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# Business Queensland Connect

## August 2023

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### Resolution through Mediation

You may have seen the recent media ban announced by the Rugby League Players



### Tax Time 2023 toolkit - small business

The ATO small business tax time toolkit 2023 is [now available](#). The toolkit includes updated links to useful

Association (RLPA) as part of a pay dispute with the NRL.

What you may have missed is the RLPA has put forward a proposal to sit down with the NRL and a mediator to try and resolve the issue.

The QSBC has a panel of 17 mediators that can help solve disputes about commercial and retail leases, usually between tenants and landlords.

Mediation can reduce the time and cost of disputes for small businesses and in June, 72% of our disputes were resolved successfully using mediation.

Watch this [2 minute video](#) to understand what mediation is and how it can be used to solve small business disputes or visit the [QSBC website](#).



### Queensland Workforce Strategy providing practical support for employers

Queensland employers are able to access a range of workforce related support thanks to the [Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032](#).

Small to medium businesses can reach out to an [Industry Workforce Advisor](#) to help identify workforce solutions, develop a workforce plan, identifying recruitment strategies to expand applicant pools or connecting with available support, including government programs and funding.

Through the [Workforce Connect Fund](#), small businesses can apply for a Human Resources (HR) Support Grant of up to \$5,000 (subject to available funding) to implement new and innovative HR solutions to address an immediate need.

Employers can also have one-on-one sessions with business mentors through the [Mentoring for Growth](#) programs to discuss options and ideas to solve workforce challenges or other business issues.

Other initiatives available assisting employers in attracting and retaining workers include the [Diverse Queensland Workforce](#) program to connect employers with local migrants, refugees and international students looking for work and the [Back](#)

information, tools, calculators, learning resources and other support and services.

You will also find updated [fact sheets on claiming deductions](#) for:

- the cost of using your home as a place of business
- motor vehicle expenses for your business
- expenses you incur when travelling for your business
- the cost of digital products used in running your business.

If you have employees, encourage them to check out the ATO's occupation-specific guides and common deduction fact sheets. These are useful resources that can assist your employees when they lodge their tax returns. Find more information about the toolkit [here](#).



### Queensland Digital Licence app

Queensland's first Digital Licence app is now open for trial in Townsville and the wider Fraser Coast. This means businesses that check identification will begin to see their customers using their Digital Licence to prove their identity.

Legislation was passed in 2020 making the Digital Licence the legal equivalent of the physical licence under Queensland law, so Queenslanders can now use their Digital Licence as a legal and legitimate form of identification.

The Digital Licence is opt-in and optional so you will see a mix of physical and digital licences being used.

A range of resources has been developed to help you to help you incorporate the Digital Licence into your business processes, including ['how to' videos](#) and a [resource pack for businesses](#).

You are encouraged to check out the available resources to support your business and download the Digital Licence app for your own use. The expanded trial is open to all residents residing in eligible trial postcodes. You will find all the information you need to check your eligibility,

[to Work](#) program which provides eligible employers with a range of financial and non-financial support when employing and retaining an eligible jobseeker through the program. Read more [here](#).



### Wellbeing support for your small business

When you're running a business, you need to look after your mental health. [Business Wellness Coaches](#) are available to help with your personal and business challenges in a one-on-one, supportive environment. You can access up to \$5,000 in support through this fully subsidised service.

#### Meet Geoff Wyer (Townsville)

Based in Townsville, Geoff is an experienced and skilled coach with nine years' experience supporting the wellbeing of people in residential and community settings. Before this, Geoff had extensive experience in government and the construction industry. To contact Geoff, click [here](#).

#### Meet Martin McGlone (North Brisbane)

Martin knows first-hand the significant challenges owning a small business can bring. With extensive experience and qualifications in business management and psychology, Martin is committed to supporting you to address and treat stress, life adjustments, emotional resilience, and promote mental wellness. To contact Martin, click [here](#).



Have your say on vocational training

download, onboard and use the app on the [Digital Licence website](#).

You can find out more about the [Digital Licence](#) online or contact the team [here](#).



### Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-25

The Queensland Government is building a new way of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that acknowledges, embraces and celebrates the unique and ancient history of the world's oldest living cultures, adopting a 'First Nations first' approach.

#### The [Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-25](#)

(RAP) outlines the government's commitment to advance reconciliation over the next two years to embed the reform agenda across the public sector – reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The RAP outlines key commitments to enhance cultural capability within the public sector, as well as the work each agency will do to support the establishment of a First Nations Treaty Institute, a Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry, an Interim Truth and Treaty Body and a Path to Treaty Office.

We encourage you to read the Plan and share it with your networks to help create a more equitable, just and reconciled Queensland.

Read more [here](#).



Tailored support to retain your staff  
Support is still available to help you employ and retain staff

If your business has used vocational training programs through TAFE or a training provider to train you or your staff, we want to hear from you.

We're developing a new Queensland Vocational Education and Training (VET) Strategy to maximise outcomes from the government's investment in skills and training.

Businesses, industry groups, training providers, schools, job seekers, students, parents, apprentices and trainees are invited to have their say to ensure government investment is delivering the best outcomes for Queenslanders, employers and communities.

A discussion paper and online survey are now available with forums to be held online and across the state to gather the views of stakeholders and users of the VET system.

[Watch the video](#) and [have your say](#) until Friday 18 August 2023.



### Multicultural Queensland Month

It's time to celebrate our diverse multicultural society and become a part of Multicultural Queensland Month (MQM).

With backgrounds, cultures, and languages from around the world MQM presents a unique opportunity to explore Queensland's diversity, through festivals, events, delectable cuisine, music, and performances. But it's more than just festivities; it's about fostering understanding through sharing, listening, and learning. Join our free webinars or tune in to our podcast throughout August as we cover topics of racism, workplace inclusion and more.

Our diversity is an invaluable asset for Queensland's future and a key to gaining a competitive edge in an increasingly globalised world.

Your involvement is crucial in ensuring our workplaces, services, and broader community prioritises inclusion. By actively participating in MQM, you contribute to a stronger, more united Queensland.

Learn more and access free resources [here](#).

If you're a Back to Work supported employer who reached your application cap under the previous Back to Work program, you would be pleased to know that caps have been reset. This means eligible employers may make a further four applications under the revitalised Back to Work program.

The Back to Work program now provides more intensive support to employers and jobseekers who experience disadvantage in the labour market. Approved Back to Work applicants may also access additional support to help you develop a successful, long-term working relationship with your employee.

The program is available to businesses throughout regional Queensland and in select areas of South East Queensland. Please note: eligibility criteria applies.

[Visit us](#) for more information on how to become a Back to Work employer.



### Mentoring for Growth mentors at CHDC Business Excellence Awards

Mentoring for Growth (M4G) mentors recently visited Emerald to help local businesses prepare their final pitch as part of their nomination for the Central Highlands Development Corporation's (CHDC) Business Excellence Awards.

Mentors Bronwyn Reid and Roger Phare had a successful session presenting a workshop and completing mentoring with each of the businesses over the two days. "It's exciting seeing successful start-ups making their mark, and the more mature businesses on a solid path of growth. They are all to be congratulated," said Bronwyn.

Owner of Little Gem Yoga, Kelly Corbishley, said the workshop and mentoring session empowered her to create and communicate the 'why' behind her business. "The mentors were extremely knowledgeable and I felt a genuine sense they cared about what I do, where I want to be and the services I offer to the community, by providing amazing tips and ideas on how to achieve this," Ms Corbishley said.



### Hiring outside the box

Are you looking to increase your workforce or achieve more diversity?

The Australian Government has launched a new online employer series – Hiring Outside the Box – where they will look at different recruitment strategies, hear from industry experts (including DCA CEO Lisa Annesse) and employers who are paving the way. Guests will share their insights about the benefits to their organisation, the strategies they have used and lessons learnt.

The series starts on Wednesday, 9 August at 12.00pm. Learn how to build your workforce and [register here](#).



### Brisbane 2032 procurement

Picture this: Your business playing a big role in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games! From stands and seating to security, IT services, catering, and housekeeping, we've got an array of contracts waiting for you to secure.

There's specific eligibility standards you need to meet. But don't worry, we will support and guide you throughout the process.

Once you're approved as an Olympic contractor, you'll become eligible for state government contracts

Winners will be announced at a Gala Dinner in Emerald on 9 September 2023. Read more [here](#).



### Digital Solutions: Helping small business take the digital leap

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, it is crucial for businesses to adapt to stay competitive.

Digital Solutions is an Australian Government initiative that supports small businesses to adopt digital tools and develop their digital capabilities.

Through low-cost, high-quality workshops, digital action plan development, one-on-one advisory services, online training, and tailored support, the Digital Solutions program can help business owners with the skills and knowledge to enhance their digital performance in the ever-evolving digital economy.

Find out more [here](#).



### Digital Skills Survey - have your say

Business Chamber Queensland is inviting small businesses to participate in a survey designed to validate and build upon the findings around the digital skills for the Queensland business community.

The survey is informed by the findings from the recent [Jobs Queensland literature review](#). Survey results will guide future support for Queensland businesses on digital skills and cybersecurity usage.

You can read a summary of the report [here](#) and [take part in the survey](#) by Friday 11 August 2023.

as well, opening even more doors for small and regional businesses.

[Visit our website now](#) to learn more.



### Help us shape the future: Queensland Globe and GeoResGlobe user survey

The Queensland Government is undertaking a full review of Queensland Globe and GeoResGlobe and would like to capture your insights.

Your feedback will help drive innovation and support us to deliver even greater accessibility and functionality across the Globes.

[Take the survey](#) and become an influential voice in shaping the future of spatial data access in Queensland.

Find out more about Jobs Queensland's work and resources [here](#).



### Take climate action in your business

There are multiple ways organisations can reduce greenhouse emissions to become more sustainable.

Taking climate action to reduce greenhouse emissions means your organisation can save money and grow its environmental credentials.

Be inspired by these Queensland-based businesses and community groups sharing their [climate action stories](#) and discover the environmental, economic and social benefits that have flowed from their actions.

## Events



### Scaling for Women

15 August, 10.00am

The Precinct, 315 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley

With 11 new [Accelerating Female Founder Program recipients](#) delivering support to Queensland women, the [Backing Female Founders](#) team has an exciting event delivered in partnership with the federal Department of Industry, Science and Research (Boosting Female Founders). With two panels of amazing speakers, this event will showcase the range of support currently available to women in the market from both government and industry, including venture capital, crowdfunding, and angel investment. [Register here](#).



### National Skills Week

21 - 27 August

[National Skills Week](#) highlights the talents, skills, career pathways, and the value of apprentices and trainees across Australia to the wider public and employers. The week is dedicated to raising the status of practical and vocational learning. View upcoming events and activities [here](#). Can't find anything in your area? [Get involved](#) and coordinate an activity yourself!



### **Innovative digital marketing strategies**

**23 August 2023, 11.00am**

Struggling to keep up with the must-knows in digital trends? Keen to know what works and doesn't in the tourism digital marketing landscape? In this interactive session, you'll learn about influencer marketing, maximising customer engagements, and leveraging your analytics to make better decisions. [Sign up now](#) and start unlocking the potential of digital marketing for your business.



### **Multicultural Small Business Expo**

**30 August 2023, 8.30am**

**Brisbane Technology Park Conference and Exhibition Centre, Eight Mile Plains**

Are you part of the Queensland multicultural community and need support to start or grow your small business? Come along to this free expo where you can meet with other multicultural small business owners, community leaders, industry, and government experts. Learn about the range of support programs, grants, resources and mentoring that is available to help you create a purposeful and thriving impact in your small business. [Register here >>](#)



### **Electrical apprentice safety forum**

**6 September 2023, 8.00am**

**Bracken Ridge TAFE**

Join football legend Johnathan Thurston for a free breakfast at Bracken Ridge TAFE that will also be livestreamed.

This event is for electrical apprentices to find out what is happening in the electrical industry, how to stay safe at work, look after your mental health and get the right start in your career. View all the speakers and full program [here](#).



### **Respecting First Nations cultural protocols in Australia**

If you work in the tourism industry and would like to engage more confidently with First Nations groups, culture and Country, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council invite you to [register](#) for their free online Respecting First Nations cultural protocols in Australia micro course. Developed in consultation with Indigenous groups, the bite-sized course provides tourism operators and their staff with the skills and knowledge needed to respectfully engage with First Nations businesses and communities. Explore other micro courses [here](#).

## Awards

### **CBWC Businesswoman of the Year Awards 2023**

Congratulations to all the finalists and winners of the [Cairns Business Women's Club](#) Businesswoman of the Year Awards 2023, presented at a gala event on Friday 14 July in Cairns.

A special congratulations to Danielle Erskine, [Wellness Embodied Cairns](#), winner of the Manager in Business Award proudly sponsored by the Queensland Government, through the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training.



## Grants

## Back to Work's Small Business Support Pool

Finding it difficult to employ long-term employees for your business? Up to \$2,000 in funding is available through the [Small Business Support Pool](#) to support the retention of an existing Back to Work supported employee. This funding can be used for a range of activities supporting retention including training, digital upgrades, mentoring and workforce development.

[Visit us](#) for more information on how to become a Back to Work employer.



## Opportunities

### Expressions of Interest are sought from skilled, passionate and committed Queenslanders to join the Jobs Queensland Board

This is an exciting opportunity to be part of the Queensland Government's statutory entity to provide independent strategic advice on skills demand, the apprenticeship and traineeship system, and workforce development and planning.



Jobs Queensland is a leading source of evidence-based, outcomes-driven and forward-looking advice on Queensland's skills and workforce issues.

Membership of the Jobs Queensland Board will reflect an ability for thought leadership to add value through good governance, strategic vision and oversight so Queensland is well placed to respond to new and emerging challenges and opportunities.

Expertise and significant experience in economics, Industry 4.0, workforce and labour markets, trade, skills and industry development, and opportunities for rural and regional communities would be highly valued.

The Queensland Government is committed to continuing to ensure a highly skilled and diverse Board that represents not only these key skill areas, but also diversity in all its forms including gender, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

If you are interested in applying to be part of the Jobs Queensland Board, [find out more and apply here](#).

**Applications close 8.30am on Monday 14 August 2023.**



This email was sent by the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training  
Level 12 | 85 George Street | Brisbane | Queensland

Unsubscribe [here](#)

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

