



TRADITIONAL OWNERS TO LEAD NATIVE FOODS AND BOTANICALS INDUSTRY

Wednesday, 26 February 2019

The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations is partnering with Agriculture Victoria to support Aboriginal-owned businesses and organisations to develop a thriving local native foods and botanicals industry.

Minister for Agriculture, Jaclyn Symes, joined Traditional Owners to launch the new program, which will support Aboriginal-owned businesses and organisations to establish or expand commercial native plant production.

The name, Djakitjuk Djanga, is Jaara language and means Country's Food, acknowledging our deep and everlasting connection to Country and the native foods and botanicals of the land.

Still in the early stages of its development, there is growing commercial interest in the potential for native plants to provide food, supplements, cosmetics and other products to market.

Through Djakitjuk Djanga, the Federation will support and contribute to the participation and leadership of Victoria's First Peoples in the development of a culturally authentic industry.

The program will help build on cultural knowledge and practice to help build sustainable food systems which are climate-aware, innovative, nutritious and resilient.

Traditional Owners and industry stakeholders are encouraged to contact the Federation on (03) 9321 5388 or info@fvto.com.au to participate in the program or learn more.

Quotes attributable to Jason Mifsud, Chair of the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations:

“This is a really exciting area of focus for us, there’s enormous potential for healthy and sustainable growth in new locally-made products.”

“We have to ensure our local foods and botanicals industry is culturally authentic and built on a respect for Aboriginal cultural knowledge and practices.”

Quotes attributable to Rodney Carter, Project Control Committee Chair, Traditional Owner Native Foods and Botanicals Strategy:

“It is important to us that Djakitjuk Djanga reflects the Country and Aboriginal traditional knowledge of our native plants.”

“Traditional Owners have a deep and unwavering connection to Country, through traditional knowledge and practice, which has seen us successfully cultivate these lands for over 40,000 years.”

“This partnership with Agriculture Victoria represents a positive step to supporting Aboriginal self-determination and leadership in a unique and growing industry.”

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