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**Building more homes, faster**

The Queensland Government has launched Homes for Queenslanders, a plan to deliver one million new homes by 2046. Focusing on a whole-of-system approach to improve the current planning system, business will benefit through:

- Fast-tracked updates to local council plans to deliver more housing.



**A new Cultural Capability Resource**

Did you know organisations embracing cultural diversity and awareness tend to experience higher levels of employee engagement?

When employees feel valued, respected and recognised for their cultural identities, they're more dedicated to their work and aligned with the organisation's goals. This can pave the way for long-term success and growth, benefiting both your employees and your business.

- New Distinctly Queensland housing design standards that simplify approvals and shorten building times.
- Streamlined priority projects via a new State Facilitated Development process.
- Funding for Queensland's construction workforce.

The release of this plan will provide an initial funding uplift of an additional \$3 billion. Homes for Queenslanders will deliver a generation's worth of secure construction jobs and ensure Queenslanders can afford to live and work in the community that they love.

To find out more, visit [Homes for Queenslanders](#) If you or someone you know needs housing assistance, visit [qld.gov.au/housinghelp](http://qld.gov.au/housinghelp), reach out to 13 QGOV(13 74 68) or call the 24/7 Homeless Hotline 1800 474 753.

The Queensland Government has released a new [Cultural Capability Resource](#) designed to empower small and medium-sized business employers in building their cultural competence while attracting and retaining an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce.

The Resource provides valuable insights into establishing a culturally safe work environment, such as recruiting First Nations employees, addressing workplace racism and unconscious bias, cultivating cultural capability, fostering supportive and effective collaboration with First Nations peoples, and respect for First Nations protocols.

Start your journey to a more enriched workplace at [business.qld.gov.au/cultural-capability-resource](http://business.qld.gov.au/cultural-capability-resource)



### ATO training for small business success

Want to improve your skills in business planning, finances, record keeping and registration, tax and super management?

[Essentials to strengthen your small business](#) is a new free, online learning platform where you can upskill in those critical areas. It includes 21 short, free courses in record keeping, cash flow, deductions, GST, super and more.



### Queensland Workforce Insights Survey is now open

We are gathering insights on employer experiences across recruitment, retention, skills development, workforce planning and workforce development support to help inform future workforce assistance and strategies.

All Queensland employers are invited to participate in the Queensland Workforce Insights Survey: [Complete the survey here.](#)



**New Apprenticeships Info app**  
The go-to resource for apprentices and trainees

**New Apprenticeships Info app**

## After the flood: resources for commercial lease tenants and landlords

The Queensland Small Business Commissioner acknowledges the impact of December's severe weather in Queensland on small businesses and commercial leases. To aid affected parties, we recommend two legal factsheets for advice and answers to common questions: '[Flood and Cyclone Legal Help for Small Business](#)' and '[Impact of Flooding on Leased Commercial and Retail Premises](#)'.

Additionally, the [Small Business Disaster Hub](#) provides a valuable resource in the form of the [Disaster or Emergency Event Log template](#). This tool assists in documenting decisions and actions taken post-event, ensuring comprehensive records for future insurance claims. Timely completion of this template is crucial, as accessing disaster grants or loans often depends on the completion of the insurance claim process.

For help, call the QSBC on 1300 312 344 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm, or submit an [online enquiry](#).

A new mobile app has been launched to give apprentices and trainees quick and easy access to the Apprenticeships Info contact number via a digital card which they can add to their mobile phone wallet.

Funded under the [Queensland Workforce Strategy](#), the app is part of the government's response to a 2022 review by the Queensland Training Ombudsman which identified opportunities to enhance support and job site culture for apprentices and trainees. The app includes a wide range of bite-sized guidance and support including information on getting started, available financial assistance, a who's who guide to the apprenticeship process, and information on how to manage problems that may occur during training.

The app is among a range of initiatives designed to strengthen support for Queensland apprentices and trainees so they can complete their training and forge a successful skilled career.

Find out more and download the app [here](#).



## Citizen award for 'Skilling Queenslanders for Work' employer

Tiffany Spary, an advocate for helping the homeless, has been recognised as Toowoomba's Citizen of the Year, 2024. A long-term '[Skilling Queenslanders for Work](#)' employer at cafe 2nd Shot, Tiffany offers an innovative pathway in hospitality training and employment to people experiencing homelessness.

People who are homeless or at risk can register for a six-month paid traineeship which offers a path to employment and a place to live.

Since its inception, 2nd Shot has created eight permanent positions (baristas, trainers, payroll, administration and community workers), provided 130,280 hours of paid employment, supported 87 people away from homelessness and provided training and employment to 211 people.

The program has provided 21,592 hours of Australian-recognised hospitality training and supported 153 people to find new employment.



## Brisbane northside's new financial counsellor - Rod White

With 20+ years of entrepreneurial experience and company directorship and a background in event logistics, transport, and trade services, Rod brings firsthand insight into the challenges of running a business.

Transitioning from business ownership, Rod sold his business and joined the Australian Army. From there, he turned his experience and expertise to financial counselling, where he discovered his passion for community welfare, aiding disaster relief efforts and developing financial literacy programs.

Rod takes a personalised, strength-based approach to help business owners gain financial control. With qualifications in financial counselling, program management, and mental health first aid, Rod is here to help.

To connect with Rod for personalised financial counselling support, click [here](#).

For more information  
visit [www.desbt.qld.gov.au/sqw](http://www.desbt.qld.gov.au/sqw)



### Training to provide safer venues for all

The Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR) has partnered with QMusic and Griffith University's MATE Bystander to produce a training resource of videos for staff working in Queensland's bars, clubs, and other entertainment venues.

The videos provide tools and strategies for staff members to safely identify, prevent and respond to incidents of sexual harassment and discrimination by patrons. Targeted at responsible and respectful behaviour towards those with disabilities, same sex couples and females, venues can use these videos to train staff and improve awareness of these situations, and to know when and how to safely intervene.

Watch all five videos in the series here via [OLGR's YouTube channel](#).

To learn more visit [Small Business Support Network](#).



### ATO engages debt collectors for unpaid tax debt

The ATO has engaged external debt collectors to action outstanding tax debts from small businesses who are avoiding their tax obligations. Key points for business owners are:

- Pre-referral warning letters will be issued to businesses who haven't responded to ATO contact attempts.
- Taxpayers will be contacted directly by the debt collection agency for payment.
- Beware of scam attempts, verification details will be provided by the debt collectors to certify their legitimacy.

The ATO is committed to supporting taxpayers who may be experiencing financial difficulty, please discuss with the ATO the [support available](#).

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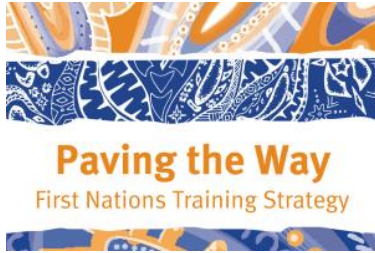
### Survey helps shape Queensland Globe and GeoResGlobe Spatial Viewer

Thanks to all who took the 2023 Globe Survey, your valuable insights and feedback were received. The team has collated the results and released the [2023 Globes Survey Summary of Findings](#).

Why not pop over and see the insights gathered in the process? There's still time to take part in upcoming workshops – [email the open data support desk](#) to register your interest.



Events



### Expand Your Deadly Business: First Nations Webinar

Are you a First Nations business owner and ready to grow your business? You're invited to join our free Indigenous Business Growth Workshops, run by leading First Nations business coach, Jenni Walke. [Register](#) today.

#### Workshop 1: Mastering Business Planning

4 March, 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, Bracken Ridge Library, and 14 March, 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, Garden City Library.

#### Workshop 2: Mastering Marketing and Branding

21 March, 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, Indooroopilly Library.



### Access for All Webinar

**28 February - 17 April 2024, online.**

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council's (QTIC) free [Access for All webinar series](#) will deepen your understanding of inclusivity in the tourism space. Presented by experts from Inclusion Access and QTIC, join the conversation and explore a range of different accessibility topics to create meaningful outcomes for our guests, staff, and businesses. [Register](#) for the free series today.



### UniSC Continuity Planning Courses

**27 February - 9 April 2024 | [UniSC Caboolture](#)  
24 April - 5 June 2024 | [UniSC Sunshine Coast](#)**

This course is designed to equip Queensland business owners and managers with the necessary tools and skills to develop a robust business continuity plan. Learn how to protect your investments, effectively manage risks, build resilience, and solve problems together through group scenarios. Both 7-week courses will be delivered simultaneously on-campus and online.

## Awards

### Nominations open for the 2024 Queensland Reconciliation Awards

Now is your chance to nominate for the [2024 Queensland Reconciliation Awards](#), with nominations open across five categories—business, community, education, health and wellbeing, and partnership.

Do you know an initiative or organisation who is going above and beyond their core business to foster reconciliation and pave the way for a better future?



Nominations close 5pm, Monday 18 March 2024.

The 2024 Queensland Reconciliation Award recipients will be announced at a ceremony during National Reconciliation Week, 27 May to 3 June 2024. To learn more visit [qld.gov.au/reconciliation](http://qld.gov.au/reconciliation).

## Queensland Training Awards nominations closing 12 March 2024

There are still a few weeks to submit a nomination for Large, Medium or Small Employer of the Year — or in the 11 other categories — for the [2024 Queensland Training Awards](#).

The seven regional finals coming up in July will highlight some of the fantastic ways vocational education and training supports businesses, individuals and communities across the state, and start the build up to a fantastic celebration at the state final in November.

Queensland  
**Training  
AWARDS  
2024**

Check out some of our videos, including five easy steps to enter or hear from a past regional finalist and winner in the Medium Employer of the Year category, but it's best to start now to prepare and submit a strong nomination before the window closes at midnight, 12 March 2024. Visit [www.qta.qld.gov.au](http://www.qta.qld.gov.au).

## Funding



### Workforce Connect Fund - Now Open

The Queensland Government is continuing to help Queenslanders to secure the work they want, support employers to develop inclusive work practices and grow a more diverse workforce.

The [Workforce Connect Fund](#) is part of the \$70 million of initiatives in the [Good people Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022–2032](#)'s first Action Plan (2022–2025).

The Workforce Connect Fund aims to increase investment in projects that address attraction, retention and participation issues within the workforce.

Expression of Interest applications for Round 2 are now open and will close on 26 March 2024. The Expression of Interest and full application process is for new projects only. If an existing organisation, currently funded to deliver a large-scale project under the Workforce Connect Fund, wishes to continue or expand the scope of their existing project, this must be done by negotiation with DESBT and through a formal variation process within the parameters of an existing Services Agreement. Funded organisations are encouraged to contact the department via email at [wcf@desbt.qld.gov.au](mailto:wcf@desbt.qld.gov.au) to discuss any proposed variation to their existing project.

Apply here: [Workforce Connect Fund](#)



### Safe and Diverse Communities Funding

One-off funding is available as part of the Queensland Government's commitment to end domestic and family violence in Queensland, with successful applicants able to receive grant funding of up to \$25,000 and \$150,000 excluding GST. A maximum of three larger grants will be available in total across Queensland. The [Safe and Diverse Communities Grants Program](#) aims to fund projects and initiatives to support women's safety and violence prevention in Queensland's culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Community driven responses are important for addressing domestic and family violence in multicultural communities, as they can provide culturally appropriate and tailored support, education, and prevention strategies for women and girls from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Applications are now open and will close at 5pm, Friday 15 March 2024. Apply here: [Safe and Diverse Communities Grants Program](#)



### **Industry Workforce Advisor Program**

Could your business benefit from up to \$5,000 in human resources (HR) support? The Queensland Government is providing funding to small businesses who've engaged an Industry Workforce Advisor and identified a need for HR solutions. To help eligible tourism businesses in applying for the HR grant, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council's Industry Workforce Advisor, Adam Stephen, is on hand to guide you through the process and to assist your business with any workforce challenges, free of charge.

Learn more about the [Industry workforce Advisor program](#), working with Adam, and receiving one-on-one support.

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Unsubscribe [here](#)

For more information:  
Visit [business.qld.gov.au](http://business.qld.gov.au) or call 1300 654 687

