

# Small Business Connect

July 2022

## Next round of Business Boost grants on the way



Details of the next round of the popular [Business Boost grants](#) are now available. Businesses can **register their interest in applying from 9am on 12 August** through to 12 midnight on 19 August.

Previous recipients of a Business Boost grant have used the funds to introduce an online booking system, redevelop websites, develop a customised workplace health and safety system or train their staff.

To be eligible, small businesses need to employ less than 20 employees and have had a turnover between \$300,000 and \$600,000 in the last financial year.

Businesses will need to co-contribute at least 30 per cent of the total cost of their proposed project with grant funding paid to successful small businesses following completion of the project.

### Application process

A new **two-stage application process** has been introduced to ensure all small businesses that are interested in this grant have an equal chance of being selected to apply. The first step is to register your interest to apply via the online form to provide basic information. Once registrations close, a number of businesses will be selected through a ballot process to complete a full application. All valid registrations of interest will have an equal chance of being selected.

For more information about Business Boost Grants visit [www.business.qld.gov.au/businessboost](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/businessboost)

## Business Basics grants announced

This week the Queensland Government also announced that more than 1000 Queensland small businesses will receive grants of \$5000 from round 3 of the [Business Basics program](#) which supports small business to get their 'business basics' on track by investing in areas such as website development, marketing plans or business coaching.

## New programs to connect jobseekers and employers

Nine industry and community groups are the first recipients of the **Queensland Government's \$1.5 million Growing Workforce Participation Fund**, to trial new programs that will help jobseekers and employers to connect.

The Fund will support Queensland employers to address the labour and skills shortages they are facing, by improving the ways they engage with disadvantaged people who are looking for work. This may be through job-matching services, pre-employment pathways or other innovative resources and programs, which will be delivered across regional Queensland and in the Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Scenic Rim and Somerset local government areas in the South East corner.

The groups awarded funding up to \$200,000 to deliver programs include Spinal Life Australia, Energy Skills Queensland, Australian Red Cross, Balonne Shire Council, Bowen Gumlu Growers' Association, Cairns Chamber of Commerce, Queensland Council of Social Service, Queensland Hotels Association and Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise.

To view details of the programs to be delivered visit:

<https://backtowork.initiatives.qld.gov.au/growing-workforce-participation-fund/>

## Improve your financial performance



As you welcome a new financial year, it's a good time to take a look at the most unbiased indicator of success in your business – your financial performance.

Finance can be one of the most complex parts of your business, which is why the Business Queensland website has a range of support tools and strategies to help improve your profits and better manage your cash flow, risks and business costs.

You'll find information on a range of topics to help improve and grow your finances including profit growth, revenue management, cashflow management, funding your development and more.

To help measure and monitor your finances, find out how to benchmark against competitors or use the [interactive calculators](#) to assess key ratios and your business' profitability and liquidity.

Don't know where to start? Use the [finance health check tool](#) to receive a personalised assessment report with suggestions to improve your financial management and performance.

Visit the Business Queensland website to [improve your financial performance](#).

## Minimum wage increase

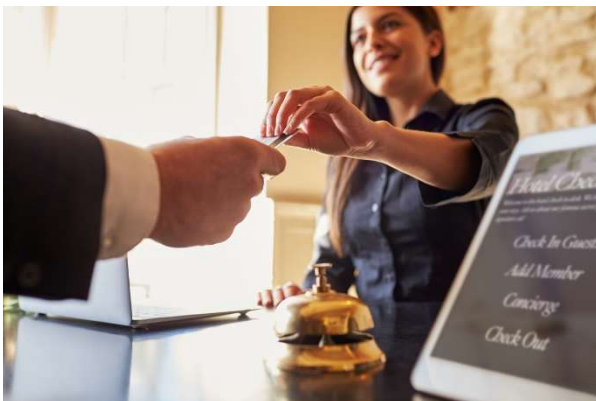
The National Minimum Wage increased as of 1 July 2022 by \$40 per week, an increase of 5.2%. The increase follows the Fair Work Commission's decision for the Annual Wage Review 2021-2022 on 15 June.

- Award minimum wages have increased by 4.6%, which are subject to a minimum increase for adult award classifications of \$40 per week based on a 38-hour week for a full time employee.
- Other award wages, including junior, apprentice and supported wages that are based on adult minimum wages, will get a proportionate increase.
- Some awards will get a minimum wage increase from the first full pay period on or after 1 July 2022, while others will increase from the first full pay period on or after 1 October 2022.

The new rates are listed in the Fair Work Commission's [pay and conditions tool](#) and [pay guides](#).

Learn more about the minimum wage increase by visiting the [Fairwork website](#).

## New financial year, new skills with micro-credentialing



With a skills shortages having an impact on the growth of the state's tourism industry, the Queensland Government and Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) are offering businesses and their staff access to hundreds of free tourism and hospitality-related online courses.

Micro-credentialing courses are delivered online through several bite-size videos. They provide operators with the flexibility to upskill and onboard new and current

employees with focused training in specific skills.

With more than 1,500 courses already completed, the micro-credentialing program is helping to fill critical skill gaps. The program has even inspired some existing employees to stay with employers by demonstrating a business' commitment to their learning and career progression.

The multimillion-dollar training program is open to eligible tourism and hospitality businesses. To express your interest, register on the [QTIC website](#).

## Hydrogen Industry Workforce Development Roadmap 2022-2032



To prepare Queenslanders to participate in hydrogen opportunities and ensure the industry can access the workers it needs, the Queensland Government has worked with industry to develop the [Hydrogen Industry Workforce Development Roadmap](#).

The Roadmap, launched on 20 July, is Australia's first dedicated workforce development plan aimed at creating a skilled, hydrogen-ready workforce that will

support Queensland's exciting and fast-growing sector.

As interest in renewable energy grows worldwide, Queensland is well placed to play a leading role to achieve the vision of a strong and adaptable workforce for a safe and thriving hydrogen industry.

Read more at [www.desbt.qld.gov.au/hydrogenroadmap](http://www.desbt.qld.gov.au/hydrogenroadmap)

## Business Launchpad – online tool for businesses in Queensland



Business Launchpad has had more than 20,000 users to date from across construction and food and beverage businesses.

If you want to open or run a business in these sectors in Queensland, you can head to [Business Launchpad](#), answer a few questions about your business, and the platform will do the work for you by producing the location-specific licences,

permits and regulatory information from all levels of government. You can even complete and save forms and track the progress of your applications – giving you more time to spend on other areas of your business.

Visit [Business Launchpad](#) today!

**Have you used Business Launchpad? We'd love to hear from you.**

We're looking for businesses that have used Business Launchpad to tell us about your experience and a little about your business.

Please contact us at [communication@desbt.qld.gov.au](mailto:communication@desbt.qld.gov.au).

## Businesses shine at Queensland Training Awards regional finals

Auto mechanics, hairdressers, construction and design companies are among the 15 large, medium and small employers of the year named at the five regional finals of the 2022 Queensland Training Awards held to date.

Learn more about the [Queensland Training Awards regional winners](#) named so far and send good luck to the Metropolitan, and Darling Downs and South West regional finalists who will be hoping to hear their names called on Friday, 29 July.

Recognising excellence among apprentices, trainees, students, teachers and trainers, community projects and employers, the awards highlight the range of skills, industries and stakeholders involved in the state's training system.

Queensland businesses are doing their bit to help train skilled workers, not only improving the retention and productivity of their own workforce but adapting to new opportunities and challenges by using a variety of training pathways.

Regional winners will go on to the [Queensland Training Awards state final](#) to be held in Brisbane on Saturday 17 September. Save the date and join the #SkillsPower celebrations.

## Have your say in the future of low emissions for Queensland agribusiness



We want Queensland's agribusiness sector to be a world-leader in low carbon production and supply chains, maximising carbon farming opportunities.

To help achieve this goal, the Queensland Government has developed a draft roadmap to help deliver greenhouse gas reductions and increase our carbon sinks – places that absorb more carbon than they release.

By 2032 the agriculture, fisheries and forestry supply chains will be well on the way to lower emissions production, with the ultimate goal of a zero net emissions economy by 2050.

The roadmap's priority focus is food security and the economic stability of our food and fibre producing regions while actively transitioning to low emissions agriculture. The agriculture sector currently contributes 13 per cent of Queensland's total emissions, largely from livestock emissions.

All Queenslanders can provide feedback on the draft until 10 August 2022 on one or more of the five areas for action:

- Livestock emissions
- Cropping and horticulture emissions
- On-farm energy opportunities
- Carbon farming and land management
- Regions and supply chains.

Have your say in helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve our low emissions goals. Find out more and [take the survey](#).

## Single use plastics ban expansion

Queensland's ban on the supply of single-use plastic items started on 1 September 2021. The ban is part of Queensland's plan to tackle plastic pollution and follows strong support from the community, retailers and industry organisations.

Community, industry and business consultation has shown strong support to expand the ban of single-use plastics. As a result, the following single-use plastic items will be banned from 1 September 2023:

- cotton buds with plastic stems
- expanded polystyrene loose packaging
- plastic microbeads in rinseable personal care and cleaning products
- heavyweight plastic shopping bags
- mass release of lighter than air balloons.

### Preparing your business

If you own or operate a business that uses banned items – such as a restaurant, café, takeaway food shop, party supplier, supermarket – you will not be able to provide these to your customers after the ban commences.

Take the time now to consider if you need to replace an item. To find out what your options are, follow the [three steps to prepare your business](#).

To find out what your business can do now and understand how the ban will expand over the next five years, head over to the [Business Queensland website](#).

## Celebrate Multicultural Queensland Month (MQM) in August



Queensland's largest multicultural celebration is back with events and activities set to take place during August.

No matter where you're located, there are opportunities to participate in person or virtually.

MQM is an opportunity for all of us to join together to celebrate our diversity and consider how we can put inclusion into action.

### Get informed

MQM encourages everyone to take a closer look at language and put inclusion into action by celebrating language diversity, breaking down language barriers and choosing to use inclusive language every day.

Throughout August, the many ways in which language is fundamental to building a truly inclusive Queensland will be recognised – from acknowledging the incredible skills of multilingual Queenslanders; to exploring practical ways to break down language barriers; as well as the role we all play by choosing to use language that connects rather than divides us.

For more information, visit the [Multicultural Queensland Month website](#).

## Key dates

### eInvoicing week

Are you already using eInvoicing or thinking about making the switch? eInvoicing is a new way to transact with your suppliers and buyers with the benefit of being more efficient, accurate and secure than PDF and email.

From 15 to 21 August during eInvoicing Week, the ATO will feature numerous events designed to explain how eInvoicing works, showcase the benefits and take you through how to get started.

To find out more visit the [ATO website - eInvoicing](#).

### Social Enterprise World Forum 2022

The Social Enterprise World Forum is the flagship event for the global social enterprise community, providing space for purpose-led people, policymakers, philanthropists, intermediaries and entrepreneurs to connect, learn and be inspired. This year, the Forum will be held in Brisbane on 28 to 29 September with more than 10 fringe events running the same week.

For more details visit the [Social Enterprise World Forum website](#).

### Upcoming business events

Find out about the many workshops and events on offer through the Business Queensland events calendar. From the calendar, you can register for an online mentoring session or an upcoming workshop.

If you are organising events that will benefit other businesses, you can submit an event to be considered for the calendar.

Check out the [Business Queensland events calendar](#) to see what's on offer to boost your business today.

## Resources



### Could the Mentoring for Recovery (M4R) program help your business?

Mentoring for Recovery is specifically aimed at assisting businesses that have been significantly affected by a natural disaster, such as the floods earlier this year.

Experienced business mentors can help you develop strategies to rebuild your business. They can also help you address challenges or issues you may

be facing as a result of water inundation or supply chain interruptions. M4R can even provide you with a sounding board if you wish to test your ideas for recovery with business professionals.

Register for a free and confidential mentoring session today:  
[www.business.qld.gov.au/mentoring](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/mentoring)

## Stay connected

In addition to this newsletter, you can receive the latest information from the Queensland and Australian Governments by visiting the [Business Queensland website](http://www.business.qld.gov.au). Follow us on social media on the [Business Queensland Facebook page](#).

**Don't forget to complete the [Small Business Connect Reader Survey](#).**

Your survey response helps us better understand the needs and interests of our subscribers and provide tailored information for Queensland small businesses.

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



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