

# Unite & Recover

## Small Business Connect

March 2022

### 2022 Queensland Workforce Summit

On 11 March 2022, the Queensland Government convened the Queensland Workforce Summit 2022. The Summit brought together over 350 delegates including international and Queensland community, industry and economic experts, all levels of government, thought leaders and change makers to address current and future workforce challenges and plan for the future of work in Queensland. You can review the [summit outcomes online](#) including the [Summit Communique](#), [highlights video](#) and [feedback from delegates](#).

During the summit [\\$15 million for the VET Emerging Industries initiative](#) was announced, which will develop flexible industry strategies for manufacturing, agribusiness, energy, and screen and digital sectors.

The Queensland Government has also launched the new [Growing Workforce Participation Fund](#) pilot, which will offer one-off grants of between \$20,000 and \$200,000 for industry-led solutions and programs that help employers to hire more diversely. Applications opened on 28 March.

### Queensland Government support

#### South East Queensland flooding disaster support

Information on the range of financial and other support currently available to small businesses, non-profit organisations and primary producers is available from the [Business Queensland website](#). This includes grants and loans available under the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements for businesses, non-profit organisations and primary producers, along with the Disaster Recovery Allowance from the Australian Government for eligible people who lost income as a direct result of the storms and floods.

Corporate support and additional donations can be provided through [GIVIT](#) and [registered charities](#).

#### New drought preparedness assistance for primary producers available

The Queensland Government's [Drought Assist Program](#) has added Drought Preparedness Grants which offer a co-contribution of up to \$50,000 to help primary producers purchase and install water infrastructure or other equipment to improve their resilience. Drought Ready and Recovery Finance loans of up to \$250,000 are also available. Applicants don't need to be in a drought-declared region but will need to be following a Farm Business Resilience Plan or similar. Other in-drought assistance and drought recovery loans are also available.

### **Reasons why you should attend a Mentoring for Growth session**

It has been a difficult time for businesses across Queensland, dealing with the impacts of COVID-19 and natural disasters as well as the everyday challenges of operating a business.

Our Mentoring for Growth (M4G) program offers free and confidential mentoring sessions where you are matched with business and industry specialists to help you talk through problems in your business or to help it grow.

M4G can help your business as mentoring:

- gives you reassurance
- can increase your networks
- can give you perspective
- helps you refine your ideas
- provides fresh eyes on your business.

Experienced M4G mentors can help you with anything related to your business and you can register for a mentoring session at any time: [www.business.qld.gov.au/mentoring](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/mentoring)

### **Stay informed with Business Launchpad**

[Business Launchpad](#) is now available to more than 95 per cent of Queenslanders and takes the guesswork out of setting up and running a food & beverage or residential construction business by consolidating the licenses, permits and important regulatory information from all levels of government.

Since March 2021, the Business Launchpad has extended its reach to support businesses and business intenders in 48 local government areas and provides a centralised service that more than 6000 users have taken advantage of.

The digital tool is helping more business owners understand their requirements and prepare applications in one place, which allows more time to concentrate on other aspects of starting and running their business.

### **TAFE Queensland offers fast-track commercial cookery apprenticeship**

Hospitality businesses getting their operations back up to speed can take advantage of TAFE Queensland's intensive apprenticeship pathway program. After 40 weeks participants will have the skills and experience to become a stage 2 apprentice and will be on track to complete the Certificate III in Commercial Cookery in under two years. Participants' training is subsidised by the Queensland Government and will help the sector to meet forecasted strong demand for chefs in coming years.

If you're looking to upskill an existing team member or recruit an apprentice who can get straight to work in your kitchen visit: <https://tafeqld.edu.au/courses/17722/certificate-iii-in-commercial-cookery> for more information. Classes start on 19 April 2022 at TAFE Queensland's Mooloolaba, Southport and Cairns campuses.

## **Nominate**

### **2022 Resilient Australia Awards**

Nominations for the seven [2022 Resilient Australia Award](#) categories are open now, including the Resilient Australia Business Award where the state and territory winners will be considered for the Resilient Australia National Award. Submissions will close on 6 June with [guidelines](#) and [submission tips](#) available.

## Key dates

### **Bring on May! We can't wait to celebrate our amazing small businesses during Queensland Small Business Month 2022!**

Queensland Small Business Month 2022 (QSBM 2022) celebrates the vital contribution small businesses make in driving our economy, creating local jobs, and building strong communities. This year's program will feature activities and events across the state to connect our small businesses to support, networks and partnerships to help them thrive.

Are you hosting a small business event in May? Promote and boost attendance by registering it on the Business Queensland website [events calendar](#).

Keep any eye out for the QSBM 2022 promotional kit on the [Business Queensland website](#) for tools to help promote your QSBM2022 event during May.

And we can all get involved by purposefully purchasing from a small business in May, taking a selfie using the Love your small business social media filter and sharing the love by posting to social media using the hashtags #loveyoursmallbusiness #QSBM2022 #buylocal #shoplocal. Don't forget to @tag your small business! (The Love your small business campaign social media filter will be available to use in May.

We look forward to seeing how you get involved in QSBM 2022!

## Resources

### **Refresh your business finance know-how**

The Business Queensland website has published updated information on [Business finance essentials](#). The update covers useful information that will help improve your basic financial literacy in business. Read about planning finances, record keeping, financial statements, budgets and forecasts, and costs to start and run your business.

There's also a quick and easy online [finance health check](#) and a [range of calculators](#).

See the links below to help you better understand finance in business:

- [Plan your business finances](#)
- [Costs to start and run your business](#)
- [Working with accountants and financial advisers](#)
- [Business tax requirements](#)
- [Financial record keeping](#)
- [Fund your business](#)
- [Cash flow, invoices and payments](#)
- [Break-even and profit](#)
- [Financial statements](#)
- [Budgets and forecasts](#)
- [Manage financial risks](#)

### **Natural disaster legal advice**

Natural disaster legal help is available for small businesses impacted by the recent floods through Legal Aid Queensland. Visit the Legal Aid Queensland [website](#) or call the Natural Disaster Legal Helpline on 1300 527 700 for more information.

### **Queensland weather warnings**

In the event of extreme weather in your region, stay up-to-date with [warnings from the Bureau of Meteorology](#) and remember when faced with floodwaters, don't get carried away. The smartest and bravest thing you can do is BACK IT UP. If it's flooded, forget it.

### **Support for people impacted by recent flooding events**

If you or your staff have been affected by the recent flooding in Queensland or New South Wales, the ATO can support you with your tax and super obligations. The ATO understands that family and property take priority during these times and they are here to help you manage your tax affairs when you are ready. For your information, there is no need to request a lodgement deferral if you lodge business activity statements and instalment notices with an original due date of 28 February 2022 or 21 March 2022 by 28 March 2022. For more information, visit [Flood Support](#).

**Single Touch Payroll (STP) Phase 2 information from the Australian Tax Office** [Information and resources](#) are available for employers to understand and adapt to STP phase 2 reporting. STP Phase 2 aims to reduce and streamline employers' reporting requirements.

## **Stay connected**

In addition to this message you can stay up-to-date with the latest assistance from the Queensland and Australian Governments through the [Business Queensland website](#). You can also follow us at [facebook.com/businessqldgov](https://facebook.com/businessqldgov).

For more information, visit  
[business.qld.gov.au](https://business.qld.gov.au) or call 1300 654 687



**Queensland  
Government**

This email was sent by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training,  
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