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Business Queensland Connect

March 2023

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Assistance for flooded producers and businesses



Support for apprentices, trainees and their employers

Help to support and manage apprentices and trainees, and drive cultural change across work

Are you a primary producer or small business impacted by the monsoon and flooding event in North West Queensland?

You can apply for [financial assistance](#), including concessional loans and essential working capital loans at a concessional rate to help with recovery. Primary producers can also access freight subsidies to move materials such as fodder, building and fencing materials, machinery and animals for restocking.

The assistance covers the Burke, Doomadgee, Mornington, Cloncurry, Carpentaria and Mount Isa council areas.

To apply for a loan contact the [Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority](#), and for freight subsidies contact the [Department of Agriculture and Fisheries](#). Remember to keep your receipts for recovery costs for future potential claims.

Free [mental health support and wellbeing resources](#) are also available.

The Queensland is working with the Australian Government to discuss higher levels of assistance. [Financial assistance info >>](#)



CCIQ is now Business Chamber Queensland

This month marks a new era for the Queensland business community as CCIQ relaunched as [Business Chamber Queensland](#).

The state's peak body for business has adopted a new name, new branding and new services designed to ensure Queensland businesses have more opportunities to learn, connect and grow.

"Building on our proud 155-year legacy, this relaunch gives a respectful nod to our role as one of Australia's oldest chambers while highlighting our commitment to putting business first," CEO Heidi Cooper said.

"As our new name spells out, we're about putting business first – now and into the future – while maintaining our commitment to a national and

sites, is the focus of [Let's Protect Respect](#) – the first campaign to be released as part Queensland's three-year Train and Retain strategy.

The campaign promotes respect and support available to all apprentices, trainees and employers – so they know their rights and obligations, and where to turn for help if things go wrong at work.

Employers can access information and resources to help them support and manage their apprentice or trainee, and understand their duty to ensure the health, safety and fair treatment of their workers.

Focused on both retention and attraction, the campaign series is part of the government's three-year Train and Retain strategy, which aims to forge a stronger, inclusive training system that delivers for apprentices, trainees and employers, as well as our economy.

Find out more and download campaign materials for industry and workplace leaders. [Learn more >>](#)



QSBM2023 is happening from the bush to the beach

[Queensland Small Business Month](#) (QSBM2023) is coming this May – with events and activities happening across Queensland.

Whether you are from Port Douglas, Cloncurry, Longreach, Imbil, Chinchilla or Logan, the QSBM2023 program of online and in person events will provide you with information, connections and support to grow your business.

There will be something for everyone, including webinars, workshops, networking events, expos and Indigenous and multicultural business events.

Most online sessions will also be recorded, so you can access the information at a time that suits you.

international network of chambers for all the knowledge, resources and significance that brings to the state's business community."

Ms Cooper said the relaunch grew out of extensive consultation with the Queensland business community. [Read more >>](#)



M4G spotlight on inndox Pty Ltd

As Queensland Small Business Month approaches, small businesses are reminded of the support available through the [Mentoring for Growth \(M4G\) program](#).

M4G has over 300 experienced business professionals ready to support and mentor business owners and operators. To date the program has supported more than 3300 businesses, including [inndox Pty Ltd](#) a business offering award-winning software solutions for property owners and property managers.

Inndox's CEO Trish Mackie-Smith attended four M4G sessions over the last two years and said the support was highly beneficial and helped to scale-up the business.

"The M4G sessions influenced our decision to pivot with our pricing and product offering in order to attract enterprise customers in new markets. Not an easy decision to make!" Trish said.

"Initially, we dismissed the suggestion of a pivot due to the challenge of implementation but after further reflection on the mentor's feedback, market research and customer engagement, we modified and launched our new version.

"This new direction has created significant business opportunities and potential for growth that we would otherwise have missed out on had we not listened to the valuable insights, objective opinions and suggestions from the mentors," Trish said.

[Learn more >>](#)

We are updating the QSBM2023 events calendar regularly with new events you can register for.

[Read more >>](#)



Queensland Small Business Commissioner assistance – the importance of decision makers in a dispute

When parties go to mediation the best outcomes are achieved when the decision-makers participate in the process.

Recently, the [Queensland Small Business Commissioner](#) (QSBC) facilitated a successful outcome following mediation between a café business owner and landlord in relation to the 'make good' provisions which requires restoration of premises at the end of the lease.

The tenant believed the 'make good' provisions had been fulfilled and their bond should be fully refunded, however the landlord did not agree.

The landlord sent their property manager to the mediation to make decisions on their behalf. Most of the issues were resolved between the tenant and the property manager, except for one.

Because this issue was going to affect the landlord's cash flow, the mediator paused the proceedings so the property manager could consult the landlord.

The landlord attended mediation on the adjourned date and an agreement was successfully reached – saving both parties time and money.

If you need help with mediation services, then visit [QSBC](#), call 1300 312 344 or submit an [enquiry](#).



Meet Max Weldemariam, your Brisbane financial counsellor

As a small business financial counsellor in Brisbane, [Max Weldemariam](#) is passionate about social justice and improving systems, and is dedicated to helping others achieve financial wellbeing.

“I encourage small business owners to contact us as soon as they start to encounter a challenge within their business, such as running short of cash to pay bills, loan repayments, suppliers, or to the ATO, or to provide support if legal action has commenced,” Max said.

“The first session is about understanding the client’s circumstance and gathering as much information as possible. It is about communicating about the scope of our work, discussing options and outlining what clients need to consider and agree on an action plan both short and long term. The service is completely free and every session is tailored to the clients’ circumstance and context. We consider lots of factors such as client’s financial literacy and mental health.”

Read more about the [Small Business Wellness Package](#).



Social Enterprise Growth Grants now open for applications

Round two of the [Social Enterprise Growth Grants](#) is now open, and offers grants between \$5,000 and \$25,000 to established, eligible social enterprises.



Business Launchpad – your one-stop-shop for licences and permits

[Business Launchpad](#) (BLP) brings together into one place licences, permits and regulatory information for all levels of government.

Using this online tool will not only save you time and effort, but it will also give you peace of mind knowing you are doing the necessary things for your business to thrive.

With the latest information from relevant agencies for your business activity, all you have to do is plug in your responses for the prompted information to dynamically generate an easy-to-follow guide. This helps keep your compliance activity in order.

BLP is a great online tool to make sure you have all the regulatory bases covered, so you can focus on growing your business and achieving your goals.

Visit the [Business Launchpad](#).



Queensland Revenue Office launches new website

The Queensland Revenue Office (QRO) recently launched [a new standalone website](#) that consolidates information, public rulings, tools and forms in one place.

Social Enterprise businesses have a social purpose in their delivery. They may well be for profit, but all are for a common good.

Applications to the Social Enterprise Growth Grants will close at 5pm, Thursday 27 April 2023.

These grants will contribute to creating a more diverse workforce, an important focus of the Good people. Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022–2032. [Apply here >>](#)



Free workforce planning courses

Business owners and managers can now access a free micro-credential workforce planning course.

The 7-week course is designed to help business owners and managers fully understand their workforce, by developing an agile, flexible workforce plan to respond to changes in the business environment. The course will run at UniSC's Caboolture and Sunshine Coast campuses and online.

The Workforce Planning Course is presented by the University of Sunshine Coast and the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, in partnership with Jobs Queensland.

[Register here >>](#)



ATO changes to home-based business expenses

The online updates mean it's now quicker and easier for Queenslanders to find the information they need about state duties, taxes, royalty and home owner grants.

The new site provides a simpler and more intuitive experience that connects individuals and businesses with the information they need to meet their obligations. For more information visit gro.qld.gov.au



Regional Development Australia funding opportunities

Are you located in the Darling Downs and South West region with a project that needs funding but you're not quite sure how and where to start?

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Darling Downs and South West Queensland works with local businesses, organisations, and community groups to ensure that they can fully take advantage of all possible opportunities for growth and development.

RDA Darling Downs and South West Queensland has up-to-date information online listing available grants from the government, corporate, and private sectors.

Visit [RDA current grants](#)



Small Business Stewardship Group membership – nominate now

If you operate some or all of your business from home, you may be able to claim tax deductions for the business portion of expenses. There are recent changes in the methods to calculate running expenses.

The fixed rate for the 2022–23 income year has been revised to 67 cents per hour and now covers different expenses. If you want to use this method, you will need to keep a record of the total number of all hours worked from home from 1 March to 30 June 2023 and one bill for each expense covered by the rate that has been incurred. Employees and workers who are working from home can also use the revised fixed rate.

For more information, visit ato.gov.au/homebasedbusiness or ato.gov.au/home.

The Australian Tax Office (ATO) is looking for people who can bring their wealth of business experience and perspectives to work with them to deliver the tax system for the future.

If you are a small business owner, professional, business or industry association who is passionate about supporting small business, then consider giving your time and nominating for membership on the [ATO's Small Business Stewardship Group](#).

Expressions of interest to join the Group are open now and will close Thursday 6 April 2023.

For more information visit ato.gov.au/sbstewardship

Key dates



Cairns Business Women's Club - Business and Bubbles 2023 **Wednesday 19 April 2023** **5.30pm – 7.30pm (AEST)** **The Chambers**

The Cairns Business Women's Club - Business and Bubbles event aims to connect and inspire women in business. This event is a great networking opportunity featuring trade displays and a showcase of corporate partners. Secure your spot [here >>](#)



Business After 5 (BA5) **5.00pm – 7.00pm** **Thursday 27 April 2023** **Battery World, QT Centre, 260-262 Brisbane Street, West Ipswich**

From electric cars to community energy hubs, innovation in battery technology is driving our energy future. At this event you will find out what this means for business, chat with the General Manager and National Marketing Manager of Battery World Australia and experience on-site demonstration of portable power solutions. [Register here >>](#)



Queensland Small Business Month 2023 **1-31 May 2023**

Queensland Small Business Month 2023 (QSBM2023) celebrates our small businesses and the vital contribution they make to Queensland's economy and to our communities across the state.

Throughout May there will be events and activities right across Queensland, sharing information and tools to help our small business owners as we showcase the diversity of Queensland's small business sector.

As well as offering face-to-face events, in 2023 we are delivering QSBMonline. [Read more >>](#)



Meet the Makers 2023
2 May 2023
2.30pm to 7.30pm
Aussie World, Sunshine Coast

Meet the Makers is a must attend food and beverage trade event presented by the [Food and Agribusiness Network Sunshine Coast](#). The event showcases fresh produce and food and beverage products from over 100 exhibitors from the Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie, Moreton Bay and beyond.

There will also be a Buyer Session and a Networking Session. If you are looking to source local for your business [register](#) your Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Buyer Session. [Book here](#) for the Networking Session.

Meet the Makers Sunshine Coast is a QSBM2023 event sponsored by the Queensland Government through the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, and the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.



Meet the Buyer - Connecting small business to large buyers in Cairns
2 May 2023
3.45pm to 6.30pm
Cairns Regional Council, 119-145 Spence Street, Portsmith

Meet The Buyer provides a unique opportunity for small businesses to meet one-on-one with large and tier-one public and private sector buyers.

Large organisations will take part in 'speed introductions' with small business owners, and provide information on upcoming projects, procurement needs and how best to work with them.

Business owners will be able to 'pitch' their business to buyers and promote their goods and services for purchase. [Book here >>](#)

Meet the Buyers is a QSBM2023 event proudly presented by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training and Cairns Regional Council.

Business events

For your diary

Throughout the year there are events and activities right across Queensland, sharing information and tools to help our small business owners as we showcase the diversity of Queensland's small business sector.

Stay up to date and visit [Business Queensland](#) for events that provide advice and assistance to businesses throughout the year.





This email was sent by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training
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For more information:
Visit business.qld.gov.au or call 1300 654 687

