

# Unite & Recover

## Small Business Connect

December 2021

### COVID-19 update

Queensland is closing in on the next stage of eased travel and business restrictions which will come into effect from 17 December 2021 in line with [Queensland's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan to Unite Families](#).

[Public health and social measures from December 17](#) have been published along with [frequently asked questions](#). Additional materials including signage for businesses are available from the [Business Queensland website](#).

A free online training course from TAFE Queensland for businesses and their staff to help manage the entry of customers under the new measures is now available from the [TAFE Queensland website](#).

The [updated Check In Qld app](#) now allows people to link their vaccination certificates. This means the same fast check-in process will provide proof of vaccination status and support prompt contact tracing in the event of a positive case.

### Business support programs

#### **Payments of up to \$20,000 available for eligible employers**

The revitalised Back to Work program is supporting Queensland employers who hire an eligible unemployed jobseeker from a targeted group who has experienced a minimum period of unemployment. Employer incentive payments of up to \$20,000 are available to eligible employers as well as a range of targeted support services to support the business and the employee.

Target groups include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability, long-term unemployed people and young people aged 15–24 years.

The application cap for employers has been reset to zero for employers who received funding under the previous Back to Work program (closed on 30 June 2021). From 1 July 2021, an eligible employer may make a further four applications under the revitalised Back to Work program. This is a great opportunity for employers who participated in the previous Back to Work program to re-engage with the new supports available under the revitalised Back to Work program.

The revitalised Back to Work program is available throughout regional Queensland and in parts of South East Queensland. Further information is available on the [Back to Work website](#) and [Back to Work Incentives Payments Guidelines for Funding 2021-22](#).

### **Work in Paradise Tourism and Hospitality Jobs hub**

Tourism and hospitality employers are encouraged to list available jobs on the new [Work in Paradise Tourism and Hospitality Jobs hub](#). Advertising vacant roles on the hub is free and employers can also find out about free or subsidised training available to help keep, and upgrade the skills of, current staff members.

The hub links to the Work in Paradise incentive which offers eligible jobseekers a \$1500 incentive to take up positions in regional areas, along with a \$250 Job Start Travel Bonus for people who have relocated more than 100 kilometres from their principal residence to take up a position. An advertising campaign is running now to promote this service and the jobs in the state's tourism and hospitality sectors. Check out the [fact sheet for employers](#) or contact [workinparadise@dtis.qld.gov.au](mailto:workinparadise@dtis.qld.gov.au).

### **Looking to grow your business and need some help?**

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 Mentoring for Growth (M4G), where you will be matched with two business experts who can give you information, tips and resources to help you get your business to where you want it to be.

Not sure if mentoring is for you? Below is some feedback we have received this year from other Queensland small business owners just like you, who took advantage of this opportunity:

- The session was really helpful to kick start some thoughts on business structure and future planning.
- You can often get caught up and stuck in your own bubble and it was good to have some completely outside perspective and information from experts looking into your situation.
- Comments from the mentors were insightful and very constructive. Their feedback and suggestions were intelligent and extremely helpful to the planning behind our business growth. Very happy with the session and would happily recommend to other business owners!
- The notes provided were an excellent summary of the discussion with great suggestions for progressing the business and overcoming some of our blockers.

Experienced M4G mentors can help you with anything related to your business, register a mentoring session at [business.qld.gov.au/mentoring](https://business.qld.gov.au/mentoring).

## Business Boost and Business Support Grants paid

The Queensland Government has paid more than \$315 million in [COVID-19 Business Support Grants](#) to more than 34,000 businesses so far. Applications for employing businesses closed on 16 November and applications for non-employing sole traders closed on Tuesday 30 September, with submitted applications still being processed.

Earlier this month the Queensland Government's [Business Boost Grants Program](#) announced 210 small businesses would share \$2.6 million. The grants, which are worth up to \$15,000, support the businesses to access training and business coaching, strategic planning, marketing and other services such as upgrading websites.

For information on grants and business support visit the [Business Queensland website](#).

## Social enterprise update

On 18 November Minister Di Farmer [announced more than \\$1 million worth of support for the social enterprise sector](#). This includes:

- Over the next two years \$660,000 will support more social enterprises to supply to the Queensland Government.
- The Queensland Social Enterprise Council will receive \$385,000 for regional hub development activities and to raise the profile of social enterprises as suppliers to the private sector.
- \$100,000 sponsorship for the 2022 Social Enterprise World Forum which will be held in Brisbane with co-host White Box Enterprises.

In addition, the Queensland Government is continuing to deliver its Social Enterprise Jobs Fund programs, which supports the [Queensland Social Enterprise Strategy](#).

Find out more about the [Social Enterprise Jobs Fund](#) including upcoming grants programs.

## Events

### Queensland business wins big at the Australian Training Awards

Congratulations to Atherton Tablelands' Robinson Civil Group (RCG) — recognised as a nation-leading employer in training at the 2021 Australian Training Awards on 18 November.

The civil construction company won the Medium Employer of the Year category, while another Queensland — Kasey Hardy from Chinchilla — was named the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year.

The virtual awards were broadcast across the country, with Queensland hosting a screening event in Brisbane for 11 finalists from across the state.

Congratulations to all our national finalists for excelling in vocational education and training, and for representing Queensland so admirably.

[Learn more about the Queensland team](#) on the Queensland Training Awards website.

### Buy Queensland Awards

Congratulations to this year's [Buy Queensland Award winners](#) and those highly commended in their categories.

### Check out Business Queensland's events calendar

Find local or online business events covering a range of topics on the [Business Queensland's events calendar](#). The Queensland Office of State Revenue has a series of online payroll tax sessions scheduled in December and January and you can submit a request to add your own event to the calendar.

## Key dates

Nominations are open for the [2022 Queensland Reconciliation Awards](#) until **5pm Friday 3 December 2021**. Winners in the business, community, education, health and wellbeing and partnership categories, along with the overall Premier's Reconciliation Award, will be announced during National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June 2022) and share in \$30,000 in prizemoney.

Department of Employment, Small Business and Training offices will be **closed from 25 December to 3 January**. Calls to the Small Business Hotline during that week will be answered by the QGov call centre. Services from our office and the Small Business Hotline will be available from Tuesday 4 January 2022.

Farmers can apply for the [Queensland Agritourism Grants Program](#), run by the Queensland Farmers' Federation in partnership with the Queensland Government. Applications are **open until 10 January 2022** and the program offers a 50 per cent co-contribution capped at \$25,000 to establish or expand agritourism activities.

Nominations are open for the [2022 Queensland Greats Awards](#) until **Monday 31 January 2022**. The awards recognise extraordinary Queenslanders who have made a long-term contribution to, or whose achievements have significantly impacted the history and development of Queensland.

## Resources

Please continue to use the [Check In Qld app](#) across the state as you enter businesses and other venues. You can also now use the app to book a vaccination appointment or find your nearest walk-in vaccination centre.

## Stay connected

For further health updates please keep checking the [Queensland Government website](#). 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](http://business.qld.gov.au)** or call **1300 654 687**



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