Welcome and acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples joining us here today.

Closed Caption reminder

CC To enable live captions, go to your meeting controls at the top of the screen and select:
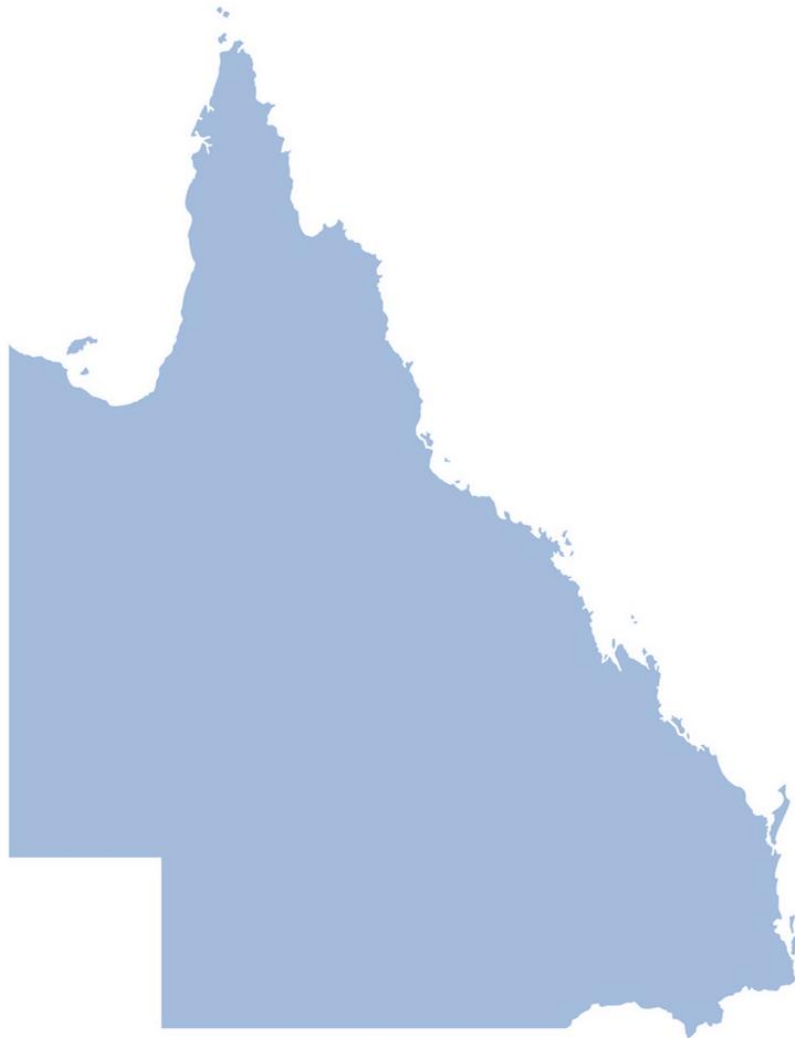
More > Language and speech > Turn on live captions.

Target Groups

- **Young people aged 15-24**

- **First Nations peoples**

- **People with disability**

- **Culturally and linguistically diverse people**

- **Long-term unemployed people**

Queensland
Government

Eligible Locations

Regional QLD	South East QLD
• Wide Bay Burnett	• Ipswich
• Central QLD	• Lockyer Valley
• Mackay/Isaac	• Logan
• South West QLD	• Moreton Bay
• North QLD / Whitsunday	• Scenic Rim
• North West QLD	• Somerset
• Far North QLD	

Growing Workforce Participation Fund (GWPF)

- Grant funding of **$20,000 up to $200,000** available for industry groups to boost workforce participation.

- The fund aims to **develop partnerships with industry to build longevity and sustainability in the workforce** by empowering industry and employers to support jobseekers from identified groups who experience disadvantage in the labour market.

Objectives

- The fund aims to create systemic change to encourage greater labour market participation from groups that experience disadvantage in the labour market.

- The fund will provide:

  - Industry-led solutions to employment shortages and retention challenges in Back to Work target locations; and

  - greater industry-specific support for disadvantaged and vulnerable target groups.

Round One funded projects

Organisation	Project
Queensland Council of Social Service Ltd (QCOSS)	Community of Practice: Supporting Diverse Workforces
Energy Skills Queensland	The Future is Cyber
Cairns Chamber of Commerce	Industry Lead Workforce Solutions
Bowen Gumlu Grower's Association Inc	New Realities in North Queensland Agriculture and Aquaculture
Spinal Life Australia Ltd	EnABLED Business Program
Balonne Shire Council	Workforce Development Officer
Queensland Hotels Association	Hospitality First Steps
Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise Pty Ltd	Increasing the Health Workforce in the Western Downs

Round Two funded projects

Organisation	Project
Torres Strait Kaziw Meta Inc	Remote Indigenous Boarding Students Mentoring & Employment Support
Balonne Shire Council	Workforce Development
Queensland Council of Social Service	Community of Practice: Supporting Diverse Workforces
Spinal Life Australia	Inclusive Futures: Empowering Diversity in Queensland's Workforce
Goondiwindi Chamber of Commerce	Workforce Development
Queensland Social Enterprise Council Ltd	Navigating Workforce Diversity through Social Enterprise
Energy Skills Queensland	Integrated Skilling and Alert Centre Service
South Burnett Regional Council	Sport and Recreation Industry Mentoring Program
Aged and Community Care Providers Assoc.	Aged Care is the Place to be
Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland	Breaking Down Barriers – Uncovering Hidden Talent

Round Three funded projects

Organisation	Project
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Skills Audit and Training Plan Project
Integreat Queensland Inc	Connecting Gladstone's Young Professionals
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Council	Workforce Development Program
Queensland Council of Social service Ltd (QCOSS)	Supporting Diverse Workforces
Aged & Community Care Providers Associated Ltd	Aged Care Regional Integration Initiative
Dalby Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc	Dalby Empowered Employment
Bigambul Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Cultural Capability Framework Project

Who can apply?

Eligible organisations include:

- industry associations – an organisation representing an industry, including peak business and employer organisations and industry advisory bodies, such as industry skills councils.

- A not-for-profit community-based organisation that represents identified groups.

- Local councils in eligible Back to Work delivery areas.

Collaborative projects are encouraged and may include the participation of local governments, consortium partnerships with regional industry groups and cohort representative groups.

Eligible activities

- Projects that aim to increase labour market participation and engagement from the targeted groups under Back to Work.

- Pre-employment support projects

- Workforce development and resources

- Projects that address industry-identified employment shortages

Expected outcomes

- For the number of employees assisted; at least 95% of that target must be achieved.

- For the number of jobseekers assisted: at least 95% of that target must be achieved; and of those jobseekers assisted, a minimum of 55% are successfully employed at the completion of the project.

Other project KPIs will be established based on approved project specifications.

Example activities

- Development of contemporary solutions to overcome barriers and increase accessibility to jobs in the Queensland labour market.

- New programs and approaches that support the target groups through job matching, enterprise skills development, mentoring and workplace experience.

- Development of attraction and recruitment strategies for the industry to create sustainable pathways for the target groups into employment.

Ineligible activities

- Work that is deemed to be core business

- Projects that have been or may be funded under another government program

- Recurring costs for the organization

- Purchase of assets/capital equipment or significant assets

- Retrospective payments for expenses already incurred

- Costs for consultants/contractors who are financially associated entities with the applicant

- Travel costs including hiring and leasing of transport, airfares and fuel.

QCOSS – Supporting Diverse Communities

https://www.qcoss.org.au/project/supporting-diverse-workforces/

Assessment criteria

- Capacity to manage
- Project innovation
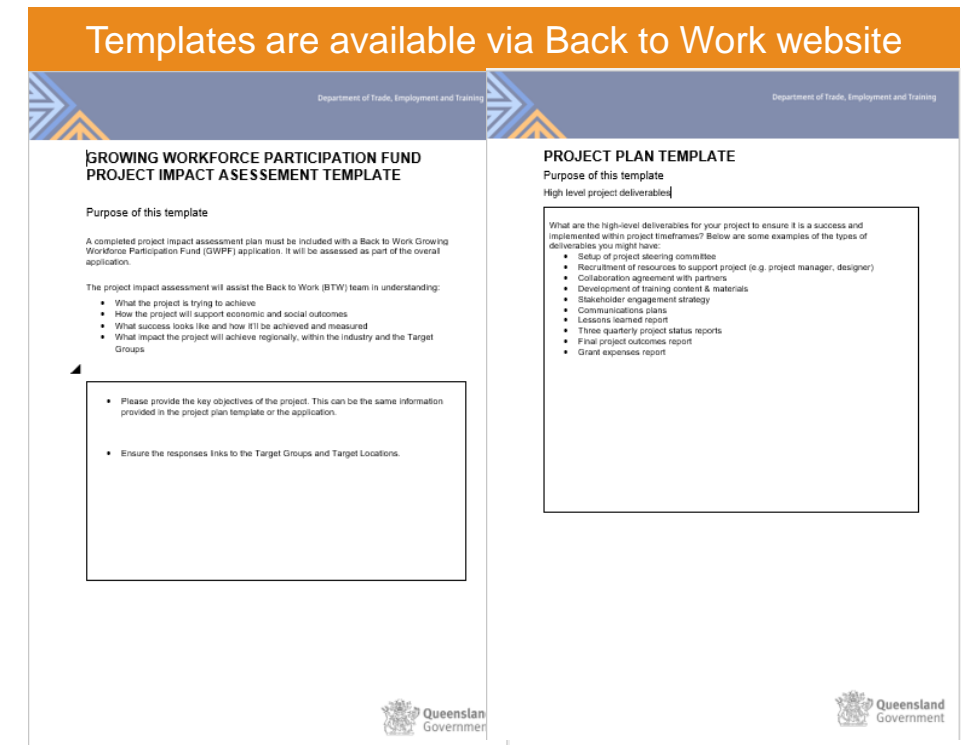- Addresses and responds to industry need
- Outcomes and sharing best practice
- Cost/value for money
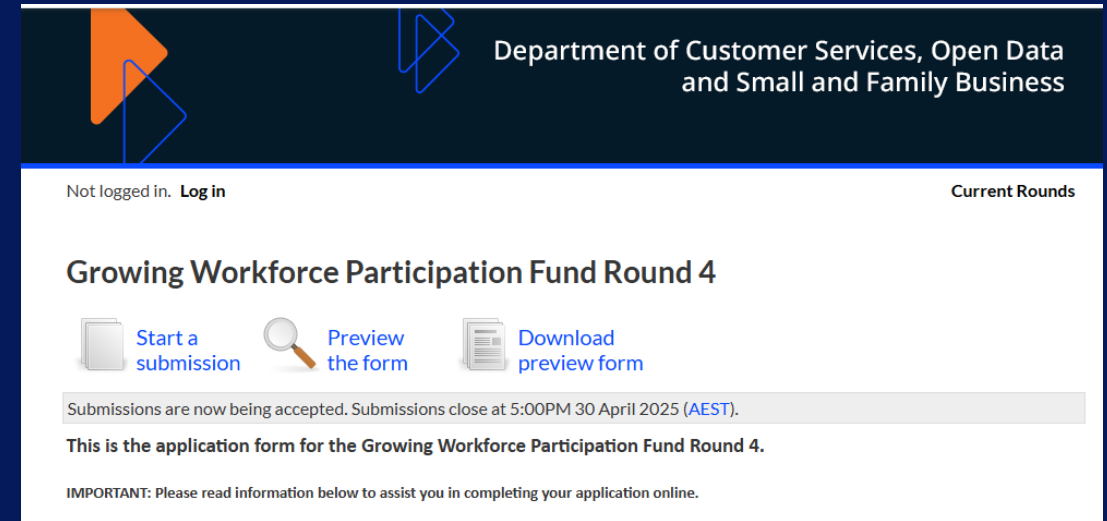- Matters of public interest

Supporting information

- Comprehensive project plan, including KPIs and a detailed budget

- Project impact assessment plan outlining:
  - what the project is trying to achieve
  - how the project will support economic and social outcomes
  - what success looks like, how it will be measured
  - what impact the project will achieve regionally, within the industry and the target groups

- Risk identification and management plan

- Two years of audited financial statements

- If the organisation is a new entity, and financial statements are not available additional information will be required

How to apply
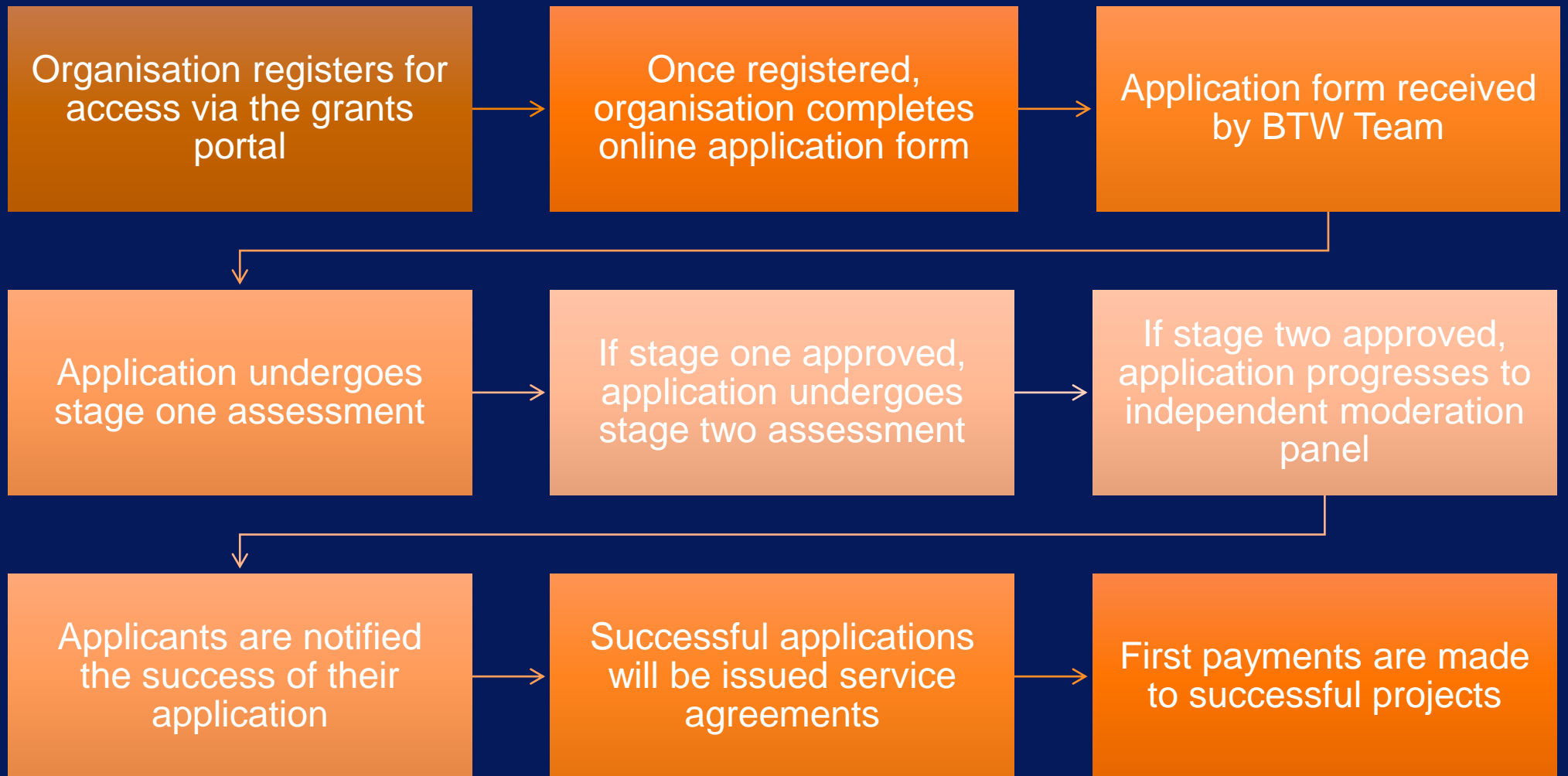
- Applications must be made through the Growing Workforce Participation Fund Grants portal - <u>Growing Workforce Participation Fund Round 4 –</u> available through Smarty Grants which is hosted by the Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business.

- The online portal will allow applicants to preview the application form and download a preview copy of the form.

Application process

Organisation registers for access via the grants portal	Once registered, organisation completes online application form	Application form received by BTW Team
Application undergoes stage one assessment	If stage one approved, application undergoes stage two assessment	If stage two approved, application progresses to independent moderation panel
Applicants are notified the success of their application	Successful applications will be issued service agreements	First payments are made to successful projects

Key dates

30 April 2025

Funding round closes at 5pm

July 2025

Notification of successful applicants and services agreements issued

5 March 2025

Funding round open

May 2025

Assessment process begins

September 2025

Project delivery may commence

Department of Trade, Employment and Training

BACK TO WORK

SECURE | SUPPORT | RETAIN

Connect with us

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Queensland Government