



# Business Queensland Connect

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### Let's get ready Queensland

A tropical low in the central Coral Sea is moving towards the Queensland coast and is forecast to become tropical cyclone Kirrily. It's likely heavy rainfall will develop across the central and southern inland, as well as southeast Queensland over the weekend and will result in flooding and road closures.



### After the flood – resources for small businesses, commercial lease tenants and landlords

The QSBC acknowledges the impact of December's severe weather in Queensland on small businesses and commercial leases. To aid affected parties, we recommend two legal factsheets for advice and answers to common questions:

Cyclones are unpredictable and things can change quickly, bringing flooding and a storm surge with them. It's important to stay informed, follow weather forecasts and act quickly on any advice.

There are some important things we should all do to Get Ready:

- Review your [Household Severe Weather Emergency Plan](#)
- Check that your [emergency kit](#) is up to date
- Know where to go for [local information and warnings](#).

If you're a small business owner, having a plan can help reduce potential impacts so you can recover quickly. 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.



### Small business disaster assistance

Businesses and not-for-profits in the Logan, Scenic Rim, Gold Coast, Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Cook, Douglas, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire, Mareeba, Tablelands, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire local government areas may be eligible for:

- **disaster assistance loans** up to \$250,000 for small businesses and \$100,000 for not-for profits to help repair or replace damaged assets like plant and equipment, or to repair premises.
- **essential working capital loans** up to \$100,000 for small businesses for the continuation of operations, including paying wages, rents or rates.
- **extraordinary disaster assistance recovery grants** up to \$50,000 for small businesses experiencing direct damage, to hire or purchase equipment and materials, clean up, remove debris, replace or repair damaged infrastructure and stock, and other costs associated with the recovery process.

To apply contact QRIDA on 1800 623 946 or [visit their website](#) for more information.

- [Flood and Cyclone Legal Help for Small Business](#) for information on solvency, tax liabilities and security
- [Impact of Flooding on Leased Commercial and Retail Premises](#) for a guide to party responsibility when cleaning flooded premises and repairing structural damage.

Additionally, download the [Disaster or Emergency Event Log template](#) which assists in documenting decisions and actions taken post-event, ensuring comprehensive records to minimise stress and improve the efficiency of future insurance claims. Timely completion of this template is crucial, as accessing disaster grants or loans often depends on the completion of the insurance claim process.

For help, call the QSBC Assistance team on 1300 312 344 or [visit the website](#).



### Primary producer disaster assistance

Primary producers in Logan, Scenic Rim, Gold Coast, Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Cook, Douglas, Hinchinbrook, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire, Mareeba, Tablelands, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire local government areas may be eligible for:

- **disaster recovery grants** up to \$75,000 to assist with short-term recovery needs including pasture rehabilitation, fodder, replacing livestock, and repairs to infrastructure and equipment
- **disaster assistance loans** up to \$250,000 to help repair or replace damaged assets, including stock, and maintain liquidity
- **essential working capital loans** of up to \$100,000 from QRIDA to help you continue operating
- **freight assistance** up to \$5,000 to assist with the movement of stock, feed, machinery, fuel, water, and building or fencing materials.

To apply, contact QRIDA on 1800 623 946 or [visit their website](#) for more information. For information about freight assistance call the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23.



### **Our Small Business Financial Counselling Service is here to help!**

Times can be tough right now for small businesses, so we have extended the Financial Counselling Service support to continue providing you with access to free, impartial and confidential financial counselling.

If you're experiencing financial pressure in your business, reach out to one of our financial counsellors in [Northern Queensland](#) or [Southern Queensland](#).

Your success matters to us, and we're committed to helping you look after your business' greatest asset – you.

Discover further support through the [Small Business Support Network](#).



### **Queensland businesses have their say on training needs**

More than 8000 Queenslanders, including over 1500 businesses, have shared their views on the opportunities and challenges facing the skills sector to help develop a new vocational education and training (VET) strategy for Queensland, with a summary of what was heard now available.

Key findings outlined in the Developing a new Queensland Vocational Education and Training Strategy – consultation summary underscored the importance of training for Queenslanders and small businesses, highlighting the importance of:



### **Mentoring for businesses affected by storms and flooding**

Need help getting your business back on track following the recent natural disasters in Far North and South-East Queensland?

Queensland employers are able to access a range of workforce related support thanks to the [Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022–2032](#).

Employers can access a one-on-one session with volunteer business mentors through the Mentoring for Growth program. The mentors have a broad range of experience, knowledge, and expertise to offer. Connect with a mentor to discuss options and ideas on how to solve workforce challenges or other business issues.

[Register now](#) for a free mentoring session.



### **Let's protect respect – again**

The Let's Protect Respect campaign is once again in market, empowering industries to take positive action to embrace gender equality and ensure bullying and unfair treatment has no place in the workplace.

First launched in March 2023, the campaign aims to promote support and drive change for apprentices and trainees, particularly female apprentices, as well as women and girls aspiring for great careers in male-dominated occupations like traditional trades. It does this by promoting respect and support available to all apprentices, trainees and employers so they know their rights and obligations, and where to turn for help if things go wrong at work.

The campaign also promotes positive action for



- the relevancy of courses and content, and the benefits of practical training and access to work experience
- balancing apprentice and trainee study requirements with business needs
- good communication between industry and organisations involved in VET, particularly between the various parties involved in apprenticeships and traineeships
- access to training for both students and employers across Queensland communities
- consistency in training delivery and job-ready graduates
- the strong link between VET pathways and industry.

Public consultation was conducted online and face-to-face over seven weeks, closing 18 August 2023. Learn more about the consultation process and its findings, and [stay up-to-date](#) on the development of Queensland's new VET strategy.



### Helping you plan your business

Are you starting a business or looking to expand your business? Business.gov.au has launched a new [Business plan tool](#) to help you to:

- evaluate your new business idea
- set goals for the year ahead
- keep your business on track.

The Business plan tool will ask you a series of questions about your business, including:

- business name
- key people in your business
- market opportunities
- target market
- competitors
- financial information
- future goals.

The tool takes about 30-60 minutes to complete. At the end, you will have the option to download or email your tailored business plan.

industry and workplace leaders to call it out and act. Advice and support can be [accessed online](#) or by calling the Apprenticeships Info helpline on 1800 210 210.

The campaign series is part of the government's three-year Train and Retain strategy, which aims to forge a stronger, inclusive training system that delivers for [apprentices, trainees and employers](#), as well as our economy.

The strategy includes a range of initiatives in response to a [2022 review of support by the Queensland Training Ombudsman](#) and is an action of the [Queensland Workforce Strategy](#) – connecting good people to good jobs.

Learn more and find campaign materials for industry and workplaces leaders [here](#).



### New Apprenticeships Info app

A new mobile app has been launched to give apprentices and trainees quick and easy access to the Apprenticeships Info contact number via a digital card which they can add to their mobile phone wallet.

Funded under the [Queensland Workforce Strategy](#), the app is part of the government's response to a 2022 review by the Queensland Training Ombudsman which identified opportunities to enhance support and job site culture for apprentices and trainees.

The app includes a wide range of bite-sized guidance and support including information on getting started, available financial assistance, a who's who guide to the apprenticeship process, and information on how to manage problems that may occur during training. The app is among a range of initiatives designed to strengthen support for Queensland apprentices and trainees so they can complete their training and forge a successful skilled career. Find out more [here](#).



**SUPPORTING LOCAL SOLUTIONS**

Local leadership and collaboration to drive effective workforce solutions and responses.

Find out how regions are 'growing their own' workforce.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Queensland Good jobs. Better services. Live the change.

Queensland Government

**Queensland Workforce Strategy – Supporting local solutions**

[Good people. Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022–2032](#) is a 10-year whole of government strategy to strengthen Queensland's workforce. Local communities across Queensland are working hard to capitalise on workforce opportunities and respond to workforce challenges.

Find out how the Queensland Workforce Strategy is supporting locally focused and led workforce planning initiatives, local leadership and collaboration to drive effective local solutions.

## Events



**Growing Queensland Business Roadshow**  
6 February 2024, 9.00am - 12.00pm, [Bundaberg](#)  
8 February 2024, 10.30am - 12.00pm, [online](#)

Want to hear about the preparations for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, working with government, transforming your workforce, mitigating supply chain challenges, and more? Then this roadshow is for you. Whether you are a small, medium or large business, a current supplier or a potential supplier to government, you can choose how you make the most of this event.



**Capability Statement Writing Workshop**  
1, 7 & 27 February 2024, 9.00am - 1.00pm, Bundaberg  
15 February 2024, 8.30am - 12.30pm, North Lakes  
14 March 2024, 11.00am - 12.00pm, online

Learn how to prepare effective capability statements and improve your chances of securing tendering opportunities in government and private sector projects. [Register](#) for a workshop near you.



**UniSC Continuity Planning Courses**  
27 February - 9 April 2024, [UniSC Caboolture](#)  
24 April - 5 June 2024, [UniSC Sunshine Coast](#)

This course is designed to equip Queensland business owners and managers with the necessary tools and skills to develop a robust business continuity plan. Learn how to protect your investments, effectively manage risks, build resilience, and solve problems together through group scenarios. Both 7-week courses will be delivered simultaneously on-campus and online.

## Awards

### Nominate for the 2024 Queensland Training Awards

If your business uses vocational education and training to develop a superstar workforce, or you know an individual or organisation that shows how training pathways support positive outcomes, nominate for the [2024 Queensland Training Awards](#).

Nominations are open for 14 awards until midnight Tuesday 12 March 2024. There are categories for large, medium and small



employers as well as any apprentices or trainees you employ or the teachers or trainers, or training providers they study with.

Last year All Purpose Transport won at their regional final in July, the state final in September and at the Australian Training Awards held in November and it all started with a nomination. Celebrating successful Queenslanders using VET to pursue their goals recognises their efforts and inspires others to chase their dream careers too.

## Funding



### Celebrating Reconciliation Grants

The Queensland Government Celebrating Reconciliation Grants will support up to 32 Queensland-based reconciliation events held in or around National Reconciliation Week.

National Reconciliation Week (27 May - 3 June) builds on respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous peoples.

Eligible organisations can apply for grants between \$5,000 and \$10,000 (exclusive of GST) per event to deliver a range of reconciliation events that:

- increase awareness of Reconciliation Australia's five dimensions of reconciliation including historical acceptance, unity, equality and equity, race relations and institutional integrity
- raise community awareness of National Reconciliation Week
- offer community members opportunities to learn, share, and grow, for example, through sharing stories about past events and showcasing local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, arts and cultural activities
- promote and facilitate respect, trust and positive relationships between the wider Queensland community and Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- contribute to a state-wide program of inclusive and innovative community events, initiatives and promotions
- promote social cohesion through building better relationships between Aboriginal peoples, Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider Australian community
- encourage local community organisations to have and show respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Applications close 29 January 2024. [Apply for the Celebrating Reconciliation Grants program today.](#)



### Community-based Community Action grants are now open

Are you ready to turn your ideas into impactful projects?

Round 3 of the Queensland Government's Youth Justice Community-based Crime Action grants are now open, offering grants between \$5,000 to \$75,000 for short-term projects that proactively engage at-risk young people and help them create positive, lasting connections within their communities

Queensland businesses and community organisations are encouraged to collaborate with the Queensland Government in developing initiatives that respond to localised crime issues with community-led, culturally responsive prevention and early intervention programs.

We need your innovative ideas and teamwork for this journey. Let's create practical solutions to youth crime issues using local knowledge. Apply now to make a change, support young people and build a safer Queensland.

CBCA grants are open for a limited time. Applications close 2 February 2024. [Learn more and apply.](#)

[Subscribe to our emails](#) to stay updated with upcoming Youth Justice Grants.



## Targeted Responses to Youth Crime grants closing soon

Time is of the essence! The Youth Justice Targeted Responses to Youth Crime grants will close on 30 January 2024. Don't miss your chance to secure funding for local, innovative projects aimed at tackling the complex causes of youth crime and break the cycle of offending.

Whether you're a business owner, community advocate, or a concerned individual committed to making a difference, your involvement is vital. Collaborate with your community and the Queensland Government to develop projects that empower young people to make meaningful changes in their lives. Act now and contribute to a safer Queensland! [Learn more and apply.](#)



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