

Supply chains building Indigenous communities

Australian business, Leighton Contractors and Supply Nation are shining a light on the role supply chains and procurement play in building Indigenous communities.

At the recent Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Australasia forum, Leighton Contractors Group Manager Procurement and Supply Chain, Visna Lampasi spoke about his company's Indigenous Participation and Engagement Strategy.

"We appoint a designated Supplier Diversity Manager and prepare our procurement and supply chain team with cultural awareness training," says Lampasi.

Lampasi also said that they held forums with Indigenous suppliers and contractors, and established partnership agreements, even going so far as to amend their other supplier and subcontractor agreements to encourage further Indigenous inclusion.

As a result, Leighton Contractors' Indigenous partnerships now extend across a range of categories including earthworks, ICT services, safety and security, and training.

Leighton Contractors believe successful diversity programs need executive engagement, strategic alignment of key stakeholders, designated procurement professionals, and regular evaluation against KPIs.

"We believe we have both a responsibility and an opportunity to contribute to the growth and advancement of Indigenous people and communities," says Lampasi.

"We recognize the mutual economic benefits that can be realised through commercial investments, partnerships and the inclusion of Indigenous businesses within our supply chain."

CEO of Supply Nation, Charles Prouse said Leighton Contractors are a shining example of how Australian businesses can implement a mutually beneficial supplier diversity program.

"Our aim is to get other corporate members on a similar path and to illustrate the crucial role of procurement in the long-term sustainability of Indigenous businesses," says Prouse.

Source: <http://www.leightoncontractors.com.au/news-and-media/news/leighton-contractors-opens-the-supply-chain-to-build->

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