



February 2025

Supporting small and family business

We improve customer service, support small and family business owners, and provide better government services.

Funding and programs



Disaster support available now

Small and family businesses impacted by the recent weather events across Queensland can access financial support.

Businesses affected by the North and Far North Queensland Tropical Low may be eligible for recently announced grants or loans. [Find support options here.](#)

Businesses impacted in the Southern Summer Rainfall and Flooding in Burnett and Wide Bay may be eligible for [concessional loans](#) as well.

Disaster assistance for affected [primary producers](#) and [non-profit organisations](#) is also available.

This assistance is provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Rent-free program renewing business spaces

If clearing the rent hurdle has held back your creative business, find out if you're in one of the regions where you can be matched to a rent-free commercial premises.

[Find out more](#)

Businesses in Action

From Arctic adventures to social media success

A love of travel became a passion project for Samantha Patton, Managing Director of The Social Spider. With one free mentoring session, she has learned how to make sure her business thrives in 2025. [Read more](#)

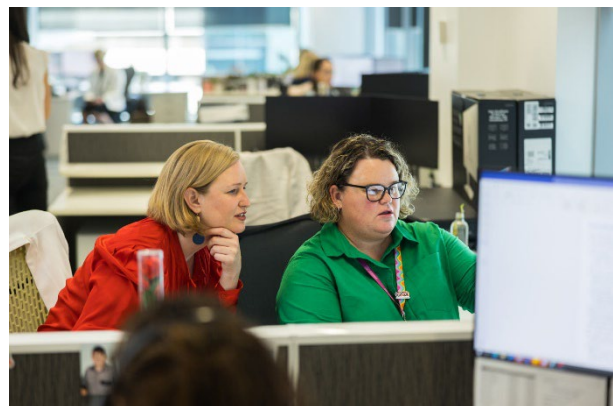


Keeping you up to date



New wage laws

Intentionally underpaying staff is now a criminal offence. Find out how to stay on the right side of the law. [Read more](#)



Dispute support program

Low-cost, professional dispute resolution support is available for small and family businesses and landlords. [Learn more](#)

Skills in demand visa

There are changes to visa rules to enable business and industry to attract migrants. [Join an information session to learn more.](#)

The big picture for small business



Anticipating future skills

Keep Queensland tourism shining

Share your tourism business experience or wider industry and community views and shape the sector's future. You're being asked for feedback to guide the development of a 20-year tourism plan by 28 February 2025. [Have your say](#)

Take a look at our workforce future

Track employment projections for your region or industry and sharpen up your recruitment and workforce development plans. [Check it out](#)

Tools, tips and triumphs

Business Launchpad

Use [Business Launchpad](#) to discover the licences, regulations and permits from all levels of government.

Keep better records

Aiming to keep better records in 2025? Check out these [tips from the Australian Tax Office](#).

Celebrating reconciliation

Nominations for the [2025 Queensland Reconciliation Awards](#) are open until Monday 10 March. You can nominate across five categories: business, community, education, health and wellbeing, and partnership.

Calling training stars

The [2025 Queensland Training Awards are open for nominations](#). Businesses, apprentices, trainees and others will earn regional, state and national recognition for their work. Nominate by Tuesday 11 March.

The Multicultural Queensland Awards are back!

The [Multicultural Queensland Awards 2025](#) celebrate the individuals and organisations working towards more inclusive communities. Nominate yourself or another worthy candidate by Sunday 16 March 2025.



For more information:
Visit business.qld.gov.au



Funding and programs

Interested in a rent-free commercial space?

Turning a creative business dream or side hustle into a bricks and mortar operation might be closer than people think.

Ten regional and remote councils are working with property owners and managers to find places for creative small businesses and entrepreneurs with new or existing business ideas to trial their operations rent free!

As part of the [Regional Place Activation Program](#), a partnership between the Queensland Small Business Commissioner and Renew Australia, interested people can submit an expression of interest to be matched with a rent-free commercial space on a rolling 30-day basis.

The program aims to support the bright and vibrant businesses that locals, day trippers and tourists love to visit, and grow the local economy. It's a great example of how these locations are living up to their [Small Business Friendly Council](#) membership.

Creative businesses looking for a rent-free premises are being sought in these locations:

- Renew Banana Shire (*Banana Shire Council*)
- Renew Barcardine Region (*Barcardine Regional Council*)
- Renew Capricorn Coast (*Livingstone Shire Council*)
- Renew Cassowary Coast (*Cassowary Coast Regional Council*)
- Renew Charters Towers (*Charters Towers Regional Council*)
- Renew Copper City CBD (*Mount Isa City Council*)
- Renew Hinchinbrook (*Hinchinbrook Shire Council*)
- Renew Isaac (*Isaac Regional Council*)
- Renew Tropical Douglas (*Douglas Shire Council*)
- Renew Winton (*Winton Shire Council*)



Check the details and submit your [Expression of Interest online](#).

Businesses in Action

From Arctic adventures to social media success - how mentoring transforms small business

For Samantha Patton, travel is at the heart of everything she does.

It was her love of language, thirst for learning, interest in different cultures and bold expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctica that led to the creation of her digital marketing business.

As Managing Director of *The Social Spider*, Samantha identified a unique gap in the industry, as travel and tourism social media was highly specialised, success relied on a deep knowledge of the sector.

“I had this knowledge from over 20 years working in the industry and it just made sense to move into the next stage of marketing for travel, social media,” she said.

What began as a passion project quickly became a business venture. Samantha’s son Noah also jumped onboard and brought fresh energy to the company, blending his social media expertise with a journalism background to create content that connects with younger audiences.

For Samantha, the key to success is innovation and continuous learning. That’s why she enrolled in a free Mentoring for Growth session to gain new insights from small business experts.

“I hoped that I could get some tips and tricks to help me grow my business and learn more about areas that I lacked. What I received was much more than I expected,” she said.

“I met with two inspirational women who had a practical approach to business and really helped me to focus my energy and goals.

“They also provided me with a direction I needed to follow to improve the areas of my business where I lacked expertise.”

Samantha said she highly recommends the Queensland Government’s [Mentoring for Growth program](#) for any small business looking to expand their skillset.

“The Social Spider is going to be better equipped now to not only survive but thrive in our first year,” she said.

[Register your business for a Mentoring for Growth session](#)



Keeping you up to date

Voluntary Small Business Wage Compliance Code

The Fair Work Ombudsman has prepared a short guide that covers how owners can follow its [Voluntary Small Business Wage Compliance Code](#) and avoid being referred for criminal prosecution if they have underpaid an employee.

This resource includes a checklist covering how to check pay rates and entitlements, good recordkeeping, staying up to date with workplace laws and getting help or fixing issues if needed.

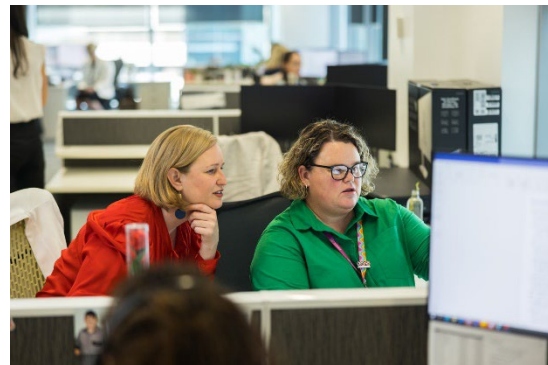


New laws came into effect on 1 January 2025 making intentionally underpaying an employee's wage or entitlements a criminal offence. This can apply to business owners or other people responsible for an underpayment. Honest mistakes won't be prosecuted but civil actions can be taken.

Support for small business disputes

Disputes can drain your time, energy, and resources, but the Queensland Small Business Commissioner (QSBC) is here to help.

Their award-winning assistance team provides low-cost, professional [dispute resolution support](#) tailored for small and family businesses and landlords.



From [short videos](#) and [case studies](#) to [multilingual resources](#), the QSBC offer practical tools to guide you through the process.

The mediator trained team create a safe space to listen and help you shift to a problem-solving mindset, where you co-create your own solution.

With tips on communication, negotiation strategies, and clear steps, they empower you to work towards agreements that avoid costly legal action.

Don't let disputes escalate. [Contact the QSBC today](#) for expert guidance and a better way forward.

Updates to Skills in Demand Visa and National Innovation Visa

The Australian Government introduced the National Innovation visa and changes to the Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) (subclass 482) visa, which is being reformed and renamed as the Skills in Demand (subclass 482) visa.

The National Innovation Visa (NIV) is a small, exclusive program with an increased focus on high-calibre talented migrants. The NIV is aimed at established and emerging leaders to ensure Australia attracts migrants from across the world who will help create jobs and drive investment in key sectors of the Australian economy.

The new Skills in Demand (SID) visa provides a streamlined pathway for skilled migrants, promoting worker mobility while offering a simple process for employers to access the skilled workers they need to help their businesses to grow.

The Department of Home Affairs is hosting a second series of information sessions and invites you to attend to learn more about these two new visa programs.

Agriculture

17 February 2025, 1:00PM - 2 :30PM (QLD), [event page](#)

Health

19 February 2025, 10:00AM-11:30AM (QLD), [event page](#)

Health

19 February 2025, 2:30PM-4PM (QLD), [event page](#)

General

21 February 2025, 1:00PM - 2 :30PM (QLD), [event page](#)

General

26 February 2025, 9:30AM-11:00AM (QLD), [event page](#)

Energy, Resources and Net Zero

5 March 2025, 1:00PM-2:30PM (QLD), [event page](#)

Technology

6 March 2025, 1:00PM - 2 :30PM (QLD), [event page](#)

Defence and Space

13 March 2025, 1:00PM - 2 :30PM (QLD), [event page](#)

The big picture for your business

New employment projections available to guide business planning

You're now able to check the latest data to see if your business might be competing for workers in a fast-growing industry or region in coming years.

Employment projections to 2027-28 from Jobs Queensland show the sunshine state is expected to need more than 150,000 extra workers in that time.

The data available includes a statewide overview, 17 regional and 19 industry profiles as well as occupation and qualification level projections that can help you understand what Queensland's future labour market could look like.

It can help small and family businesses understand workforce trends and target recruitment and training plans to attract staff.

More than **70% of additional jobs** are projected to be in **five industries**:

- healthcare and social assistance
- public administration and safety
- professional, scientific and technical services
- education and training
- retail trade

Projections show the **fastest growing regions** will be **Sunshine Coast** and **Logan-Beaudesert**. **ICT professionals** and **carers and aides** are projected to be among the **fastest growing occupations**.

Visit jobsqueensland.qld.gov.au/afs.



For more information:
Visit business.qld.gov.au

