

First Nations
procurement
strategy
2023-25



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where its offices are located, the Ngunnawal people, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, the people of the Yugambah Nation and the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The ASC extends this acknowledgment to all the Traditional Custodians of the lands and First Nations Peoples throughout Australia and would like to pay its respects to all Elders past, present and emerging. The ASC recognises the outstanding contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples make to society and sport in Australia and celebrates the power of sport to promote reconciliation and reduce inequality.

Message from Australian Sports Commission First Nations Procurement Strategy Champion

The ASC's vision is for sport to have a place for everyone and deliver results that make Australia proud. We believe sport has the power to reduce inequality and promote reconciliation between First Nations Peoples and non-Indigenous Australians. The ASC strives to be a culturally safe place where diversity is valued and opportunities to partner with First Nations Peoples are actively sought through employment, procurement and engagement.

The ASC's First Nations Procurement Strategy (the Strategy) sets out the approach to supporting First Nations suppliers through development of measurable procurement practices. With the aim to consistently increase both the number of First Nations suppliers engaged, and the total contract spend during the lead up to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. The ASC is well positioned to support, promote and advocate for First Nations business growth during the "green and gold decade", and we are focused on building sustainable success well beyond. We are committed to advancing and prioritising business opportunities with Australia's First Nations Peoples to generate and grow economic prosperity, in turn benefitting local economies and the wider Australian economy.

The Strategy represents the ASC's overall commitment and approach to achieving procurement related deliverables under the ASC's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2022-24.



Katrina Tonkin
ASC Chief Finance Officer

Delivery and success of the Strategy

The National Indigenous Australians Agency's Indigenous Procurement Policy¹ (IPP) aims to stimulate Indigenous entrepreneurship, business and economic development, providing Indigenous Australians with more opportunities to participate in the economy. The ASC have embedded key principles from the IPP within the ASC's Procurement Policy and procurement guidance available to all officials. Embedding these principles relies on strategic direction from leadership, raised awareness and effective communication strategies to emphasise the benefits of procuring through First Nations suppliers.

Key Performance Indicator and commitments

Key Performance Indicator	ASC's Commitment (using 2022/23 FY as a baseline)
Volume and value of contracts and purchases from First Nations suppliers.	An annual increase in the overall total value of contracts awarded to First Nations suppliers.
	An annual increase to the number of unique First Nations suppliers engaged by the ASC.

The following internal processes have been developed to progress the Strategy and deliver against commitments:

Implementing improved tools, resources and strategies to build awareness of engagement with First Nations suppliers by:

- Half yearly reporting to the ASC Executive and Board on the number of First Nations contracts and contract values.
- Implementing procurement training to educate ASC staff on the internal requirements and process to procure goods and services through First Nations suppliers.
- Improving guidance for staff on how to identify suitable First Nations suppliers and the use of Supply Nation's Indigenous Business Direct database.
- Ensuring ASC procurement officials attend RAP Working Group meetings to promote improvements to First Nations procurement practices.

Improving internal procurement processes to support engagement with First Nations businesses by:

- Including mandatory internal policy requirements to approach First Nations businesses:
 - > at set procurement thresholds
 - > when goods and services are delivered in remote areas, and
 - > incorporating Indigenous participation requirements for contracts valued at \$7.5 million or more in specified sectors.

¹ Australian Sports Commission is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity and is not mandated to apply the IPP, however, the ASC has embedded principles from the IPP as best practice in procurement processes.

- Ensuring internal procurement practices are appropriate for engaging with First Nations businesses.
- Provision of feedback throughout and after procurement processes to help prepare First Nations businesses for future opportunities.
- Ensuring senior leadership and procurement decision makers understand and support the First Nations procurement initiatives outlined within the ASC Procurement Policy.

Sharing First Nations procurement outcomes and good news stories to reinforce the benefits of First Nations engagement by:

- Regularly sharing successful outcomes of engagement with First Nations providers through internal communication platforms.
- Communicating First Nations business opportunities and events.

Responsibility

Implementation of the Strategy is the responsibility of all ASC officials:

Procure to Pay Team — in development of the Strategy and associated guidance material to progress First Nations procurement initiatives for the ASC. In addition to monitoring and reporting on progress towards ASC's commitments.

ASC Executive and delegates — through proactively leading and supporting the Strategy's initiatives to increase the volume and value of First Nations contracts.

ASC business areas — through structuring procurement processes to provide opportunities for engagement with First Nations suppliers.

Annual review of the strategy

The Procure to Pay team will conduct an annual review of the Strategy to identify potential improvements and monitor progress toward the commitments.