



30 January 2020

Mr Julian Leaser MP  
Committee Secretary  
House of Representative Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs  
PO Box 6021  
Canberra ACT 2600

*via email:* IndigenousAffairs.reps@aph.gov.au

*Julian*  
Dear ~~Mr Leaser~~

**Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business**

We acknowledge COAG's Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report<sup>1</sup> which highlights the social and economic benefits that flow from employment, and the success of the indigenous-owned small business and family enterprise sector. To do this well requires good and close engagement with the sector particularly the continued engagement with Indigenous Business Australia and Supply Nation.

In addition to this good and close sector engagement the approaches that would work well for employment opportunities and business in this sector include:

1. Appropriate program funding using respected community elders to act as mentors whilst recognising employment can be seasonal and that technology may change employment opportunities in the future.
2. Customise Vocational Educational Training to ensure programs are delivered to meet Indigenous Australians learning requirements. Training must be tailored to meet local requirements through community and business consultation.
3. Mentoring programs for this sector must be localised and ongoing to ensure the continued success in employment and small business within rural and remote Indigenous Australian communities.
4. Government policy including the Indigenous Procurement Policy requires genuine engagement with indigenous businesses. Genuine involvement of Indigenous Australians in these contracts would ensure that these funds are directed to best effect.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**Kate Carnell AO**  
Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman

<sup>1</sup> Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage – Key Indicators 2016