

# Business Queensland Connect



April 2024

Queensland Small Business Month is coming in May!

Queensland **SMALL BUSINESS** Month

LOVE  
YOUR  
SMALL  
BUSINESS



[business.qld.gov.au/qsbm](https://business.qld.gov.au/qsbm)



Join us for [Queensland Small Business Month](#) (QSBM) this May as we celebrate the 482,000 small businesses operating across our state. QSBM recognises it takes considerable dedication to run a business year-round, and the month presents a fantastic opportunity to build connections, acquire new skills, and encourage public support for our hard-working small businesses.

This year, we're excited to release a great program of events, including workshops which will be held across the state, as well as online sessions. Alternatively, you can organise your own event and add it to our QSBM [events calendar](#). Watch the list of incredible activities grow as May draws closer.

You can also access our QSBM [promotion kit](#) with a range of collateral to download and use, along with content ideas to help spread the message across the month.

We encourage everyone to get involved in Queensland Small Business Month. Find out what's happening near you at [business.qld.gov.au/qsbm](https://business.qld.gov.au/qsbm).



## Boost for regional and remote events this Queensland Small Business Month

A total of 50 events will be held in regional and remote communities throughout May as part of Queensland Small Business Month thanks to the Queensland Government's Regional Networker Grants program. The grants will see networking events, business expos and awards take place during May from Mareeba to Moreton Bay and west to Mount Isa. For a list of successful projects and more information on the Regional Networker Grant Program, visit [business.qld.gov.au/regional-networker](https://business.qld.gov.au/regional-networker)



### Helping all Queenslanders get 'Back to Work'

The 'Back to Work' program provides financial and non-financial support to Queensland employers and jobseekers facing disadvantage. Employers have access to two support payments:

- Youth Boost (\$20,000): To hire a jobseeker aged 15-24 who was previously unemployed for a minimum of eight weeks.
- Back to Work Support Payment (\$15,000): To hire a jobseeker from one of the identified target groups previously unemployed for a minimum of eight weeks.

With teams conveniently located throughout Queensland, getting personalised real-life support and guidance has never been so easy. One-on-one support for employers is available to help navigate the Queensland Government's employer support services and Jobseeker Officers support and guide jobseekers into their career pathway.

For more information visit [Back to Work](#) or to find your local Team Leader or Jobseeker Officer you can [get in contact](#).



### It's 'Back to Work' for beer enthusiast

Ipswich Brew Co-owner Mal West is an expert on beer, but needed assistance when hiring Jacob, an enthusiastic starter who identifies as disabled and long-term unemployed. Through the Back to Work program, Mal received funding to employ Jacob without a financial strain on his business.

"The Back to Work program gave us the financial space to allow time for training and to get to know each other. Jacob was prepared to have a go and the funding allowed us to make adjustments in the workplace to help Jacob in his role".

Workplace inclusion and diversity is a key element in creating a sense of belonging, connection and engagement for each employee in the workplace. A united, diverse workplace improves the employee experience and helps employers retain staff.

Before being hired, Jacob had been looking for work for five years. Mal said the program guided him through the process and he is now exploring the additional support offered through short courses and specific training. To learn more visit [qld.gov.au/backtowork](http://qld.gov.au/backtowork).



### Tips to avoid paying interest on BAS

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is sharing tips to help your business meet its tax obligations to avoid paying unnecessary interest (currently 11.38%) and penalties.

- Set up a separate bank account for pay as you go (PAYG) withholding, employee super and GST.
- Avoid the temptation to use PAYG withholding, employee super or GST as cash flow.
- Boost your cash flow knowledge by taking advantage of these free online tools: [Essentials to strengthen your small business](#) and [business.gov.au/finance/cash-flow](http://business.gov.au/finance/cash-flow)

Your tax professional can help you work out the best strategies or assist you if you're experiencing financial difficulties, or if you need additional help, contact the [ATO](#) for support.



### Boost staff attraction and retention with an Industry Workforce Advisor

Striving for business excellence in Queensland? Leverage the **Good People. Good Jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-32**, Industry Workforce Advisors who specialise in bolstering businesses by addressing workforce challenges.

- Share your success story: Please [complete the survey](#) to share your experience and promote your business. We are here to help
- Encountering challenges in attracting or retaining staff? [Connect with an Advisor](#) today to discuss tailored strategies that foster team growth and stability.

To find out more about how Industry Workforce Advisors can help you and your business attract, retain and develop staff visit [qld.gov.au/industryworkforceadvisors](http://qld.gov.au/industryworkforceadvisors)



### Workforce Evolve' program transforms your recruitment processes

Business Chamber Queensland knows that hiring and retaining the right people is one of the biggest constraints on business growth. To help employers address labour shortages, the free [Workforce Evolve program](#) is designed to help Queensland employees think differently about who they hire and how to retain them in the future.

Developed through six online, flexible modules, Workforce Evolve will give employers the skills they need to make the most of a diverse and inclusive workforce.

Each module includes the option to book a Coaching Session with a Workforce Coach for personalised learning support at each stage of the program. The project is proudly funded by the Queensland Government through its Workforce Connect Fund.

[Register](#) to access a free Workforce Evolve session today.



### Free injury prevention and safety management program

This joint initiative delivered by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland and WorkCover Queensland, is a free program designed to help Queensland businesses develop and implement sustainable health, safety and injury management systems.

Available to any Queensland employer with a WorkCover Queensland policy, including sole traders, this program allocates a dedicated advisor to assist your business with:

- reviews of your health, safety and injury management systems
- identification of your workplace hazards
- assessment of your workplace safety capability
- your own tailored and specific business improvement plan.

Upon consultation, your advisor will assess, plan and implement a safety plan with ongoing support to ensure a safe workplace. You can [register](#) for this free program today.



### Are you struggling in your business, financially or personally?

As part of the Small Business Support Network, you can access free, personalised support tailored to your small business journey.

One client has shared their thoughts on the program:

"This service has been a genuine life saver, giving me hope when I was desperate. I will never forget how amazing and supportive my coach has been as she never judged me when I felt a complete failure. She was vibrant, warm, professional and a fountain of knowledge".

If you're feeling overwhelmed, we encourage you to reach out - our small business wellness coaching and financial counselling services are here to help. [Click here](#) to learn more or book an appointment.



### Guide to help manage your remote employees

The 'remote working guide' provides Queensland businesses with practical resources, information, and best practice for recruiting and managing remote workers. This guide covers the following:

- explains the difference between 'fully remote' and 'flexible' working arrangements
- provides an overview on managing fully remote employees, and includes tools and resources
- explores the challenges of working remotely, and provides tools and techniques to address those challenges
- includes survey responses and solutions to remote working issues identified by Queensland businesses

To find out more about the remote working guide, visit: [Supporting remote working practices](#)



## Tips for protecting your brand with a registered trade mark

Tip 1: Use IP Australia's [TM Checker](#) before investing significantly in your brand to:

- search for existing trade marks similar to your name, phrase or logo
- check your trade mark is potentially available.

Tip 2: Register your trade mark to get exclusive rights in Australia for 10 years. An IP Australia examiner will check it meets requirements like:

- not being too generic, not being offensive and being in the correct [class of good or service](#).

Tip 3: Monitor your brand's online presence and track mentions of it. This helps identify if your registered trade mark is being used [without you knowing](#). Get started with [TM Checker](#).



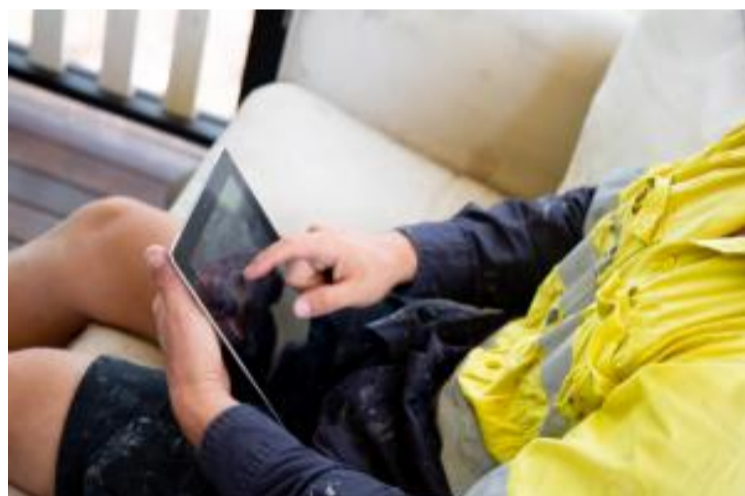
## Get set for Queensland's Big Build!

Queensland is currently in the biggest decade of infrastructure delivery in our history – Queensland's Big Build, and it's all go!

The Queensland Government is getting to work right across the state to build more hospitals, upgraded schools, more housing, better transport, and more renewable energy. And it doesn't stop there. Queensland's Big Build includes projects for greater water security, fire, emergency and protective services, parks, precincts, community places, spaces and more. Queensland is growing, and now's the time to future proof the lifestyle we all love.

With more than half of this work happening in regional areas, it means more local jobs and a bigger, better Queensland – now and for the future. There's a lot happening and there may be some disruption, but it will be worth it to build a bigger, better Queensland.

Building projects in your region can be found on [qld.gov.au/BigBuild](http://qld.gov.au/BigBuild)



## Tradies building financial success

The Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) is hosting 14 Tradie Toolbox events across the state during April and May to educate licensees about building financial success in business. The events will feature speakers from the QBCC and partner agencies, resources and in-depth discussions on financial topics within the industry, including:

- financial pathways to success
- assessing financial strength and risk levels
- identifying potential risk in the industry
- guidance on financial strategies
- QBCC financial requirements

Join the QBCC's largest tour of the state yet, visiting new locations including Gympie, Beaudesert and Gladstone. [Find an event in your area](#)



## Digital Licence app: secure customer verification for your business

Queenslanders can now present their Driver's Licence, Marine Licence or Photo Identification Card using the new Queensland Digital Licence app.

The Digital Licence is legally equivalent to the physical licence under Queensland law and is optional, with all Queenslanders continuing to be issued with physical cards, which means as a business you may see a mix of both.

Using the Verifier for Digital Licence app to scan the Digital Licence is the safest, most secure way to verify customer's information. Both the Queensland Digital Licence and the Verifier apps are free and can be downloaded from the Apple and Google Play app stores. For more information visit the [Queensland Digital Licence app](#) website.



### Navigating the digital world of business

Digitising your business can be daunting, with endless options and your limited time. Regional Business HQ aim to help elevate the stresses that small businesses face with the Digital Solutions program.

The program offers up to 4 hours of one-on-one tailored support, as well as unlimited attendance at group workshops or webinars to small businesses with fewer than 20 full-time (or equivalent) employees, as well as sole traders. This paid service is available across all metropolitan and regional areas.

For more information or to register follow the link [Regional Business HQ - Digital Solutions](#)



### Mentoring to help your business grow

Do you have an opportunity to grow your business, but you can't work out what the best option is? Or have you experienced a business set back and need some guidance on how to turn it around?

Sign up for a free and confidential 45-minute mentoring session with the Mentoring for Growth (M4G) program, where you will be matched with business experts who can give you information, tips and resources to help you get your business to where you want it to be. Experienced M4G mentors can help you with anything related to your business. Register now for a mentoring session at [business.qld.gov.au/mentoring](https://business.qld.gov.au/mentoring)



### Business Queensland Connect: the podcast is coming soon!

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming release of the Business Queensland Connect: the podcast! Business Queensland is your trusted source for information, delivering engaging topics that matter most to our small businesses in Queensland. Gain access to business stories, advice and learn about the support available to you, delivered in our latest digital format.

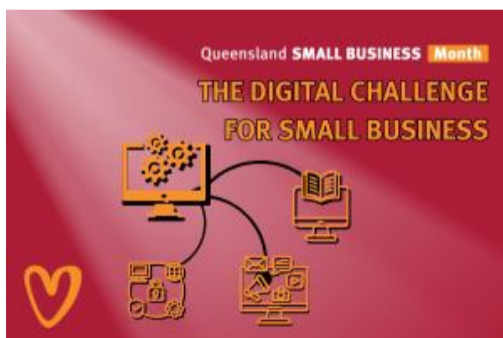
The monthly program will feature interviews with mentors, small business owners and more. Stay tuned for the launch in May!

## Events



### Queensland Small Business Month: events held throughout May to help your business start, grow and thrive 1 - 31 May 2024

Throughout May, small businesses have the incredible opportunity to access a range of events across Queensland designed to help your business start, grow and thrive. With events updated daily, check our [events page](#) and register to attend an event in person or online, or seize the chance to organise your own event and add it to the calendar. Take advantage of the events on offer throughout Queensland Small Business Month.



### Queensland Small Business Month spotlight event: Digital challenge for small business 13 May, 3.00pm - 5.00pm, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane

Queensland Small Business Commissioner Dominique Lamb will lead a panel discussion covering practical tips on how small businesses can use digital tools to improve their operations. Then attendees will break into one of the three workshops - Cyber security, Digital literacy or Digital marketing - to learn more and cover practical steps for their business. [Find out more and register](#) to attend.



### Access for All webinar: empowering inclusive communication 17 April 2024, noon - 1.30pm, online

Whether your business is advanced in its accessibility journey, or just starting out, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council's (QTIC) free Access for All webinar series will deepen your understanding of inclusivity in the tourism space. Hear from [Inclusion Access](#) experts as they equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to engage in successful and inclusive communication. The experts will delve into key messaging tools such as

Auslan, positive customer service, and easy read text.  
Register for free today on [gtic.com.au/webinars](https://gtic.com.au/webinars)

## Awards

### And the winner is...

The Queensland Small Business Commissioner has taken out the Award for Alternate Dispute Resolution Group of the Year (Ombudsman and Commissions) at the National Alternative Dispute Resolution awards on Friday 22 March 2024.

Their small but mighty assistance team work hard to minimise the time and costs associated with disputes for small businesses in Queensland. Pictured receiving the award is Dominique Lamb, Queensland Small Business Commissioner.

Check out the series of fact sheets on common dispute topics and practical tips at [gsbc.qld.gov.au/disputes](https://gsbc.qld.gov.au/disputes)



## Funding



### Private Sector Pathways Program- Tourism Challenge is closing soon!

Advance Queensland is offering Queensland small-to-medium businesses up to \$100,000 to develop innovative solutions that revolutionise the travel customer journey or the industry workforce as part of the Private Sector Pathways Program. Think AI, travel apps, workforce enhancements or any technology that streamlines the travel journey or workforce productivity.

Find out more and apply at [advance.qld.gov.au/private-sector-pathways-program](https://advance.qld.gov.au/private-sector-pathways-program). Applications close 19 April 2024.



### Community-based Crime Action grants now open - round 4

Round 4 of the Queensland Government's [Youth Justice Community-based Crime Action grants](#) are now open.

Grants of up to \$75,000 per project are available for short-term, one-off programs that respond to young people at-risk of offending or involved in the youth justice system. Programs should be designed using evidence and community knowledge and delivered to meet the needs of the young people, their families, and the broader community.

**Applications close 29 April 2024.**



### Growing future tourism - round 2 open

Queensland tourism operators, not-for-profit organisations, and local governments! Grow your business with round 2 of Growing Future Tourism now open.

With \$1 million to \$4 million (ex GST) available per project on a matched contribution basis on eligible project costs, don't miss this chance to sow the seeds of success for your business by developing and improving tourism facilities or activities. [Apply now.](#)

**Applications close 29 April 2024.**



### Applications now open for Queensland Care Consortium funding!

The [Queensland Care Consortium](#) is funding up to \$150,000 per project as part of the **Good Jobs: Good People, Queensland Workforce Strategy** to assist with workforce attraction, development and retention in the health and community service sectors. Share your projects that deliver sustainable, innovative solutions to address the psychosocial wellbeing of workers in these sectors. The QCC is looking for projects ready for implementation and promising scalable, shareable benefits tailored to the sector's unique needs. Apply [here.](#)

**Applications close 16 May 2024.**

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 people across the state.



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