




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Small Business Digital Grants Program

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting small business in Queensland, particularly at this time when the world is changing at an ever-increasing pace. We are seeing this fast paced change in nearly every aspect of our lives, including the way in which we purchase products and services. Figures from the 2016 Sensis e-business report show that 82 per cent of Australians searched online for information about a product or service. The same survey found that 78 per cent searched for the suppliers of goods and services and that 71 per cent of Australians ordered goods or services via the internet. These statistics show that the digital economy presents a huge opportunity for growth for Queensland small businesses, yet the Australian Bureau of Statistics figures from 2015 tell us that only 47.1 per cent of all Australian small businesses have an online presence. That is why the Palaszczuk government is supporting small businesses to grasp the opportunities that new technology offers to expand their potential customer base.

This morning I was pleased to officially open applications for the Small Business Digital Grants program. The Small Business Digital Grants are aimed at helping business to be innovative so that they can make the most of online business opportunities. In this year's state budget our government committed \$6 million over three years to help small businesses around the state engage with the global digital economy as part of a suite of new and expanded programs under the Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy. The Small Business Digital Grants will provide up to \$10,000 matched funding to enable small businesses to access the latest digital technologies to increase their productivity and competitiveness, access training to use new technologies more effectively, generate improved business confidence and increase business sustainability, and enable regional small businesses to expand their market reach through an online presence. Through this grant program the Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting Queensland small businesses to engage in the digital economy, to ensure sustainability and to provide an opportunity for growth. It is the Palaszczuk government that has a positive economic plan for Queensland—one that will help small business start, grow and employ.