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Business Queensland Connect



May 2024

Queensland Small Business Month



Queensland Small Business Month is set for a strong second half!

From an outstanding start, we continue with another [100+ events on the events calendar](#) as we head into the last weeks of [Queensland Small Business Month](#) for 2024. Find a session to help tackle an important business issue or build connections with other small businesses or stakeholders in your area by checking the event list and marking your calendar. Thanks to everyone who has organised or joined an event already or added to the positive messages online.

Remember, the [promotion kit](#) has graphics and content ideas for social media channels as well as other assets to help share the **#LoveYourSmallBusiness** message. Let's make it a great month supporting our hard-working small businesses throughout Queensland.



Coming soon! Business Queensland Connect - the podcast

Business Queensland Connect the podcast is coming soon! Watch and listen to the show designed to help small businesses start, grow and thrive.

Learn and be inspired by a range of guests and experts covering topics specifically for small and medium business across the state. Hear business stories and discover more about the support available, and how to connect to business mentors, wellness coaches and advisors.



A national cheer for our mentoring volunteers!

With National Volunteer Week falling in Queensland Small Business Month, it's great timing to give a shout out to the more than 390 volunteer business mentors behind the success of the Queensland Government's free Mentoring for Growth (M4G) program.

So far in 2023-2024, these wonderful mentors have supported more than 330 Queensland businesses with tips and suggestions to help



Sustainability produces business savings

With a growing focus on industry sustainability, Queensland businesses are finding new ways to save money and reduce their emissions. Gold Coast manufacturing business Technical Fabric Services has implemented renewable energy and waste reduction initiatives as part of the ecoBiz Program.

them with their business' opportunities or challenges. That's equivalent to about 480 hours of volunteer mentoring!

If you'd like to join the M4G program as a volunteer mentor, the next intake will open on 1 July 2024 and close on 31 July 2024.

To find out more on the program, including how to register your business for a free and confidential mentoring session, head to business.qld.gov.au/mentoring

"It's really important for consumers these days to know that the products that they're buying stands for something good," Product Development Manager Lauren says.

The Business Chamber Queensland's [ecoBiz program](#) is a free service that helps Queensland businesses cut costs across not only their energy, but also water and waste bills.

Find out more about how Technical Fabric Services is [taking climate action](#) and saving money for their business.



Calling Indigenous construction businesses

Are you an Indigenous construction business, or one that supplies to the construction sector? Then maybe registration with [QBuild](#) is an option for you.

QBuild is the leading provider of construction and strategic building maintenance services for Queensland Government and conducts



Further support for Tropical Cyclone Jasper and Southeast Queensland storms recovery

If your business was affected by Tropical Cyclone Jasper in 2023 or the South East Queensland Severe Storms in 2023-24 a [new \\$13.4 million Small Business Support Package](#) is providing further assistance.

This includes access to small business (including rural) financial counselling and business wellness coaching services via the [Small](#)

more than \$1 billion of works on behalf of government departments each year.

The [Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts](#) (DTATSIPCA) is focusing on growing the number of Indigenous businesses registered with QBuild, to provide further potential opportunities to enter the Queensland Government supply chain.

DTATSIPCA's Economic Participation branch is reaching out to Indigenous businesses and providing information and linkages to QBuild registration – whether as a contractor, consultant, or supplier.

If you think this opportunity may suit your business and you'd like to learn more, please contact enterprise@dtsatsip.qld.gov.au

[Business Support Network](#) for two years. This free service provides confidential, one-on-one support with a strong focus on mental health and financial wellbeing to disaster-affected small business owners. To learn more or book an appointment with a financial counsellor or wellness coach, visit business.qld.gov.au/wellness.

Advice and resources are available from [Business Queensland's Natural disaster resilience and recovery pages](#).

The package is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments to support Queensland communities in their recovery from the Tropical Cyclone Jasper, 13 - 28 December 2023 event and the Southeast Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall, 24 December 2023 – 3 January 2024.



Have you recently expanded cultural awareness in the workplace? We need you!

Calling all small business employers! Business Queensland Connect is seeking small business employers to share their insights about our online [Cultural Capability Resource](#).

This resource, released in early 2024, covers tips to build greater cultural awareness and strengthen practices across a range of business operations to help create more inclusive workplaces. Your experiences will help shape our future workforce and can inspire others about the benefits to your employees and your business. If you would like to be involved, please get in touch below.

[Count me in!](#)



Are you an employer?

As an employer, it's important you keep on top of your [payroll governance](#). This includes:

- using your tax and super software to record the amounts you pay
- withholding the right amount of tax
- calculating super guarantee (SG) correctly.

As 30 June gets closer, check your employer reporting obligations, along with any upcoming key dates, including for:

Pay as you go (PAYG) withholding – From 1 July, the individual income tax rate thresholds and [tax tables](#) will change, which will impact your PAYG withholding for the 2025 tax year.

SG rate change – From 1 July, the SG rate will increase to 11.5%. Make sure you pay your SG contributions by 28 July in full, on time and to the right fund.



Develop the right skills at the right time for your business

Effective workforce planning is crucial for businesses to overcome economic and labour market challenges.

This Queensland Small Business Month, Jobs Queensland invites you to join a webinar to gain skills in workforce planning to help you prepare your business for the future.

Learn from Jobs Queensland experts Joshua Rayner (Executive Director) and Kylie Newey (Director, Policy and Workforce Planning) about how to conduct efficient workforce planning.

Whether you have 3 or 30 employees, our [Workforce Planning Connect](#) resources will guide you through the workforce planning process.

With two webinars on offer, please select the time or date most convenient to you.

Register for [Thursday 16 May 10-11am](#) or [Tuesday 21 May 2-3pm](#).

Remember to use [good record keeping](#) practices and review your payroll policies and procedures to account for any changes that could impact your business.



New FREE courses to help support employees

In celebration of Queensland Small Business Month, the [Back to Work](#) team, in collaboration with TAFE Queensland, have added three new courses to the [Back to Work Small Business Short Course](#) program:

- Cultural diversity in the workplace
- Supporting mental health in the workplace
- Supporting sexual and gender identities in the workforce

All three of these courses have been developed in consultation with individuals with lived experiences.

Eighteen courses are now available to all Queenslanders, regardless of eligibility and will equip business owners and



Achieve business growth with an Industry Workforce Advisor

Working with an Industry Workforce Advisor can help you plan your workforce, find solutions to employment challenges, and connect with programs, incentives and funding opportunities.

Small business owner Markus Mueller from Outdoor Solutions Queensland contacted the Agriculture and Horticulture Industry Workforce Advisor (IWA) to address:

- difficulty recruiting in remote locations
- lengthy and ineffective induction and onboarding processes, particularly when hiring at remote sites

The IWA assisted Markus in completing a workforce plan and an action plan with strategies to combat the issues identified. Markus

employees with the skills to build supportive and inclusive workplaces.

With over 9000 enrolments so far, these courses are proving to be very popular among Queensland businesses.

Enrol today at [Back to Work](#) through TAFE Queensland.

Learn more about Back to Work including eligibility for Employer Incentive Payments and other support available to small business employers by visiting backtowork.initiatives.qld.gov.au

was then successful in applying for the HR Workforce Connect Grant.

This gave him the opportunity to engage a consultant to develop an interactive online cloud-based system with a mobile friendly interface. The system and tools were designed to:

- promote human resource support
- improve efficiencies in HR and safety practices
- make resources accessible to employees
- change current workforce operations for the better

Industry Workforce Advisors are powered by the Queensland Government's [Good people. Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022–2032](#).

Chat to an [Industry Workforce Advisor today!](#)

Queensland Small Business Month Events



[Business and Professional Women - Caboolture Business Expo](#)

10.00am to 4.00pm, Saturday 18 May

Morayfield Sports and Events Centre, 298 Morayfield Road, Morayfield

With close to 100 exhibitors including food trucks and a program of guest speakers and entertainment, this expo is in its third year celebrating local businesses and is open to everyone.



[Stanthorpe and Granite Belt Chamber of Commerce - May Networking event](#)

5.30pm to 9.30pm, Tuesday 28 May

Summit Estate Wines, 291 Granite Belt Drive, Thulimbah

New and established businesses in the area can meet, improve communications and share their experiences. This event is free for chamber members, \$25 for non-members.



[Attracting skilled staff with digital - Cooktown](#)

12 midday to 5.00pm, Wednesday 29 May

Cooktown District Community Centre, 11 Charles Street, Cooktown

This workshop will cover workforce planning with Jobs Queensland and the latest staff attraction tools including video and social media.



[Isaac Business Chamber launch](#)

12 midday to 3.00pm, Thursday 30 May

Moranbah Golf Club, 1 Leichhardt Drive, Moranbah

This event will introduce the newly formed regional chamber committee and deliver a keynote on brand and marketing. It is an opportunity to get involved in fostering economic growth and innovation in the region.



[Sustainability in Action - Business Best Practices](#)

8:30am to 12:30pm, Thursday 30 May

Diggers Services Club, 42-28 Blackwood Road, Logan Central

Hear from inspirational industry leaders and experts on adopting sustainability best practices in your business.

Funding



Business Basics grant launches 29 May 2024

Small businesses can now check the eligibility criteria and other details for the upcoming fifth round of the [Business Basics Grants](#), which will focus on fostering resilience.

This round offers \$5,000 grants to support business continuity and succession planning, security planning and solutions or sustainability activities. It aims to help businesses prepare for, respond to or recover from natural disasters and major events or improve their day-to-day operations. Review the program details now and if your business is eligible, a registration of interest process will open at 9am on Wednesday 29 May. **Applications close Tuesday 11 June 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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