



## Backing Jobs for Small Business

The Palaszczuk Government is cutting payroll tax for Queensland small businesses.

**Since 2015**, the Palaszczuk Government has made jobs our priority. We have supported Queenslanders who want to create their own job by starting a small business, helped small businesses grow, and given business owners the confidence they need to make investments and take on employees.

### Advance Queensland

**\$755M**

to create employment, generate new economic opportunities and develop the knowledge-based jobs of the future.

### Skilling Queenslanders for Work

**\$420M**

to increase workforce participation and the overall performance of the Queensland economy through training and work opportunities for disadvantaged Queenslanders.

### Back to Work

**\$383M\***

to give Queensland employers the confidence to take on eligible unemployed jobseekers.

\*Applications open to 30 June 2020.

### Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016–20

**\$26.2M**

to advocate, enable and empower small business owners to realise their ambitions.

[budget.qld.gov.au](http://budget.qld.gov.au)

**The 2019–20** Queensland Budget recognises that small business touches the lives of all Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk Government is delivering targeted investment to sustain the growth and strength of small business. Underpinning this is our solid commitment to make it easier to do business here in Queensland.

### Payroll Tax Package

**\$885M**

\$885 million of targeted payroll tax initiatives to support small-to-medium sized businesses as they grow, create employment and boost the economy.

### Townsville flood recovery response

**\$10M**

ongoing support to build resilient small businesses in Townsville and North Western Queensland.

### Small Business Grants Program

**\$4M**

to continue our successful grants programs helping small businesses to realise their ambitions.



## Rocky jobseekers to build, grow or start careers

More than 70 Rockhampton jobseekers are on their way to building new career paths or starting their own business thanks to \$1.2 million in support from the Queensland Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

Participants from three projects supported by the local Multicultural Development Australia team recently graduated with new skills, experience and qualifications to launch their own small business or break into the horticulture or construction workforces.

Participants from Micro Markets studied a Certificate III in Micro Business Operations, building their confidence and connecting them with information and contacts to support their entrepreneurial planning. Thrills and Skills and Connecting Cultures employed participants through Work Skills Traineeships to complete various building or landscaping projects in the area, while studying for a qualification.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work funds skills development, training and job opportunities for unemployed, disengaged or disadvantaged Queenslanders through skills and training programs.

*Photo above: Rocky jobseekers to build, grow or start careers*

## Small business

Queensland small businesses are strong, resilient and diverse — a reflection of Queenslanders themselves.

There are more than 438,000 small businesses in Queensland, representing more than 97 per cent of all businesses in the state. Together they employ more than 900,000 people — around 44 per cent of the Queensland's private sector workforce — and contribute around \$113 billion per year to Queensland's economy.

More and more Queenslanders are embracing the challenge and opportunity of starting their own small business and the Palaszczuk Government is committed to helping them succeed.



## Making it easier to do business

The Palaszczuk Government is making it easier to do business here in Queensland by reducing the time it takes to do things, removing red tape and ensuring a balanced regulatory environment.

### Helping small business get back on their feet

The Townsville Small Business Recovery Centre was opened in the wake of the North and Far North Queensland floods to help local businesses get back on their feet. The centre has already provided almost 900 small businesses with advice from Government agencies, \$10 million in disaster recovery financial assistance, help with business insurance, and mentoring for recovery sessions. Recovery grants have assisted more than 400 small businesses. Small Business Recovery Roadshows have been delivered across North West Queensland including in Julia Creek, Mount Isa and Cloncurry.

## Making business with government easier

The Queensland Small Business Procurement Commitment and On-time Payment Policy will make it easier for small businesses to supply to the Government and ensure that small business suppliers are paid faster. The Palaszczuk Government will work towards establishing a target to increase procurement from small business and will reduce the timeframe for its payment of invoices from small businesses from 30 to 20 calendar days, commencing 1 July 2020.

### Reducing compliance costs for small business

We are helping Queensland small businesses to reduce the costs of complying with regulation. The Palaszczuk Government has secured \$60.1 million under the Australian Government's Small Business Regulatory Reform initiative to deliver seven projects to make compliance easier. The projects range from improving trainee and apprentice management to streamlining biosecurity and food safety, giving small businesses more time to grow their business.

### Consulting for better policy and regulation

Small businesses are giving the Palaszczuk Government direct feedback on the real-world impacts of proposed policy and regulatory changes through Small Business Consultation Panels. The pilot program commenced in 2018, with up to 40 different small business owners providing first-hand views on topics important to them. The Government is investing \$1.1 million (2018–2022) to expand the program across Government agencies.

### Championing the cause for small business

As a responsive government, we listen to small businesses and advocate for their views. The Queensland Small Business Champion has provided a voice for Queensland small business at the national level and the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council provides timely advice and solutions to the Minister for Small Business on matters of growth, sustainability and employment.

## Ready to employ their first or next employee

The Palaszczuk Government is supporting small businesses across Queensland to employ their first, or their next, employee. The size and importance of the small business sector makes it the engine room of creating jobs in a strong economy.

## Payroll Tax Package

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to making it easier for small-to-medium business to employ staff, particularly apprentices and trainees and those in regional Queensland. Over four years, this Budget provides \$885 million of targeted payroll tax initiatives to support businesses as they grow, create employment and boost the economy. The package includes:

- An increased exemption threshold – the payroll tax exemption threshold is rising from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million which will benefit employers with annual wages up to \$6.5 million.
- Regional payroll tax discount – from 1 July 2019 a 1% payroll tax discount will apply for employers with 85% of their employees outside of South East Queensland.
- Employment growth rebate – for two years from 1 July 2019, Queensland employers that have increased their number of full-time employees will be eligible for a payroll tax rebate of the payroll tax paid for these additional employees, capped at \$20,000 annually.
- Extension of apprentice and trainee rebate – building on the success of the 50% payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees, especially for employers in regional Queensland, this initiative will be extended until 30 June 2021.



## Skilling Queenslanders for small business

The Palaszczuk Government's \$420 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative has assisted more than 40,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders since July 2015 to secure training opportunities and find ongoing work. Skilling Queenslanders for Work has increased workforce participation and underpinned the performance of the Queensland economy.

### Making it in Queensland

The Palaszczuk Government's \$46 million Made in Queensland Grant program is helping to boost the competitiveness and productivity of small and medium-sized Queensland manufacturers. Manufacturing SMEs can receive grants for matched funding of between \$50,000 and \$2.5 million for eligible equipment and projects, helping them to grow, become more productive and create jobs. In 2019-20 the Palaszczuk Government has provided another \$6 million over two years to continue this successful program.

### Growing your small business

The Business Growth Fund Program provides targeted assistance for small and medium businesses that are growing strongly and want to employ more Queenslanders. Grants from the Business Growth Fund Program allow businesses to purchase and implement specialised equipment to increase sales and promote hiring opportunities.

### Investing in Queensland's social enterprises

The Palaszczuk Government is working to ensure the State's thriving social enterprise sector can continue to grow and create more jobs for vulnerable people who are looking for meaningful employment. This includes \$1 million in 2019-20 to support the development of a Queensland Social Enterprise Strategy that can help existing businesses grow, foster new and existing ventures and increase the capacity and flow of investment to the social enterprise sector.

## Ready to engage with the economy and with new opportunities

Small businesses are the engine room of Queensland's economy and a key priority is helping position them to succeed. The Palaszczuk Government is ensuring our State's diverse small businesses have the opportunity to start, grow and employ. This includes making sure Queenslanders are skilled for work and ready to participate in the economy, and Queensland small businesses are ready to engage with new opportunities.

## Building trade links for small business

The *Advancing Trade and Investment – Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy 2017–2022* is a \$35 million funded strategy over five years, which is supporting small businesses to engage with new trading opportunities both domestically and in the international market.

### Boosting support for women in small business

The Advancing Women in Business industry partnership program supports women in business by funding projects to deliver leadership skills development, networking events and mentoring programs to women in business. Since July 2016, the Palaszczuk Government has awarded more than 800 small business grants to Queensland women, and provided career guidance to almost 700 women through the Mentoring for Growth program.

### Advancing small business for Indigenous people

The Advancing Indigenous Business initiative and Enterprise Queensland Indigenous programs provide targeted advice and assistance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to start new businesses or to build the resilience in their existing businesses to help them grow and thrive.

## Ready to invest in themselves and their future

The Palaszczuk Government is supporting small businesses to invest in themselves to achieve their growth and employment aspirations. The Government provides mentoring, grants and strategic assistance to encourage small businesses across all industries to invest in their future.

### Mentoring for growth

Nowhere is Queensland's community spirit more evident than in the Mentoring for Growth Program. Mentoring for Growth supports growing Queensland small businesses by providing access to a panel of volunteer business mentors who can help address commercial challenges such as business growth, export strategies and investment attraction.

### Future Job Program

In 2019-20, the Create Your Future Job program will pilot targeted support and specialist business advice and mentoring to Queenslanders who want to create their own future job via a small business.

# Backing Jobs for Small Business



## Powerhouse Collective provides opportunity for women in business to grow

In just over two years Aimee Sherriff has transformed the Powerhouse Collective from a small meeting of like-minded businesswomen into Noosa's leading business development hub for local women.

The group has quickly grown to include architects, lawyers, real estate agents and start-ups. The on-site crèche allows women to grow their business while raising their children.

The Powerhouse Collective have conducted the Building Business Success workshops and intensives thanks to a \$42,000 grant from the Queensland Government's Advancing Women in Business initiative. Ms Sherriff said she developed the workshops to help women attain real business growth.

"These workshops and intensives dive deep and use trainers with real-world expertise to help inform and empower our members," Ms Sherriff said.

"We cover topics from digital strategies for small business, to how to market your product or service to your target audience, and the workshops are a first of their kind in Noosa and the Sunshine Coast".

*Photo above: Aimee Sherriff*

### Reducing the cost of energy

The Palaszczuk Government is reducing electricity prices for small businesses. The \$5.7 million ecoBiz program, in partnership with CCIQ, is assisting businesses to cut their energy, water and waste bills through eco-efficiency actions. The extended Energy Savers Plus program is investing \$10 million over three years to 2020 to provide free energy audits, and dollar-for-dollar co-contributions of up to \$20,000 to assist farms to implement their audit recommendations. The Affordable Energy Plan is reducing electricity prices for small businesses. Queensland small businesses can receive \$120 as part of the EasyPay Rewards rebate when registering for direct debit and monthly eBilling, and grants of \$3,000 are available for businesses installing batteries as part of the Solar and Storage Scheme.

### Celebrating Queensland small business

Each year during Queensland Small Business Week, the Palaszczuk Government celebrates the important contribution small businesses make to our economy and our community. Individuals and organisations come together to share experiences, create new networks and strengthen the business community. During 2019 Queensland Small Business Week, more than 10,000 registered attendees attended around 280 events across the State.

### Supporting artisanal producers

Artisanal producers play an important role in our economy and communities. The Queensland Government is taking action to further support producers by dedicating \$200,000 from the Advancing Queensland Small Business Strategy grants program and delivering a bespoke Mentoring for Growth program for artisanal producers to facilitate increased investment and foster greater productivity, competitiveness and innovation. In 2019, the Queensland Government will also review the licensing and process requirements for artisanal food and non-alcoholic beverage producers to sell their products and establish mechanisms to better connect with the sector.

### Meeanjin Markets

The Meeanjin Markets are a curated, artisan market held in Brisbane showcasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses to the community through performances, arts, hospitality, tourism, and cultural workshops.

Hosted by the South East Queensland Indigenous Chamber of Commerce, the Markets aim to increase knowledge and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in the wider community, as well as increasing the prominence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in the Queensland and national economies.

### Ready to respond to economic change

The Palaszczuk Government is getting small businesses ready to respond to economic change. Change can be driven by new technologies and markets, transitions in our traditional industrial bases, or unanticipated events. Our targeted investment is helping to build resilient businesses that can make the most of opportunities and adapt when needed.

### Advancing Queensland small business

The Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas Fund supports start-ups and small to medium businesses to commercialise market-ready, innovative ideas that will generate jobs today and in the future across Queensland's regions. Since the program opened in 2016, the Palaszczuk Government has helped more than 270 recipients with an investment of over \$34 million.

### Delivering digital services

Since 2016, the Small Business Digital Grants Program has helped almost 1,200 small businesses access digital technologies and services. This helps them to work smarter, engage with the global economy and make the most of online business opportunities.

### Growing opportunities for Minjerrabah small businesses

The Palaszczuk Government has committed to phasing out sand mining on North Stradbroke Island (Minjerrabah) by 2019 and expanding the island's existing industries to ensure a strong, sustainable economy for all who live and work there. The \$24.75 million Economic Transition Strategy is helping small businesses on Minjerrabah including through the \$850,000 Indigenous Business Development Fund to establish new Indigenous business ventures in strong, sustainable industries, generating local employment opportunities.

Currently, state, local and the Australian governments along with corporate organisations have invested more than \$300,000 in Meeanjin Markets. More than 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses have been engaged in all aspects of the event, earning nearly \$500,000 to date.

The Markets have delivered a significant boost to Queensland's Indigenous small businesses and provided a platform for their further growth.