

10 November 2020

## **OFFICEWORKS SUPPLIER CULTURAL CHOICE RECEIVES FIRST WESFARMERS BOAB FUND GRANT**

Cultural Choice, a supplier to Officeworks was today announced as the first recipient of the new Wesfarmers BOAB fund and will receive \$100,000.

The Aboriginal owned and operated supplier of stationery and office products, located on the NSW Central Coast, has become the first business supplying to the Wesfarmers Group to access a unique fund established by Wesfarmers to support the growth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.

The funding will assist with product development for Cultural Choice's private label Indigenous range and the purchase of plant and equipment for its first dedicated warehouse in Tuggerah, NSW.

The grant is the first from the Wesfarmers BOAB (Building Outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Businesses) Fund, which has been launched to provide funding and business support to small to medium Indigenous businesses who are existing suppliers to the Group, to support them to develop and scale.

Officeworks Managing Director, Sarah Hunter, said: "Cultural Choice had been a partner for over two years and Officeworks was proud to continue to play a small role in supporting their business growth plans and their important work to prevent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth suicide.

The BOAB fund is a great example of the value we put on supplier diversity and connecting with communities where we live and work."

Cultural Choice was founded in 2016 by Mark Watson, a Gamilaroi man from Walgett in NSW, and his wife Jodie, who is the business' General Manager. It currently distributes over 6000 products to government and corporate customers, including a private label Indigenous range of more than 30 products in hygiene, office and washroom categories, with artwork designed by Mark. Officeworks currently ranges 11 Cultural Choice products online, including copy paper, notebooks, tissues and hand sanitiser. Cultural Choice donates 10 cents from every private label product sold to assist in prevention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth suicide.

Jodie Watson said Officeworks had been very supportive of Cultural Choice and the BOAB funding would support the business's growth and product development. "As an Indigenous business, it is good to be able to work with companies that do support the community and want to support the business as well," she said.

"Increasing the diversity of our supplier base is an important area where we can make a real difference to the economic prosperity of Indigenous people and communities, while also enhancing our own businesses," Wesfarmers Managing Director Rob Scott said.

"Linking the funding to emerging businesses which are current suppliers to the Group is important because our engagement as a customer can deliver ongoing income and dedicated support which directly helps the businesses to innovate and grow."

To learn more about Cultural Choice visit [www.culturalchoice.com.au](http://www.culturalchoice.com.au) or call 1300 784 214.

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**About Officeworks:**

Established 26 years ago in Richmond, Victoria, Officeworks is committed to making bigger things happen for its customers, team, the community and stakeholders. It operates 167 stores across Australia, a website that is home to more than 40,000 products, a national call centre, and a business team that helps micro, small and medium-sized businesses start, run and grow. Officeworks offers customers a wide range of office supplies, technology, furniture, art supplies, education resources and helpful services like print & copy and on-site tech support through Geeks2U – delivering an experience that is easy and engaging, no matter how customers choose to shop. Officeworks is focused on the safety, wellbeing and career progression of the 8,000 team members it employs. It's also dedicated to operating in a sustainable manner, including building and maintaining meaningful connections with the communities in which it operates, fundraising for its national partners and local community groups, continuing to reduce its impact on the environment and source responsibly.