

# BADJI

**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES  
STRAIT ISLANDER BUSINESS  
SUPPORT PROGRAM**



## **NEWSLETTER**

**March  
2025**

### **IN THIS EDITION**

#### **NEWS**

- *NACCHO Conference 2024*
- *Multicultural Festival 2025*
- *Female Founders 2025*
- *Supply Nations Indigenous Trade Fair 2025*
- *17 Anniversary National Apology to the Stolen Generations*

#### **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & EVENTS**

- *International Women's Day Breakfast*
- *First Wednesday Connect*
- *AIPM Women in Project Leadership Summit*
- *Supporting Small Business Learning Needs*
- *SME Breakfast*
- *IBA Online Courses*
- *Reconciliation Day*

#### **UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

- *ICON Grant, IBA Business Loans, Indigenous Advancement Strategy*

**Coolamon Advisors  
are relocating!**

**From 11th March 2025  
you can find us at:**

**Level 1, 86-88 Northbourne  
Avenue, Braddon ACT**

Hi my name is Malcolm Towney, Proud Wiradjuri Man from Peak Hill, Central West NSW, home of the Red Dust Mob.

I moved to Canberra/Queanbeyan in 1990 for Rugby League and the Australian Public Service. My children grew up in Queanbeyan and now my Grandchildren are doing the same.

As the Badji Co-ordinator, I am thrilled to bring you the latest updates from the Badji Program, dedicated to supporting and nurturing our deadly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses in Canberra. This month features Badji participants who have been busy at recent events, what workshops and events are coming soon and funding opportunities currently available.



"We are an ACT majority-owned and managed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander company.

We have a wealth of lived and learned experience to share with First Nations businesses"



## Office Desk Space

We welcome all who would like to work from one of our spacious desks. Bring your laptop and enjoy high speed Wi-Fi, phone and printer facilities, a great kitchen, tea and coffee.

# WHAT DO WE DO?

## We're here to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Businesses in the Canberra Region

- ✓ We help you with the qualifying documentation for Supply Nation registration or certification.
- ✓ We find the specific Business Mentoring and Coaching services you need.
- ✓ We search available business grants that you could be eligible for.
- ✓ We find opportunities for you to study in an Accelerated Business Program.
- ✓ We can assist you to up-skill your business and IT skills.
- ✓ Our Business Support Concierge is here to guide you along the journey to business success.
- ✓ Bring your laptop to use a spacious desk in our workspace with access to high speed wi-fi, printer and phone facilities.
- ✓ We have resources to connect you with everything your business may need.
- ✓ We are available Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm


*The Program was gifted the name "BADJI" by Ngunnawal Elder Caroline Hughes, meaning "Arise" in the Ngunnawal language.*

*Commissioned artwork by Yarrudhamarra Creations.*

*The BADJI Business Support Program is an initiative by the ACT Government for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT to grow their business and for entrepreneurs to start one up.*

**Get in touch with us to book your desk space and find out how we can help your business:**

 [malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au](mailto:malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au)

 **02 6189 0770**



To view or download previous Newsletters, and to subscribe, visit our website:

**[coolamonadvisors.com.au/badji-business-support-program](http://coolamonadvisors.com.au/badji-business-support-program)**



# News



Burbirra

Burbirra provides counselling, training and facilitation to elevate the social and emotional wellbeing of individuals and teams.

[burbirra.com.au](http://burbirra.com.au)

## NACCHO

Members' Conference

In the first week of December 2024, two Badji participants showcased their businesses at the 2024 NACCHO Members' Conference.

The Conference saw 900 delegates with 104 presenters covering 65 unique topics. There were four Federal Government Ministers/Assistant Minister, 21 CEO's, 39 Front Line Workers, 16 Educational and Research Employees, with two Government Departments represented throughout the presentations and 58 participating organisations representing every State and Territory within Australia.

Culture on the Move delivers Aboriginal Cultural knowledge workshops to community, schools, corporate and government.

[cultureonthemove.com](http://cultureonthemove.com)



Culture on the Move



# National Multicultural Festival

7-9 February 2025

[blaklabeldreaming.com](http://blaklabeldreaming.com)

Blaklabel  
Dreaming



Canberra community fashion range by Blacklabel, modeled by local community members

Canberra celebrated the month of February by hosting the annual Multicultural Festival for 3 days. This year saw 200 Performers, 270 Stalls and 170 Cultures from all over the world and brought out talented local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander showcases.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were well represented with 8 Stalls, four of those being Badji clients.

Dale Huddleston and the Riverbank Band performing and Blaklabel Dreaming's fashion parade were highlights of the festival.

## Female Founders Trade Show

11 February 2025

Female Founders aims to support women-led businesses and promote female entrepreneurship and is designed to address the under-representation of women in the startup arena.

Events are held throughout the year and this event was an Annual Tradeshow which featured a variety of products and services from female-led businesses in Canberra.

According to Supply Nation 29% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business founders are women so Female Founders are a great resource that can assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female owned businesses to access further support for their businesses.

Thinkaneers



Thinkaneers is on facebook

Kabu



[kabuart69@gmail.com](mailto:kabuart69@gmail.com)

Marrawuy Journeys



[mjourneys.com.au](http://mjourneys.com.au)





Select Electrical

[selectelectricalonline.com.au](http://selectelectricalonline.com.au)

# Supply Nation Indigenous Trade Fair

12 February 2025

The 2025 Supply Nation Indigenous Trade Fair was designed to bring together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses alongside motivated Government and Corporate buyers. Several Badji participants secured a spot to promote their business.

The Trade Fair had over 300 Government and Corporate representatives through the door with 77 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses participating.

The Supply Nation Indigenous Trade Fair is open to any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Business that has updated their Supply Nation profile within the last 12 months.

It was pleasing to see eligible local Canberra Region businesses take this rare opportunity to promote their unique business and make new connections.



Marrawuy Journeys

[mjourneys.com.au](http://mjourneys.com.au)



McLeod's Angels

MacLeods Angels Catering is on facebook

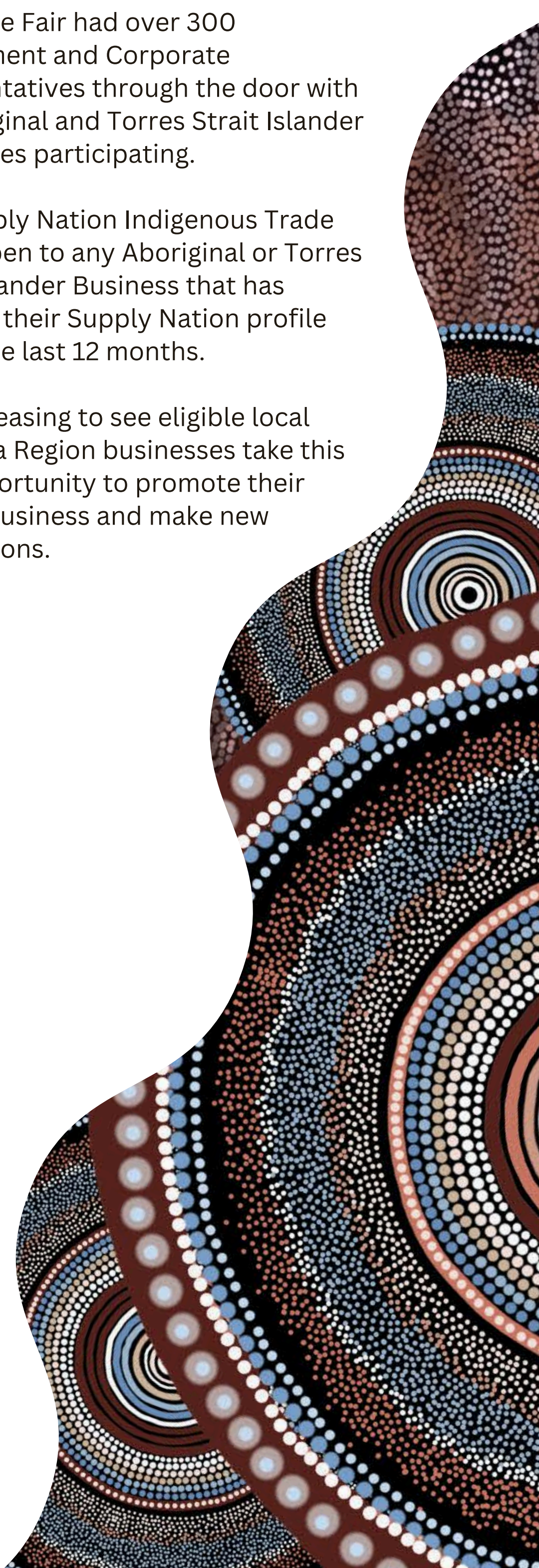


Arrow FM

[arrowfm.com.au](http://arrowfm.com.au)



Malcolm Towney with Willy Middleton Jnr





# 17th Anniversary National Apology to the Stolen Generations

Parliament House

13 February 2025

Survivors, community and government came together to commemorate the 2008 Apology, consider steps taken to heal the trauma and recommendations to continue to move forward.

Katrina Fanning along with Badji Co-ordinator Malcolm Towney were in attendance in support.

Images from top:

1. Auntie Yvonne Mills with Malcolm Towney.

2. Malcolm Towney with Michael McLeod founder of Supply Nation and Karen Parter.

3. Melissa Bulger, Auntie Glyniss Church, Karen Parter and Malcolm Towney.

4. John Janke, Malcolm Towney and Uncle Michael Welsh.

5. Uncle Tony Hansen, Uncle Michael Welsh and Malcolm Towney.





# UPCOMING

# Workshops & Events

View details:

[cwb.org.au/our-events](http://cwb.org.au/our-events)

It will feature:

- a panel discussion with special guests, exploring “Empowerment Through Equity: Shaping a Future of Opportunity for all” with panellists sharing their views on how we can better equip and support women in business and the workplace.
- networking opportunities.
- a delicious breakfast set against the picturesque backdrop of Lake Burley Griffin.

## International Women’s Day Business Breakfast

6 March 2025, 8:00am - 9:30am

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Canberra Business Chamber will be co-hosting a breakfast to celebrate the achievements of women in business. This event is also supported by Canberra Women in Business.

### Empowerment Through Equity: Shaping a Future of Opportunity for All

#### International Women’s Day Business Breakfast

Moderator



Helen Leayr

Time: 8:00am - 9:30am

Date: Thursday, 6 March 2025

Venue: The Jetty, East Kiosk, Queen Elizabeth Terrace Parkes ACT 2600



Fiona Hindmarsh



Narelle Devine



Sarah Rajic



Stephanie Elliott

Panellists



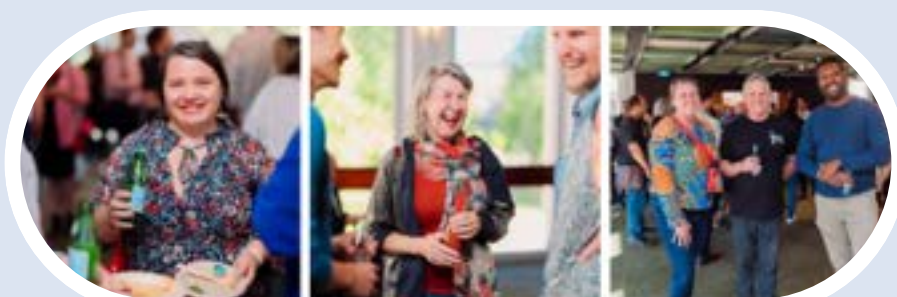
Supported by:

View details:

[cbrin.com.au/fwc](http://cbrin.com.au/fwc)

## First Wednesday Connect (FWC)

6 March 2025, 5:00pm - 6:30pm



Hear from Canberra’s emerging entrepreneurs as they take the stage in the high-intensity pitch blitz. Learn about groundbreaking innovations that are pinning Canberra on the map for The City of Innovation.

First Wednesday Connect (FWC) brings together:

- Entrepreneurs
- Students & Researchers
- Investors
- Mentors
- Startups
- SMEs
- Innovators

It is free to come along, although registrations are essential! The venue is Canberra Innovation Network, Level 5, 1 Moore Street, Canberra ACT 2601.

### Not sure what to expect?

#### Check out CBRIN’s tips:

- **on attending your (first) First Wednesday Connect,**
- **make the most of networking events tips and tricks!**

Would you like us to join you at the event or to talk more about it?

Get in touch with Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator

[malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au](mailto:malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au)

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# Women in Project Leadership Summit

7 March 2025, 8:00am - 4:30pm

View details:  
[cwb.org.au/our-events](http://cwb.org.au/our-events)

Support Women in Project Leadership! The Australian Institute of Project Management (AIPM) invites you to join them for the Women in Project Leadership Summit 2025 - a premier event dedicated to advancing women's leadership in the project management and allied professions.

Inspire: Hear powerful stories and insights from influential women leaders in the field.

Engage: Participate in thought-provoking panel discussions and interactive workshops.

Connect: Build relationships with peers, mentors, and allies committed to driving equity and inclusion.

The venue is Old Parliament House, 18 King George Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 and it is hosted by Canberra Women in Business (CWB).



Would you like us to join you at the event or to talk more about it?

Get in touch with Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator

[malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au](mailto:malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au)

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Idea Start-up

## Starting a small business

67 mins + [Add to my pathway](#)

Are you thinking of starting a small business? Maybe you have a hobby that's becoming a business? This course will help you understand the difference between a hobby and a business, the most common business structures and the registrations you may need to run a small business.

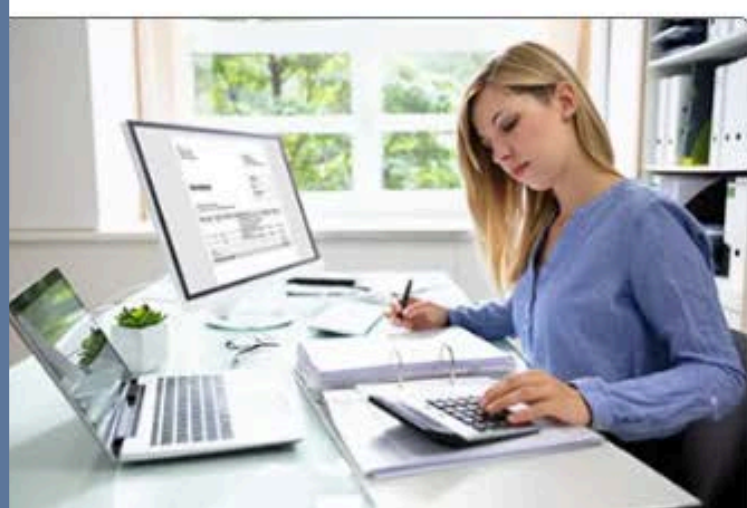


Idea Start-up

## Setting up your small business

50 mins + [Add to my pathway](#)

There are several common factors shared by successful small businesses. Set your business up for success using digital options that are appropriate to your business needs, gain an awareness of action in your business that trigger tax obligations, keep accurate business records, and know where to seek professional help.



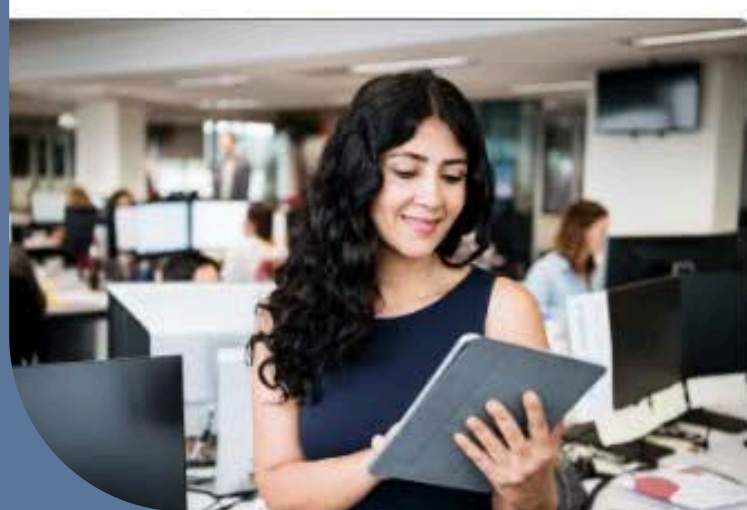
Idea Start-up Day-to-day Change

Exit

## Record keeping

83 mins + [Add to my pathway](#)

Did you know that successful businesses keep good records and use technology to run their business? Good record keeping helps you know the state of your business at any time which helps you manage your business successfully. You're also legally required to keep records of all transactions relating to your tax and super affairs while you're running a business.



Day-to-day

## Concessions

12 mins + [Add to my pathway](#)

Are you running a small business? Did you know small business concessions are available? This course will help you understand the concessions that may be available to your small business and the eligibility requirements.

## Supporting Small Business Learning Needs

ATO online courses.

32 online courses at your own time and pace.

View details:  
[smallbusiness.taxsuperandyou.gov.au/courses](http://smallbusiness.taxsuperandyou.gov.au/courses)

Essential information for successfully running your business is presented by the Australian Taxation Office via online videos.

Courses can be browsed or filtered by:

- Topic
- Business stage
- Business structure
- Industry

To the left is a snapshot of some of the courses on offer. Jump online and perhaps you'll find answers to your business tax questions.



# SME Breakfast

20 March 2025

7:30pm - 9:00am

View details  
at  
Eventbrite

If you are an ambitious founder or leader in an SME and looking to foster valuable connections and find your community then look no further than the SME Breakfast!

Held quarterly, the SME Breakfast is your chance to connect and engage with fellow SME founders and leaders.

The venue is Canberra Innovation Network, Event Room, Level 5, 1 Moore Street, Canberra ACT 2601.

You will engage in small table groups working off thematic prompts to share stories, experiences, wins and lessons learned.

Spots are limited, so make sure you secure your ticket.

Budgeting and Finance Strategy	5/03/2025	5:30pm - 8:30pm AEDT	Online
Building Blocks for Business Success	6/03/2025	11:00am - 2:00pm AEDT	Online
Your Business & IBA	11/03/2025	5:00pm - 7:30pm AEDT	Brimbank Community and Civic Centre: 301 Hampshire Road 1st floor Sunshine, VIC 3020
Your Business & IBA	11/03/2025	11:00am - 1:30pm AEDT	Online
Create a Lean Business Plan	12/03/2025	5:30pm - 8:30pm AEDT	Online
Marketing Fundamentals	19/03/2025	10:00am - 12:30pm AEDT	Online
Budgeting and Finance Strategy	20/03/2025	11:00am - 2:00pm AEDT	Online
Create a Lean Business Plan	25/03/2025	11:00am - 2:00pm AEDT	Online
Your Business & IBA	27/03/2025	11:00am - 1:30pm AEDT	Online
Building Blocks for Business Success	2/04/2025	5:30pm - 8:30pm AEDT	Online
Marketing Fundamentals	9/04/2025	4:30pm - 7:30pm AEDT	Online
Create a Lean Business Plan	10/04/2025	10:00am - 1:00pm AEDT	Online
Budgeting and Finance Strategy	16/04/2025	5:30pm - 8:30pm AEDT	Online
Your Business & IBA	17/04/2025	10:00am - 12:30pm AEDT	Online
Create a Lean Business Plan	23/04/2025	4:30pm - 7:30pm AEDT	Online
Your Business & IBA	30/04/2025	11:00am - 1:30pm AEDT	Online



## IBA Workshop Series

### Multiple dates

Business Essentials workshops are for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who want to increase their knowledge of business fundamentals and take the next steps towards business ownership.

The workshops are also suitable for existing business owners who want to brush up on some business basics.

These 2-3 hour long workshops are free, delivered live online, and are offered as an integrated series but can also be taken individually.

Workshops scheduled for the next few weeks are shown. Check their website for more details.

View details

[iba.gov.au](http://iba.gov.au)

Would you like us to join you at the event or to talk more about it?

Get in touch with Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator

[malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au](mailto:malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au)

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## Reconciliation Day

2 June 2025

Stage 88, Commonwealth Park

### **“Bridging Now to Next”**

*Reflecting the ongoing connection between past, present, and future, this year’s theme encourages us to learn from past lessons while looking ahead and continuing the journey toward reconciliation.*



#### GET INVOLVED


Information and Expressions of Interest:  
[reconciliation.events.canberra.com.au/get-involved](https://reconciliation.events.canberra.com.au/get-involved)

### There are a number of opportunities available

- **Join us at our Badji stall.**
- **Artists and Performers:** Share your talents and stories.
- **Stallholders and Food Vendors:** Offer goods, crafts, or culinary delights that celebrate culture.
- **Community Groups:** Present initiatives that contribute to reconciliation and community connection.

If your business could benefit from reaching greater awareness in the community then this is a great event to get involved in.

Prepare business cards, flyers, other promotional material, or samples of your products or items for sale.



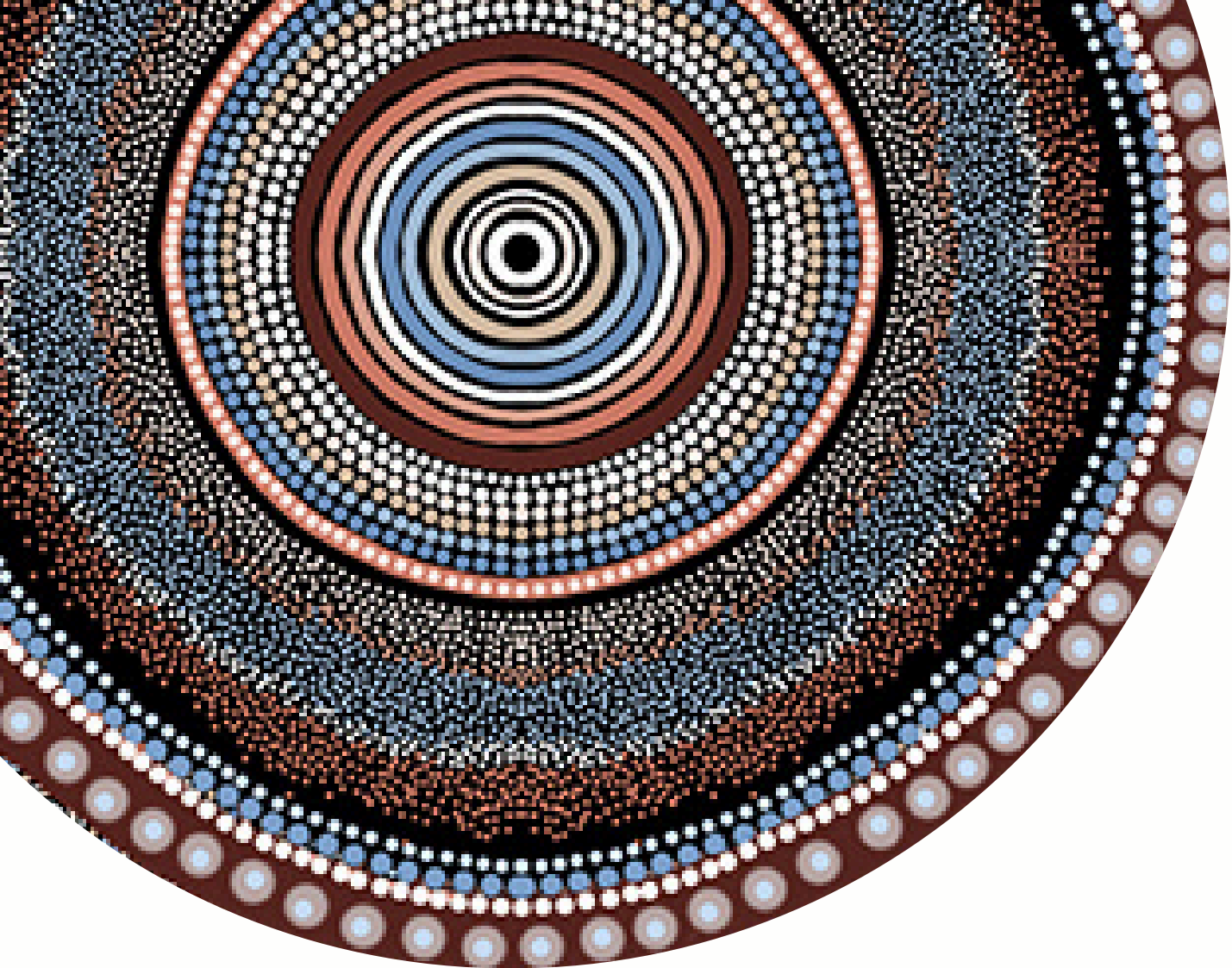
If you would like more information:

**Get in touch with  
Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator**

[malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au](mailto:malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au)

**6189 0770**





# UPCOMING Funding Opportunities

*View details*  
[cbrin.com.au/icon](http://cbrin.com.au/icon)

## Innovation Connect (ICON) Grant Program

- 13 Jan 2025 – Round opens for expressions of interest
- 10 April 2025 – Round closes for expressions of interest
- 22 May 2025 – Shortlist Pitch Day

The Canberra Innovation Network in partnership with the ACT Government deliver the Innovation Connect (ICON) Grant program and provide matched funding between \$10,000 and \$30,000. The program supports the thriving startup culture in Canberra and empowers entrepreneurs to develop and grow their innovative ideas.

The grant is for funding support in these key areas:

- Innovative, entrepreneurial ideas to a market ready position including market testing.
- Projects that prove the technical or commercial feasibility of a concept.
- Development of product prototype or functional software.
- Development and testing of effective marketing approaches, and with legal, IP and patenting advice.

*View details*  
[iba.gov.au](http://iba.gov.au)

## IBA Business Loans

- **Start-Up Finance Package**
- **Producer Offset Loan**
- **Business Loan Package**
- **Invoice Finance**

Loans are available to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait owned businesses to help them plan their business future.

Whether you require capital to start, acquire or grow your viable business, if it is 50 per cent or more Indigenous-owned, IBA has a suite of finance products that can assist to make your business ideas become a reality

*View details*  
[business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au)

## Indigenous Advancement Strategy

The Indigenous Advancement Strategy provides funding for organisations to help them undertake projects or activities which promote equal opportunities for Indigenous Australians.

Funding amounts vary.

Applications may be made at any time.



If you would you like assistance to link with these opportunities:

**Get in touch with Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator**

[malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au](mailto:malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au)

**6189 0770**