigenous learners and communities across Australia.

The achievement reflects the passion, expertise and dedication of the entire Westbourne College team, along with the collective contributions of educators, partners, students and supporters who continue to strengthen pathways to education, training and employment.

As a certified Indigenous owned and controlled business, Westbourne College is committed to driving innovation in vocational education and training, improving access to quality learning opportunities and creating pathways to real employment and strong futures. NSWICC congratulates Westbourne College on this outstanding national achievement and is proud to support their continued success.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2026 THEME ANNOUNCED

ALL IN

All In is a powerful call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation — not only during National Reconciliation Week, but every day. The theme reminds us that reconciliation is not passive, nor is it the responsibility of Indigenous peoples alone. Meaningful change requires collective action, shared responsibility and a willingness to step beyond words into genuine engagement.

As Reconciliation Australia marks 25 years, All In invites individuals, organisations and institutions to deepen their commitment and take action to advance the rights of Indigenous peoples and strengthen reconciliation across communities, workplaces and society more broadly.

The 2026 National Reconciliation Week artwork has been created by renowned Gumbayngirr/Bundjalung artist Otis Hope Carey, offering a vibrant and optimistic reflection of people being truly all in for change. Reconciliation will not happen by itself — it requires all of us to be All In.

2026 NAIDOC WEEK THEME ANNOUNCED

50 YEARS OF DEADLY

50 Years of Deadly marks a significant milestone, celebrating five decades of recognising and honouring the strength, achievements, culture and contributions of Indigenous peoples across generations. The theme reflects the enduring legacy of NAIDOC as a movement grounded in resistance, pride and self-determination. It acknowledges the individuals, communities and organisations who have led change, broken barriers and continued to strengthen outcomes for Indigenous peoples and communities.

As we look ahead to NAIDOC Week 2026, 50 Years of Deadly invites all Australians to reflect on how far we have come, recognise the work that remains and celebrate Indigenous excellence — past, present and future.

NAIDOC Week continues to be a time for learning, reflection and celebration, providing opportunities for communities, organisations and individuals to come together and honour Indigenous voices, leadership and resilience.

To learn more about the 2026 theme and NAIDOC Week, visit www.naidoc.org.au



2026 NSW ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY CONFERENCE

AbSec has announced the 2026 NSW Aboriginal Child & Family Conference, taking place from 25–27 August 2026 on Birpai Country at Panthers Port Macquarie. The conference will bring together Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, carers, practitioners, government and sector partners to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration and support positive outcomes for Aboriginal children, families and communities. Opportunities are available to attend, exhibit, sponsor or advertise.

For more information, including the prospectus and ticket waitlist, [CLICK HERE](#).



PROCUREMENT IN PRACTICE

HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES WORK WITH NSW GOVERNMENT

GETTING TENDER-READY WITHOUT BECOMING OVERWHELMED

Case Study

A small business wanted to supply services to the NSW Government for the first time. They had strong capability, local knowledge, and a solid track record in the private sector — but government procurement felt complex and unfamiliar. The biggest challenge wasn't capability. It was understanding where to start, what buyers look for, and how to avoid common mistakes.

What worked

- Clearly describing their experience in plain language, not "government speak"
- Focusing on outcomes delivered, not just services offered
- Asking early questions about requirements and timeframes (attending tender information sessions)

What didn't

- Waiting until a tender closed to seek clarification on requirements
- Submitting generic responses not tailored to the opportunity
- Underestimating how important compliance documents are
- Leaving submission until the last minute

How NSW Government procurement works

When NSW agencies and departments buy from businesses, the main focus is value for money. That doesn't mean choosing the cheapest option. Buyers look at the overall value a contract will deliver over time — including quality, reliability, risk, and benefits — compared to the total cost.

What buyers are really looking for:

- Businesses that can clearly show what they do and how they've delivered before
- Compliance basics in place (like insurances and certifications)
- Reliable, safe delivery

NSW Government also wants procurement to be:

- Fair and competitive, so businesses of all sizes can take part
- Easy to do business with, by reducing red tape and using digital tools
- Open to new ideas, with suppliers encouraged to bring innovative solutions
- Supportive of economic, social and sustainability outcomes, including opportunities for Indigenous businesses

Indigenous businesses are encouraged to engage early with government buyers. The Aboriginal Procurement Policy is there to support you — use it to start conversations and access more opportunities.

Practical Tips

- Keep your capability statement clear, short, and specific including examples of your past work
- Make sure your business insurances and any applicable certifications are current
- Tailor every response — even for smaller opportunities
- Ask questions early — it shows professionalism, not weakness

One thing to try this month

Review your capability statement and check: *Does this clearly tell our story, highlight our capability, and show why we're ready to work with government?* If not, that's your starting point.

Want to Learn More?

The NSW Procurement Specialists support NSWICC Assured Members to understand opportunities and prepare for government work. Look out for upcoming resources and support. Need help? Contact our team at connect@nswprocure.com.au.



WELCOME TO WUU-RI

A new year. A new chapter. But not a new story.

Wuu-ri has been empowering Indigenous enterprise since 2018. Born as an initiative of the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce, Wuu-ri was created to turn everyday transactions into meaningful economic impact for Indigenous businesses and communities. Until now, much of Wuu-ri's work has taken place on the ground — through vending partnerships, capacity-building programs, microgrants and reinvestment back into Indigenous enterprise. In 2026, that begins to change.

This year marks the first time Wuu-ri steps into the online space. Not because the journey is new — but because the impact has grown, the network has expanded nationally, and it's time to share the story behind the machines, the partnerships and the outcomes being achieved together.

Every purchase through Wuu-ri helps to:

- Support Indigenous entrepreneurs
- Fund business capability and leadership programs
- Strengthen economic self-determination

Wuu-ri's website will launch later this year. For now, this is where stories will be shared — highlighting purpose, partnerships and the real impact being created across communities.

Thank you for being part of this next chapter. Supporting Wuu-ri means supporting something far greater than a single transaction.

To follow the journey and stay connected, follow Wuu-ri: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

MIDNIGHT DREAMING: CREATING WITH PURPOSE

NSWICC Assured Member, Midnight Dreaming, is a First Nations-led creative brand founded by Wiradjuri/Wongaibon artist Renae Lamb. Grounded in culture, Country, and community, Midnight Dreaming exists to reshape narratives around Aboriginal identity by celebrating strength, resilience, and truth through meaningful design and storytelling.

Renae's work is deeply influenced by her ancestral ties across central-west New South Wales and her lived experience growing up and raising her family in Wannarua, Awabakal, and Worimi Country. Each piece created through Midnight Dreaming is guided by cultural integrity and a commitment to equity, inclusion, and representation.

Midnight Dreaming is more than a brand — it is a platform for cultural expression, education, and change. Through art, fashion, and collaboration, the business aims to create space for Aboriginal voices to be seen, valued, and respected, while supporting opportunities for community engagement and growth.



SIGNIFICANT DATES COMMEMORATED



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2025

Human Rights Day 2025 marked an opportunity to reflect on our shared responsibility to uphold freedom, equality and justice — the principles at the heart of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

For Indigenous peoples, these rights are inseparable from Country, culture, identity and self-determination. At NSWICC, we continue to advocate for systems that honour these rights by strengthening Indigenous enterprise, creating economic pathways and elevating the voices of Indigenous businesses and communities across NSW.

Empowering Indigenous economic participation is not only an economic priority — it is a human rights commitment that supports long-term justice, equity and community wellbeing.



JANUARY 26: SURVIVAL DAY AND DAY OF MOURNING

January 26 marked a date of deep significance for many Indigenous peoples, recognised as Survival Day and the anniversary of the 1938 Day of Mourning.

The date reflects the beginning of colonisation, widespread dispossession and the lasting impacts felt by Indigenous communities today, while also acknowledging the strength, resilience and continuity of Indigenous peoples and culture — the world’s oldest continuing culture.

It also served as an opportunity for reflection, listening to Indigenous voices and considering how truth-telling, respect and meaningful action contribute to reconciliation.

NSWICC PROGRAMS

BUYING ON COUNTRY

ADVANCING INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH KEY INITIATIVES AS PART OF CLOSING THE GAP

Buying on Country is a NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce initiative designed to strengthen Aboriginal economic participation through a united approach to procurement, partnerships, and capability uplift programs for buyers and suppliers. At its core, the initiative aims to create lasting impact by increasing opportunities for Aboriginal businesses across NSW to participate in and benefit from government and private sector supply chains.

This initiative currently encompasses three flagship programs, delivered by NSWICC in partnership with Aboriginal Affairs NSW. See below for more information on these programs, or email us at closingthegap@nswicc.com.au.

Buying on Country 'Equitable Procurement Practices'

This program tackles the practice of black cladding where non-Indigenous businesses unfairly exploit Indigenous businesses to gain access to procurement opportunities. It raises awareness among procurement officers about the risks and aims to prevent such practices. It also focusses on the Aboriginal Procurement Policy, the intent behind it and how it can be utilised in the buying process. Through training and support resources, the program ensures that Aboriginal businesses can compete fairly and benefit from government procurement contracts.

Buying on Country 'Supplying Local Government'

Focused on improving local procurement opportunities for Aboriginal businesses, this pilot program works with a regional local government to encourage the use of Aboriginal businesses in local projects. It also aims to build stronger networks and promote local Aboriginal enterprises, leading to greater employment opportunities and business growth.

Buying on Country 'Connecting Indigenous Business'

This project provides culturally appropriate mentoring and support to Aboriginal entrepreneurs, particularly focusing on Aboriginal businesswomen, small businesses ready to scale up, and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs). By fostering mentorship and knowledge-sharing, it aims to build the confidence and capabilities of Aboriginal business owners, contributing to the growth of sustainable Indigenous businesses.

LEARN MORE



NSWICC PROGRAMS



Indigenous Supplier Development Program

Develop your peer network and create a tender-ready portfolio to win business in the NSW construction and infrastructure sectors.



SCAN TO APPLY:



APPLY FOR OUR NEXT COHORT TODAY!

This three month part-time program will give you the communication, strategic and leadership skills required to take your business to the next level. Featuring in-person and online learning delivery, this program has been co-designed with busy business owners and entrepreneurs in mind. Developing your capabilities and techniques to win more business, you will be supported on this journey by your new professional network of peers and industry leaders.



A collaboration between The University of Sydney and NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce.



Wuu-rrri Vending

Empowering Indigenous Enterprise!

Wuu-rrri Vending is now available in all States and Territories and provides an opportunity for industry, government and other organisations to maximise their impact by supporting economic parity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. To enquire, [CLICK HERE](#).



NSW procurement specialists

Get expert advice to help build your capability to win government business.

NSW Procurement Specialists advisors are experienced professionals who provide confidential advice independently from the NSW Government to enterprises across all industries in NSW.

FREE procurement support for NSWICC Assured Members!



CONTACT US TODAY!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Click for more information



Member & Partner Networking Events 2026

Thursday 12th March - Redfern

Tuesday 16th June - Redfern

Thursday 10th September - Rutherford

Friday 4th December - Redfern



SCAN HERE TO
REGISTER FOR OUR
NEXT EVENT

THE SUMMIT 2026

The Premier Annual Event for
Indigenous Procurement, Employment
and Engagement in NSW!

2ND & 3RD NOVEMBER

Rydges Resort Hunter Valley
Wonnarua Country



www.nswiccevents.com/thesummit

2026 New South Wales

Aboriginal Child & Family Conference

25-27 August 2026

Birpai Country // Panthers Port Macquarie



AbSec
NSW Child, Family & Community
Peak Aboriginal Corporation



NEW NSWICC ASSURED MEMBERS
[Click here to find out how to become a Member!](#)




Buledya



Jarra



Dakota Dixon




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