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Winya joins forces with Inventis Limited

Winya is Australia's leading majority indigenous owned furniture business supplying major corporates including Commonwealth Bank with unique world class indigenous designed office furniture.

Debbie Barwick, majority owner and Indigenous Director of Winya said "We are Australia's most awarded furniture company. ***Last year Winya became the only company in Australia, and one of only 10 globally, to be awarded by the United Nations for Leadership for achieving Sustainable Development Goals.*** Over the past two years Winya has won two Australian Sustainability Awards for its product leadership and has been awarded as the best business in Australia by both of the major professional procurement bodies and many other awards from various chambers."

Winya works with remote Aboriginal communities in Northern Australia to harvest waste timbers for use in our award-winning seating.

These timbers sourced from trees damaged during cyclone season or salvaged from mining areas are processed by those communities on their own land, creating employment where few other opportunities exist.

Ms Barwick said, "Our aim is to be on the leading edge office furniture design company with a focus on Aboriginal advancement through both our own business and by assisting other Aboriginal businesses and communities as part of our journey".

On 16 September Inventis Limited {ASX: IVT} announced its subsidiary Vibe Furniture took up a 49% stake in Winya Indigenous Furniture and entered into a supply and distribution alliance at the same time.

Winya has a network of showrooms in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra with a sales office in Darwin allowing Winya to provide great customer service to new and existing clients. With the Inventis Limited partnership sees the return of former General Manager Greg Welsh to Gregory Chairs with the mission to accelerate the growth of both businesses.





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Mr Welsh previously held the position of General Manager at Gregory Chairs, and has led other significant seating businesses including Corporate Express and Sebel before starting Winya in 2015 with Debbie Barwick who also holds the Chair of the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce both in NSW and the national peak body.

Anthony Mankarios, recently appointed as Managing Director of Inventis said “Gregory Chairs has been the recognised leader in ergonomic seating for over 30 years with many ASX 100 businesses and State/Commonwealth government departments as clients.”

The Commonwealth and many State Governments have specifically targeted expenditure to help drive growth in the Indigenous business sector in Australia. The Business Council of Australia, the Minerals Council along with several other bodies have also introduced similar programs over the past year, assisting the growth of indigenous business. ***Mr Mankarios said “Winya and Gregory Chairs are strongly committed to Indigenous employment in Western Sydney and are in the process of placing Indigenous apprentices into their manufacturing operations.”***

We are already seeing the benefit of these initiatives as Winya is introduced to Gregory’s extensive client list. Winya has a large portfolio of product that will significantly expand Gregory’s offering and the ability to satisfy this extra demand though an Indigenous business is resonating with Gregory’s corporate finance and insurance clients and many government departments. We are excited to be adding to the list of new, market leading products scheduled to be released to the market by June 2020.

Group Chairman Tony Noun said, “Both Anthony Mankarios and Greg Welsh have considerable experience in driving growth and making quality acquisitions to consolidate industries and we are very excited about where they can take Gregory/Winya partnership over the next few years.”

The Commonwealth bank recognises Winya as one of its key Indigenous suppliers. Winya supplies CBA with custom made furniture for its branches and does R&D work with CBA’s design team on new products to enhance its customer accessibility

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