

Subscribe [now](#)



Business Queensland Connect

December 2023

In this issue:

- [Free micro-credentials for apprentice/trainee employers](#)
- [Queensland shines at Australian Training Awards](#)
- [Ready, set, go! Become a Queensland Government supplier](#)
- [Get ready small business](#)
- [Survey for small business affected by bushfire](#)
- [Queensland Workforce Strategy - Mentoring For Growth](#)
- [Share your insights on the power of remote working!](#)
- [Indigenous Business Month - Gnarla Fashion and Design](#)
- [What is the Small Business Support Network?](#)
- [Connect with a business wellness coach](#)
- [Support for businesses as Digital Licence is embraced by Queenslanders](#)
- [Working together for more housing choice](#)
- [Keeping good records](#)
- [Be first to trade mark your branding](#)
- [Awards](#)
- [Funding](#)
- [Season's Greetings!](#)



Free micro-credentials for apprentice/trainee employers

Employers of apprentices and trainees can now access free micro-credential training on how to create a workplace free from bullying and harassment.



Queensland shines at Australian Training Awards

Congratulations to Logan-based [All Purpose Transport](#) on being named Large Employer of the Year at the Australian Training Awards.

Workplace safety continues to be an issue across a number of trade industries, with a 2020 Mates in Construction report finding that over 25% of apprentices in the construction industry had experienced bullying and harassment. The impacts of unsafe workplaces are far reaching, with the Productivity Commission finding in 2010 that workplace bullying and harassment costs the Australian economy between \$6-\$36 billion every year.

Having an inclusive and supportive work environment can boost staff wellbeing and morale, helping to increase productivity and reduce costs due to lower absenteeism and staff turnover. Importantly, it can also enable employers to attract a more diverse workforce, helping to ease staffing pressures and providing further social and economic benefits to small businesses.

Two free micro-credential courses are available focusing on how to provide effective mentoring and create a safe workplace for your apprentice or trainee. This training is offered through TAFE Queensland can be completed 100% online in your own time. This program is proudly funded and supported by the Queensland Government. For more information visit the [TAFE Queensland website](#).



Ready, set, go! Become a Queensland Government supplier

Exciting opportunities await Queensland small businesses, particularly in the lead up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Between now and the Games, a staggering \$200 billion in procurement opportunities are anticipated to be available across Government.

With the recent unveiling of the [Q2032 Procurement Strategy](#), now is the perfect time to explore the [supplier information, tips and webinar](#) that shed light on how to become a Queensland Government supplier.

As outlined in the [Queensland Government Procurement Statement 2023](#), last financial year alone, Queensland small and medium businesses received an injection of nearly \$7 billion, up almost

All Purpose Transport was [one of Queensland's six winners](#) that were announced in Hobart on 17 November for the fantastic examples each sets for how training supports career and business goals in a range of industries.

All Purpose Transport CEO Paul Kahlert accepted the award and said their training program, Project APT, aimed to develop the skills of existing workers and help attract new team members, while also showing the wider industry that investing in people can lead to positive commercial outcomes.

"We initiated Project APT in 2012 when we were grappling with challenges in attracting and retaining workers in the transport industry, as the mining sector was booming in Queensland. Reflecting on the project's 10-year journey, we're proud to have facilitated over 500 formal qualifications for our team members," Mr Kahlert said.

"The fuel for our business is not just diesel, but the passionate, well-trained and engaged people who care about keeping the warehouses, workshops, trucks and our fleet operating."



Get ready small business

Are you prepared for the storm season?

Severe storms can be unpredictable and arrive with little warning. Heavy winds, flash flooding and large hail stones can cause considerable damage to your business premises, property, or assets.

Depending on your business's location, you could be impacted by different types of floods such as river or creek flooding, overland flow, or storm tide flooding.

Flooding can also cut off access and supply routes which could have a significant impact on your business.

Having a plan can help reduce potential impacts to your business so you can recover quickly.

\$1 billion from last year – 88 per cent of these beneficiaries were small businesses.

The [Buy Queensland approach](#) strives to integrate all responsible and capable Queensland businesses into the procurement process, ensuring broad participation in the state's supply chains.



Survey for businesses affected by bushfire

If you have been affected by the recent bushfires or are later impacted as the season progresses, the Queensland Government wants to hear about your challenges.

We're collecting data to better understand the impact on businesses and help connect you to suitable services while identifying additional support that could be offered.

The information provided is strictly confidential. With your permission, a local officer can contact you to discuss your specific situation. [Take the survey here.](#)

An advertisement for a survey on remote working. It features a smiling man in a blue shirt, the Queensland Government logo, and a pink button that says 'Click here'. The text reads: 'Share your insights on remote working! Participate today to have your say! Plus get the chance to win a \$500 Officeworks gift card.'

Share your insights on remote working!
Participate today to have your say!
Plus get the chance to win a \$500 Officeworks gift card.
Queensland Government
Click here

Share your insights on the power of remote working!

Your input as small and medium businesses is crucial in helping us understand the current trends in remote working. We value your perspective and want to hear about your challenges and desired solutions relating to the remote workforce in your business.

By participating in our Queensland Government survey, you contribute directly to the development of

Access the [business continuity plan template](#) to learn how to develop a risk management plan, a business impact analysis, an incident response plan, and a recovery plan.

An advertisement for the Mentoring For Growth program. It features the text 'LOOKING FOR A BUSINESS MENTOR?' and 'Through the Mentoring for Growth program employers can access one-on-one sessions with business mentors. Connect with a business mentor today.' There is a 'LEARN MORE' button and the Queensland Government logo.

LOOKING FOR A BUSINESS MENTOR?
Through the Mentoring for Growth program employers can access one-on-one sessions with business mentors.
Connect with a business mentor today.
LEARN MORE
Queensland Government

Queensland Workforce Strategy - Mentoring For Growth

The Queensland Government's [Mentoring for Growth](#) business mentors can help you with a range of business challenges or issues you may be facing.

The mentors have a broad range of experience, knowledge and expertise to offer. Connect with a mentor for a free session today.

[Learn more here.](#)



Indigenous Business Month

Gnarla Fashion and Arts, an Aboriginal business located in Bundaberg, were successful in obtaining federal funding to deliver seven digital art/fashion workshops in Cherbourg.

The Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts supported Gnarla Fashion and Arts to host a fashion parade to showcase their designs as part of [Indigenous Business Month](#) (IBM).

a solution that meets the needs of Queensland businesses.

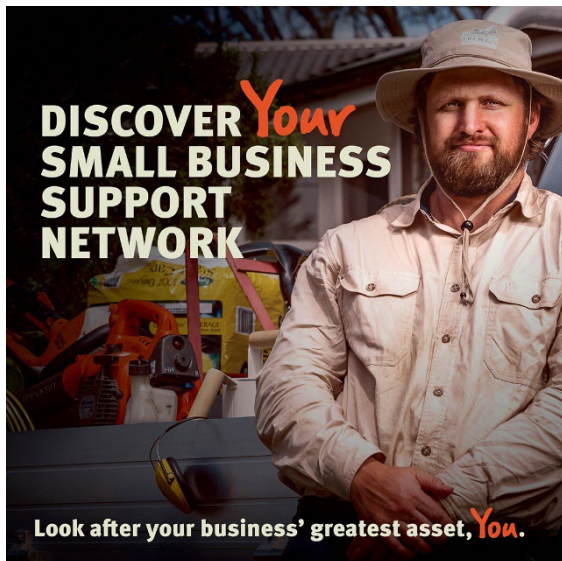
As a token of our appreciation, you also have the chance to win a \$500 Office Works gift card.

Don't miss out – [participate today and have your say!](#)

With the department's IBM funding, the event engaged Elvie Douglas Catering (a new local Aboriginal catering business), models and MC costs.

The fashion parade was held at Bert Button Lookout on Friday 27 October 2023 with the young Wirri-Wakka group performing traditional dances to open the event. An overwhelming number of orders were received for the group's designs.

The opening of the YAG Florist and Gift Shop was also incorporated at the end of the IBM event.



What is the Small Business Support Network?

We know that the financial stresses and mental wellbeing of small business owners has been well and truly tested as we emerge from the economic and social difficulties of the last few years. Our [business wellness coaches](#) and financial counsellors ([Northern Queensland](#) or [Southern Queensland](#)) are keen to help you work through these stressors, and their support is free!

The Small Business Support Network provides small business owners and operators with access to a host of business assistance, mental health support programs and financial counselling services. In addition, you can also access support through the [Mentoring for Growth](#) program, our regional engagement teams, [Queensland Small Business Commissioner](#) and the Small Business Hotline (1300 654 687).

Check out what's on offer through the [Small Business Support Network](#).



Connect with a business wellness coach

Whatever kind of small business you run, there's no denying that Christmas and the summer holidays can be a time of increased stress and financial pressure for small business owners.

For many businesses, Christmas can be the most intense and busy time of the year, a time when customers are stressed, staffing is limited and demand is through the roof.

It's important to know that support is at hand to help you manage your business and mental wellbeing, including business wellbeing resources and access to free small business wellness coaches.

Contact one of our coaches [today](#).



Support for businesses as Digital Licence is embraced by Queenslanders

It's no surprise Queenslanders have eagerly adopted the concept of digital driver's licences which has rapidly gained popularity in the Sunshine State.

The move to the Digital Licence in Queensland has been met with open arms, as more than 200,000 residents are downloading and using the app.

Now that the Digital Licence has been released statewide, you may be looking for information and resources to support the integration of the Digital Licence into your usual business processes.

Access [videos and social media posts](#) to share that your business supports the Digital Licence app.

If you have any queries or require assistance with targeted communications for your customers in this regard, please [email](#) the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Find out more on how your business can use the Digital Licence app [here](#).



Keeping good records

Planning on claiming work-related expenses at tax time? Then keeping good records throughout the year is essential.

Remember, to claim a work-related expense:

- you must have spent the money yourself and weren't reimbursed
- it must directly relate to earning your income



Working together for more housing choice

Queensland is one of the best places to live in the world – offering a unique lifestyle and a strong economy that supports jobs and business opportunities.

Over the next 10 years our state will grow to more than one million new Queenslanders, and we want everyone to have a home where they want to live.

That's why the Queensland Government is planning communities with a range of homes to suit everyone's needs and budgets, as well as more hospitals and public transport, upgraded schools, more parks and places to meet.

Growth is an opportunity to enhance our great communities and support the different needs and lifestyles of all Queenslanders.

Discover how we are planning for homes and more, to create more of the Queensland you love.

Find out more [here](#).



Be first to trade mark your branding

Your business name, logo, and branding are valuable assets that set you apart from your competitors.

To protect these assets, consider registering a trade mark to get a legal avenue to stop others from using your branding as if it's theirs.

Use IP Australia's free [TM Checker](#) tool to:

- you must have a record to prove it (usually a receipt).

The myDeductions tool within the ATO app is a simple and easy way to organise and store your records. You can snap a photo of your receipt and upload your info straight into your tax return or email it to your tax agent.

Visit the [Australian Tax Office website](#) for more information.

- check if a word, phrase or logo is already a registered trade mark
- get tips on what to look out for when choosing a trade mark
- be guided through the process of applying for a registered trade mark.

It only takes a few minutes to check if you can be first to register a trade mark for your branding.

Awards

Queensland Greats Awards 2024

The Queensland Greats Awards recognises the efforts and achievements of remarkable individuals and institutions for their invaluable contribution to the history and development of our great state. Do you know an inspirational Queenslander who should be recognised for their significant commitment to Queensland? It could be an industry expert or leader, colleague or a community organisation that has positively influenced our state. Learn more and [nominate today](#).



Funding



Applications now open for new \$5 million Accessible Tourism Elevate Fund!

The Year of Accessible Tourism keeps getting better!

The Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport's new \$5 million Accessible Tourism Elevate Fund provides organisations with the opportunity to elevate their accessible tourism experience.

The Fund includes [Access Project Grants](#) to take organisations accessibility initiatives to the next level, with funding of up to \$250,000 to implement high impact accessibility improvements (closes 21 December).



Grants for small to medium manufacturers

Queensland's small to medium manufacturers wanting to increase competitiveness and efficiency can benefit from two grant programs currently open for applications:

- [Made in Queensland Round 6](#)
- [Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Grant Program Round 1](#)

Made in Queensland (MiQ), now in its 6th round, is a \$101.5 million grant program for Queensland-based manufacturers looking to increase competitiveness, productivity and innovation. Matched funding grants of \$50,000 to \$2.5 million are available to adopt industry leading equipment, technologies, systems and processes supporting energy efficiency, export, reshoring, supply chain improvements, sustainability and decarbonisation. Stage 1 applications close 11 December 2023.

The \$7.1 million Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Grant Program (MEEG) supports manufacturing

businesses to implement energy efficiency equipment and measures to reduce energy costs and operational emissions. Matched funding grants of \$5,000 to \$25,000 are available. Applications close 30 June 2024 or when funding is fully allocated.



Small Business Skills and Training Boost

Small businesses with an aggregated annual turnover of less than \$50 million will be allowed an additional 20% tax deduction for external training courses delivered to employees by registered training providers.

The boost applies to eligible expenditure incurred from 7:30 pm AEDT on 29 March 2022 until 30 June 2024 and must be:

- for the provision of training to employees of your business, either in-person in Australia, or online
- charged, directly or indirectly, by a registered external training provider that is not you or an associate of yours
- already deductible for your business under taxation law.

Learn how to apply [today](#).



Community-based Community Action grants closing soon

The [Youth Justice Community-based Crime Action grants](#) are closing on **15 December 2023**.

Don't miss your chance to secure a one-off grant of between \$5,000 and \$75,000 for short-term, community-led, culturally responsive initiatives that will engage young people and deliver prevention and early intervention solutions that make a difference.

The grants aim to keep communities safe by reducing youth crime and re-offending and helping young people involved in the youth justice system to build positive relationships and participation in their communities.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to consult with their community and engage local stakeholders to consider proposals.

Learn more and apply: <https://desbt.qld.gov.au/yjgrantscommunity>

To stay updated on upcoming Youth Justice grants, [subscribe to our emails](#).



Break the cycle of youth crime with a Targeted Responses to Youth Crime grant!

Queensland businesses and the wider community, this is your chance to be part of something transformative! Applications for the [2023–24 Youth Justice Targeted Responses to Youth Crime grants](#) are now open, with \$2.5 million in funds available for communities across the state.

The Queensland Government is encouraging local communities, businesses and organisations to apply for grants of up to \$300,000 to fund the trial of new ideas and projects that will support young people who at high risk of re-offending and serious repeat offenders, to change their behaviours and improve community connection.

Targeting the unique issues being experienced by local communities, the grants will support intensive responses that address the varied and complex causes of youth crime and offending behaviours at an individual and family level.

Whether you're a local business, a concerned citizen, or a community organisation, your ideas and collaboration are essential in this journey. Together, we can develop innovative solutions grounded in evidence and local knowledge that make a difference!

Applications close 30 January 2024.

Learn more and apply: <https://desbt.qld.gov.au/yigrantargeted>

Season's greetings



As the holiday season twinkles around us, we extend our warmest wishes to our valued subscribers and partners.

Here's to celebrating your remarkable achievements and the passion you bring to the state's small business, skills and training landscape.

Thank you for being the driving force behind our local economy and for making Queensland a place with good jobs, better services, and a great lifestyle!

Please note that our offices will be closed from Friday 22 December 2023 and will resume operations on Tuesday 2 January 2024. For urgent assistance visit www.qld.gov.au or call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

May this festive season bring joy, peace, and renewed energy to you and your endeavours.



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

