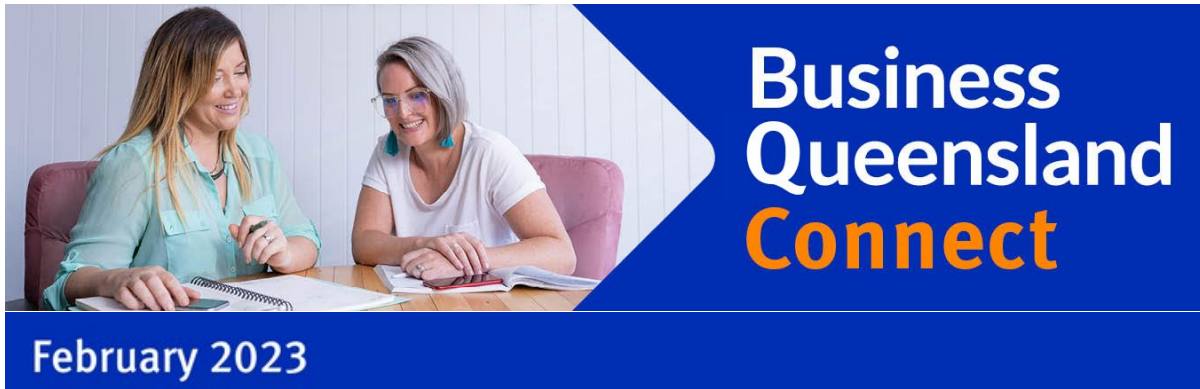


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Business Queensland a new web experience for businesses

The [Business Queensland](#) website has a new look to improve the way it supports Queensland business and industry.

Based on customer research and testing, the goal of the recent changes was to ensure the online experience aligns to usability best practice principles and resonates with the evolving needs and



New advisory group focuses on apprenticeships

Employer voices are among a new advisory group that met for the first time on 16 February to help improve apprenticeship outcomes.

Chaired by SunCentral's Amanda Yeates, Queensland's Apprenticeship Advisory Reference Group includes employer representatives as well as Queensland Training Ombudsman Geoff Favell,

expectations of Queensland businesses. Many of the planned changes are already completed, with further updates in the pipeline.

We've also refreshed the information for starting and running a business. These updates are complemented by new calculators, downloadable templates and health check tools, creating a useful suite of information for Queensland business owners and intenders to start, run and grow their business.

Learn more about:

- [starting or buying a business](#)
- [digital business and IT](#)
- [business finance essentials](#)

Check out the website at www.business.qld.gov.au



Take your business outdoors

It's the perfect time to create an outdoor space where your customers can enjoy the Queensland lifestyle and support local businesses.

The [Queensland Outdoor Activation Action Plan](#) supports improvements to the small business operating environment to assist business owners to work with local councils and maximise their opportunities to trade outdoors.

Through our [Mentoring for Growth program](#) we can connect business owners to experienced mentors to help businesses interested in expanding their outdoor trade, while the [Queensland Business Launchpad](#) provides a one-stop-shop for all your regulatory information and licencing requirements. [Learn more](#)

recent apprentices as well as members representing unions, training organisations and schools. The group will provide advice on industry-led solutions to improve the effectiveness of Queensland's apprenticeship and traineeship system.

The group will also look at issues such as persistent skills shortages, systemic challenges and the need for greater diversity and cultural change in male-dominated occupations, such as trades.

The group's formation is among a range of actions being implemented in response to a [2022 review of support by the Ombudsman](#) and as part of the [Queensland Workforce Strategy](#) – connecting good people to good jobs.

Photo l-r: Matthew Lawrence (United Workers Union), Gabrielle Inwood (demi pastry chef and recent apprentice) and Group Chair Amanda Yeates.



Identify your employment needs with Back to Work

If you are looking for extra employment support our Back to Work teams can provide localised support and help you identify your employment requirements.

The Back to Work program focuses on financial and non-financial support for jobseekers, employers and their employees who identify from one of the following cohorts: youth (aged 15 to 24 years), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability and long term unemployed.

Our Back to Work teams are conveniently located throughout Queensland to support both employers and jobseekers. For more information about support for your business or to find your local team visit [Back to Work](#).



Communities Innovation Fund – grants open!

The Queensland Government has introduced the \$4 million Communities Innovation Fund to support community-led initiatives that reduce social isolation and loneliness in Queensland.

Grant applications are invited from eligible organisations with ideas for innovative initiatives that will combat social isolation and loneliness in their Queensland communities and support people to connect, reconnect, find and keep meaningful relationships. Loneliness and isolation affect different people in different ways and it's critical there are local services and support available to respond to different situations.

Your initiative could play an important role in improving individual mental health and wellbeing and reducing isolation and loneliness in Queensland communities.

Applications close at 2.00pm on Monday 6 March 2023. [Read more.](#)



Business Launchpad – licensing and permit information for Queensland businesses

Complying with the licensing, permit and regulatory requirements for your business doesn't have to be a daunting, time-consuming process.



Ask a Mentor – tips for recruitment

Each month we are featuring tips from Mentoring for Growth (M4G) mentors on a different topic. In this edition we look at hiring and recruiting and why it's so important for your business success.

Top tips from Clayton Menyweather, M4G Mentor since 2021

1. Build a brand that people want to work for
2. Make the workplace fun
3. Keep staff accountable.

Top tips from Shane Brann, M4G Mentor since 2022

1. Attitude is as important as skills.
2. Be consistent, use an interview template for each role, ask each candidate the same questions.
3. Make sure the job advertisement is clear about the role and don't be afraid to advertise the package amount.

To find out more visit [Ask a mentor – hiring and recruiting.](#)



Dispute resolution services for retail shop leases

The [Queensland Small Business Commissioner](#) (QSBC) can provide dispute resolution services for retail tenancy disputes under the *Retail Shop Lease Act 1994*.

With [Business Launchpad](#) pulling together all the regulatory information you need from all levels of government into one place, navigating the business landscape has become easier for all business activity.

With authoritative, up-to-date information in an easy-to-follow layout, you can save yourself time, effort and uncertainty, allowing you to focus on other ideas to grow your business.

[Business Launchpad](#) is free to use, so log in today and see how it can benefit your business.



Country of origin labelling for seafood in hospitality

The Australian Government wants your views on a proposed model for mandatory country of origin labelling for seafood in hospitality settings.

Under the model, businesses would need to provide information on whether their seafood is Australian, imported/international, or from mixed sources.

The government is committed to improving information for consumers while minimising costs and impacts on businesses.

Find out more and have your say [here](#).

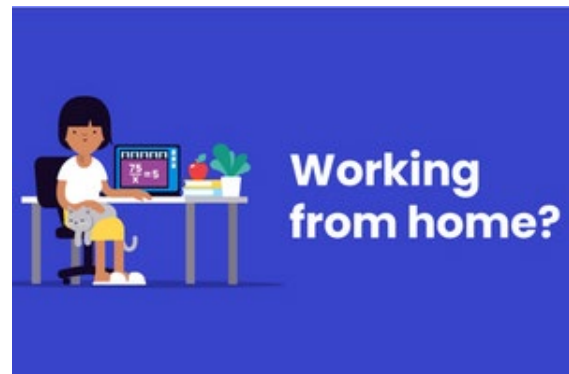


Meet Susan Yeeles, Wellness Coach

Cairns-based small business wellness coach Susan Yeeles helps business owners by supporting them

If you require mediation support complete the QSBC online application seeking mediation or visit [business disputes](#). Your application for mediation will then be assessed for eligibility under the Act and if deemed eligible, a mediator will be nominated. A \$175 mediation fee must be paid by each party.

More information about QSBC support and resolving business disputes is available [here](#).



Working from home deductions have changed

If you are one of the 5 million Aussies now working from home, you may be interested to know the ATO recently announced changes to how you calculate your working from home tax deduction.

And importantly, the records you need to keep this financial year have changed too.

If you're claiming working from home expenses for the 2022-23 income year, you need to use either the actual cost method, or the revised fixed rate method. The shortcut method is no longer available.

To learn more visit ato.gov.au.



Queensland Small Business Month is coming this May

to develop resilience, identifying their strengths and implementing practical supports.

Susan said business owners can reach out for help at any time and if they feel that speaking with someone could assist, then get in touch.

“The service is completely free and offered in flexible ways to suit individuals and their business needs. Business owners often tell me they didn’t realise this was for them, but they are so pleased they found the program,” Susan said.

Read more at [Small Business Wellness Package](#) or contact Susan [here](#).

As a Queensland small business owner, Queensland Small Business Month (QSBM) 2023 is a chance to network, connect and learn new skills that can empower you and your business.

In the coming months we’ll provide regular updates – but in the meantime check out what’s happening near you, or even add your own event or activity to the Business Queensland [events calendar](#).

Help us to celebrate our small businesses and the vital contribution they make to Queensland’s economy and to our communities across the state. [Register for a QSBM2023 event today!](#)

Key dates



Queensland Energy and Jobs Fair in Townsville Monday 6 March 2023 3.30pm – 6.00pm The Ville Resort, 67 Sir Leslie Thiess Drive

The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will see 70% renewables by 2032 and 100,000 new jobs in Queensland by 2040. The \$62 billion Plan will deliver new energy infrastructure across the state with 95% of investment in regional Queensland including Townsville, boosting local jobs and training

Join us at the Queensland Energy and Jobs Fair in Townsville and learn more about Queensland’s plan to:

- build a clean and competitive energy system for Queensland’s economy
- deliver affordable energy for households and businesses
- drive better outcomes for workers and communities.

The event will include displays, kids’ activities, and the chance to win an energy-efficient appliance. [Register here](#) or visit www.qld.gov.au/energyandjobsplan



Changes to the Fair Work Act Thursday 9 March 2023 12.00pm – 1.00pm (AEST) Webinar

Recently, the Australian Government passed the *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022*, which resulted in changes to workplace law.

The [Queensland Tourism Industry Council \(QTIC\)](#) has partnered with [K&L Gates](#) to present a webinar outlining major changes to the Act and implications for tourism employers and employees.

The webinar will discuss workplace changes covering minimum wage and award conditions for the tourism industry, working arrangements for casual and seasonal staff and the impact of changes in the enterprise bargaining system impacting tourism and hospitality employers. [Register here](#)



Small business social media workshops

13 and 14 March 2023

[Chinchilla](#) - RSL, 61 Heeney Street

15 and 16 March 2023

[Dalby](#) - The Vista Room, 69 Drayton Street.

Business Navigator has teamed up with [Western Downs Regional Council](#) to deliver a series of workshops designed for small business operators across the Western Downs. Free to attend, the workshops include practical sessions covering:

- social media for beginners
- social media strategy
- using Canva
- paid advertising.



Workforce Management - Hiring and Recruiting

Monday 27 March 2023

10.00am (AEST)

Webinar

Interested in learning more about how to successfully hire and recruit staff? Choosing the right person for the right role and having a well-planned recruitment process is integral to the success of any business.

Our free webinar with Mentoring for Growth panellists [Bronwyn Reid](#), [Cesar Hasselmann](#), [Clayton Menyweather](#) and [Shane Brann](#) will provide you with information, tips and resources to help you with hiring and recruiting staff, particularly in the current tight labour market. [Register here](#)

Awards

Queensland Top Tourism Towns Awards 2023

Nominations are open for the [2023 Queensland Top Tourism Town Awards](#). Throw your support behind Queensland's regional destinations by nominating a town you think is worthy of state-wide recognition.

Presented by the [Queensland Tourism Industry Council](#), the Awards celebrate our state's diverse landscapes, local treasures, and hidden gems.

This year, Queensland's best tour guides will be celebrated with the introduction of a Top Tour Guide Award. If you know a tour guide or coach captain who goes above and beyond, then nominate them today.

Nominations close 6 March 2023, click here to [nominate a town or tour guide](#).



Queensland Training Awards – nominations closing soon

Businesses looking to earn regional, state and potentially national recognition for their commitment to training have until midnight Wednesday 15 March to nominate for the [2023 Queensland Training Awards](#).

Small, medium and large employer finalists will be invited to one of the seven regional finals to be held across the state in July, along with exceptional individuals — including apprentices, trainees, students and teachers or trainers — and community training projects. Each year these events bring together and highlight the diverse training pathways that support people and employers across many sectors and industries.

Winners announced at the regional finals will then travel to Brisbane for the state final in September, along with finalists in the training providers and industry partnership categories.

Follow the [five easy steps to enter](#) and [register on the portal](#) to nominate your business or a training star in your network.



This email was sent by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training
Level 12 | 85 George Street | Brisbane | Queensland

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

