

Media Release

The Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Resources



Thursday, 5 November 2020

HELPING VICTORIA'S NATIVE FOOD INDUSTRY GROW

The Victorian Government's partnership with the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations is harnessing the power of Victoria's native food with significant grants to boost Aboriginal Victorian-owned businesses working to develop the industry.

The Djakitjuk Djanga program, which translates to "Country's Food" in Dja Dja Wurrung language, provides \$2 million in grants to support thirteen Aboriginal native plant businesses to blossom.

Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes visited Nalderun Indigenous Group in Harcourt to announce the recipients. The Djakitjuk Djanga grants will be used to help Aboriginal Victorian-owned businesses expand operations and trial commercial production of native plants for food and botanicals.

As one of the grant recipients, Nalderun is establishing a commercial native food garden, and plan to use their grant to employ a part-time gardener, set up an irrigation system and purchase equipment to support sales. Nalderun is also proudly utilising the grant to support an educational component to promote native foods locally.

Popular native ingredients being produced include ground wattle seed, saltbush and lemon myrtle, which are sought after in Australian cooking and personal care products.

The grants are set to generate job creation within communities, with numerous recipients employing staff as part of their projects.

For more information about the grants and the recipients visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/funds-grants-programs/djakitjuk-djanga.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes

"The Djakitjuk Djanga grants program contributes to the development of an authentic Victorian native foods and botanicals industry and celebrates the rich variety of native plants that add a unique Australian touch to products."

"We're so proud to partner with the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations to deliver the Djakitjuk Djanga grants program and support the growth of this industry."

Quote attributable to Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gabrielle Williams

"Recognising and celebrating First People's agriculture, their ancient traditions and unique Australian flavours, products and businesses is so important and we're proud to champion them."

Quote attributable to the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations CEO Paul Paton

"Traditional Owners are proud to share the benefits of our ancient knowledge and practices with the world, so whether through food, medicines, supplements, cosmetics or other products, this program will help us grow a culturally authentic industry, boosting our local businesses and economies."