



Minister for Employment and Small Business
Minister for Training and Skills Development

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Your Ref: A568614

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Email: tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie, *Neil*

Thank you for your letter of 19 June 2020 regarding e-Petition No. 3331-20 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 16 June 2020, regarding support for micro and small businesses during COVID-19.

As you are aware, COVID-19 is having far-reaching consequences, including significant economic impacts for micro and small businesses, as well as industry, across every community. The Queensland Government is strongly committed to supporting Queensland businesses impacted by COVID-19 and is rolling out a range of measures to support Queenslanders' health, their jobs and businesses as part of a more than \$6 billion economic stimulus and community support package.

The Palaszczuk Government knows that micro and small businesses have been doing it tough as demonstrated by the overwhelming demand for support under the first round of grant funding of up to \$96 million for the Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grant program. I am pleased to advise that on 16 June 2020, the Premier and Minister for Trade announced that we are extending this valuable support to micro and small businesses and a second round of the program of up to a further \$100 million opened for applications on 1 July 2020.

The second round of the Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grant will include ensuring that half of the funding allocation is provided to micro and small businesses in regional Queensland. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to help micro and small businesses:

- prepare for the safe resumption of trading in the post COVID-19 recovery;
- continue to meet operating costs;
- access digital technologies to rebuild business operations and transition to a new way of doing business;
- respond to online opportunities, where possible, to sustain employment and maintain potential for longer-term growth;
- upskill and reskill business owners and staff to benefit from new technologies or business models;
- embrace business diversification to adapt and sustain operations; and
- create or retain employment.

The Palaszczuk Government is providing a comprehensive package of economic support and recovery initiatives at this extraordinary time. The Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grant is a further support measure to the Queensland micro and small business community and provides much-needed financial assistance to businesses that have been highly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is in addition to our other support measures including \$1 billion in 12-month interest free loans, payroll tax relief and electricity rebates.

I encourage Queensland micro and small businesses to contact the Small Business Hotline on 1300 654 687 which is available 24 hours a day to provide support and information to the Queensland micro and small business sector during this challenging time.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me, and I trust this information has been of assistance.

Yours sincerely



SHANNON FENTIMAN MP
Minister for Employment and Small Business
Minister for Training and Skills Development