

Business Queensland Connect



December 2024 🎁

Preparing for a successful 2025

That's a wrap on 2024! 🎁 Congratulations, Queensland — your passion and determination continue to make this state truly exceptional. Here's to celebrating your hard work and looking forward to an even brighter 2025!

As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past year, the new year brings fresh opportunities to set goals and embrace new possibilities. If your business could use a boost, [Business Queensland](#) offers programs and resources to help make 2025 your most successful year yet.

- [General business support](#): a central hub for Business Queensland support
- [Mentoring for Growth](#): business mentoring for small business
- [Small Business Support Network](#): wellness and counselling for personal and business
- [Industry Workforce Advisors](#): industry-related workforce planning assistance
- [Queensland Small Business Commissioner](#): optimising small business operations and dispute support
- [Back to Work](#): incentives for employers to employ Queenslanders who have experienced a period of unemployment.



Support small and family business

Support your local small and family business and buy local this Christmas. Keep money in the community and help spread the holiday cheer!



Be business-ready in 2025!

Since 2002, the [Mentoring for Growth](#) (M4G) program has helped thousands of Queensland businesses. The free and confidential mentoring sessions provide

Our small and family businesses are the heart of our neighbourhoods, from the self-employed, to micro-businesses and family-run businesses. Did you know:

- there are 482,000+ small businesses in Queensland
- contributing \$131 billion to the economy
- creating 1,000,000+ jobs
- forming 42% of the private sector workforce.

Let's keep Queensland great, support your local small and family business this festive season.

To learn more about the Queensland small business sector, visit qld.gov.au/snapshot

business owners with tips and suggestions to identify growth opportunities and overcome challenges.

With over 400 volunteer mentors located across Queensland, and representative of the diverse Queensland business sector, there is a wealth of knowledge available to assist businesses at all stages of business growth, and from all industry sectors.

Online sessions will commence from 14 January 2025.

Register now for a free mentoring session at business.qld.gov.au/mentoring.

Jobs Fraser Coast strengthens connection with local businesses

The Fraser Coast [Regional Jobs Committee](#), locally branded as Jobs Fraser Coast, recently set out to address key frustrations voiced by local businesses and industry stakeholders. These included a lack of awareness about government support services, funding for training, workforce attraction, and retention initiatives. Recognising that traditional communication methods weren't resonating with business owners, the Fraser Coast Regional Jobs Committee developed a tailored, action-oriented approach to bridge the gap.



Image: Sotera Trevakis, Director of Regional Development, Regional Development Australia Wide Bay Burnett, and Michelle Hay, Head of Campus, University of the Sunshine Coast and Chair of the Fraser Coast Regional Jobs Committee at a recent networking event.

Their vision: to create a connected, collaborative Fraser Coast business community empowered by access to government and industry support.

The *Proud to Have One* campaign began with a simple branded sticker showcasing businesses that employ apprentices. It quickly evolved into a broader movement, sparking meaningful conversations within the business community about the benefits and challenges of mentoring the next generation of skilled workers.

To foster further collaboration, the Fraser Coast Regional Jobs Committee hosts networking events for industry and local businesses to connect and discuss strategies to meet the region's future construction needs by encouraging the employment of apprentices and trainees.

This ongoing commitment to make impactful solutions is setting a benchmark for empowering local businesses and industry, preparing for the region's infrastructure pipeline. [Read more](#).



Prepare your business for disasters

Queensland is impacted by more natural disasters than anywhere else in Australia. Stay safe this summer season. Knowing your risks and being prepared ensures your safety and business continuity. Key steps:

- **update your [Business Continuity Plan](#):** make sure it's current and reflects any changes over the past year
- **check your [Emergency Kit](#):** ensure all supplies are stocked and ready
- **review your insurance coverage:** ensure you're adequately covered
- **back up data and prepare for outages:** arrange alternatives for power, communication and operations
- **train your team:** make sure your staff are prepared for any emergency.

For help with your business, visit the [Small Business Disaster Hub](#).



Get ready for the weather season!

Weather doesn't plan, but you can [Get Ready Queensland!](#)

No matter your personal situation, planning for extreme weather events is essential. Research shows people who are prepared for severe weather recover faster than those who rely solely on outside help.

This weather season, get ready by:

- making a [severe weather emergency plan](#) and [protect your home](#)
- have a plan for [pets](#) and [livestock](#)
- stay informed with [alerts and warnings](#)
- pack an [emergency kit](#).

From flood to fire, cyclone to storms, be weather ready.

Go to [Get Ready Queensland](#) for assistance.

Interested in rent-free commercial space?

Our regional Queensland towns are home to vital creative small businesses. To help these operators grow and thrive, the [Queensland Small Business Commissioner](#) has partnered with [Renew Australia](#) to provide a unique opportunity for creative businesses to revitalise vacant commercial premises in main streets and town centres.

The [Regional Place Activation Program](#) aims to help local creative small businesses evolve and cultivate more vibrant and active precincts. Expressions of Interest to participate in the following Renew projects are now open to Queensland creative small businesses in the participating council areas:



- Renew Banana Shire (*Banana Shire Council*)
- Renew Barcaldine Region (*Barcaldine Regional Council*)
- Renew Charters Towers (*Charters Towers Regional Council*)
- Renew Isaac (*Isaac Regional Council*)
- Renew Tropical Douglas (*Douglas Shire Council*)
- Renew Winton (*Winton Shire Council*).

These councils are currently negotiating to secure commercial spaces for selected Queensland creative small businesses to trial an existing or new business idea, rent-free on a rolling 30-day basis.

To secure this unique offering of a low-risk commercial space with minimal costs, [apply now!](#)



Wrapping up your lease this Christmas?

If your business lease is ending this December, don't let the holiday season catch you off guard. Many property managers and lessors take a break over Christmas, which can make returning your keys or finalising paperwork tricky.

Each year, the [Queensland Small Business Commissioner](#) see disputes pop up when final arrangements aren't locked in early. Avoid unexpected costs and stress by reaching out to your property manager now



Staying well over the festive season

With modern business pressures and the additional stressors the festive season can bring, it is imperative to take care of your mental health and financial wellbeing. Pay attention to potential red flags, and if you feel something is not quite right, help is available.

The [Small Business Support Network](#) offers a range of free services to support you:

- [Small Business Wellness Coaches](#) for your unique business challenges, such as challenges or stress affecting your business performance.

to confirm key handover details and final steps.

Not sure how to approach the conversation, or worried about a potential dispute? The Queensland Small Business Commissioner's team can provide guidance and support to help keep on track.

If you need help, go to gsbc.qld.gov.au/lease-disputes or call on 133 312 344.

- [Small Business Financial and Rural Business Counsellors](#) can assist when facing financial hardship.
- [Mental health and wellbeing resources](#) are available to guide you to the right place in times of need.

Discover the Small Business Support Network and look after your business' greatest asset – *you*. Take care this festive season and reach out for assistance if you need extra support.

Top Christmas tips from the Australian Tax Office 🎄

Celebrating this holiday season?

If you're kicking off celebrations with a staff event, consider if your plans will attract fringe benefits tax (FBT). It's important to get on top of how FBT works before you provide perks and extras, like entertainment. Otherwise, you may end up with a FBT liability you weren't expecting.

Find more at [entertainment-related fringe benefits](#).



Set up good habits

If you want your business to operate well, it's important to get the basics right. Using digital tools, keeping accurate and complete records and getting the right advice, can help your business thrive, and make tax time easier.

The ATO want to help you get it right, the first time. Learn more about good business habits by visiting ato.gov.au/sbhabits

Secure your cash flow over the holidays

Good cash flow habits will set your business up for success. It doesn't matter if you're new to business or if your business has been operating for a while.

The ATO has some tips to help you manage your tax and super obligations without getting them caught up in your cash flow:

- Use digital tools and software that can help automate and streamline your business operations.
- Set aside GST, pay as you go withholding and super, so you have the funds available when it's time to lodge and pay.
- Plan ahead, so you know when to expect money to come in and go out.

- Keep complete and accurate records and update them regularly.

Remember, a registered tax professional can help you work out the best strategies for your business. For more information, check out ato.gov.au/CashFlowTips



Thank you, Back to Work participants!

The [Back to Work](#) team would like to thank participants for embracing the opportunity to hire an unemployed Queenslanders and supporting disadvantaged jobseekers into employment. Your commitment is not only helping to change someone's life, but also helping to boost Queensland's economy.

In sharing real stories from Queensland businesses, the Back to Work team have set a goal for 2025: to support employers into retaining their Back to Work employees long-term.

The program will be closed for the Christmas and New Year break from **5pm Tuesday 24 December until Thursday 2 January 2025**. Participants can continue to submit applications and claims during this period, and they will be processed promptly from 2 January 2025.

For urgent assistance, contact the team via [email](#) or phone 13QGOV (13 74 68). Learn more on [Back to Work | Business Queensland](#).



Celebrating workforce wins for 2024

Thank you to the 1,300 small and medium businesses who have engaged an Industry Workforce Advisor in 2023-24. Industry Workforce Advisors work directly with individual employers to:

- identify workforce challenges, develop a workforce plan and suggest options to address challenges, including accessing grants and incentives
- refer small businesses to the [Workforce Connect Fund](#) for new and innovative human resource solutions
- assist employers to develop strategies to recruit and attract people for their workforce, including from diverse groups, and other potential labour supply (e.g. skilled migration)
- connect employers with the department's programs including grants and initiatives.

Learn more about [Industry Workforce Advisors](#).



Small business. Big stories!

Be inspired by insights and advice on how to overcome the challenges of doing business and create a positive impact in your life with the 'small business, Big Stories' podcast, brought to you by Dominique Lamb, the [Queensland Small Business Commissioner](#).

Check out the episodes that talk about what matters most to Queensland small business.

Episode six features Scott Millar (*pictured*) and his entrepreneurial rise from humble beginnings.

Listen via the [website](#), [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#).



Tourism operators: new AI chatbot support is available

[Business Queensland](#), in conjunction with Tourism Queensland, has implemented an AI chat bot to assist tourism operators with:

- disaster preparedness
- crisis scenario responses
- market profiles
- start-up guides
- business development and marketing information.

Try the new virtual assistant at business.qld.gov.au/tourism

Awards

Queensland small business wins at the Australian Training Awards



Image: The eight Indigenous rangers at work

Congratulations to Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate Aboriginal Corporation for being named Small Employer of the Year at the [2024 Australian Training Awards](#)!

The not-for-profit organisation employs a team of eight local Indigenous rangers and delivers a wide range of nationally recognised and non-accredited training to prepare their 15 staff for environmental management activities.

Their ground-breaking work blending traditional knowledge with western science earned them the Small Employer of the Year award – national recognition of their impact on training, employment, and community empowerment. A huge achievement for Yarrabah and all of Queensland!

The 2025 [Queensland Training Awards](#) applications open for nomination in January. Keep an eye out for key dates!

Grants and programs

Help solve the National Rugby League's tech issues



Are you a Queensland-based business with innovative technology? Advance Queensland and the National Rugby League (NRL) are seeking cutting-edge solutions to real-world industry challenges.

Think artificial intelligence applications to better manage fan data, virtual and augmented broadcast enhancements, and improving major event experiences through crowd management and in-stadium experiences.

What's on offer:

- Access to NRL subject matter experts and professional guidance from Australian Sports Technologies Network.
- Funding of \$25,000 to participate in the 10-week 2025 NRL Magic Round Tech Sprint.
- Opportunity to showcase your technology at the 2025 NRL Magic Round Tech Showcase, increase your visibility and attract new opportunities.

Don't miss the chance to accelerate your business growth and make an impact on the sports industry. [Learn more.](#)

Seasons Greetings!



As the festive season rolls in and we farewell another year, the team at Business Queensland wish all of our subscribers and partners a peaceful and joyous break.

Whilst many Queenslanders enjoy this time, not everyone shares positive experiences over the holiday period. If you or someone you know is finding it tough, help is available. Our health and wellbeing is a priority, please reach out:

- Lifeline's [Mental wellness during the holiday season](#)
- RUOK's [Supporting someone at Christmas](#)
- Beyond Blue's [Before things get beyond you.](#)

Please note that our offices will be closed from **Wednesday 25 December and will reopen on Thursday 2 January 2025**. For urgent assistance visit qld.gov.au or call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

The Queensland Government respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and seas from across Queensland.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the state.



This email was sent by the Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business

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For more information:
Visit business.qld.gov.au or call 1300 654 687

