




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2017

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Small Business Week

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.48 pm): Small business makes up over 97 per cent of all Queensland businesses, making it the engine room of the state's economy. With over 4,000 small to medium sized business enterprises across the Nudgee electorate operating in industries as diverse as manufacturing, construction, service, hospitality and retail, small business is the engine room of my local economy, too.

Small Business Week was celebrated from 15-20 May and included a week-long series of more than 100 workshops, events and seminars that provided business owners, managers and small business advocates with the opportunity to network, learn new skills and discover support programs to see their business thrive. This year's theme for Small Business Week was 'Time to thrive', championing the importance of digital technologies and promoting a culture of entrepreneurship and employment.

Queensland is home to more than 414,000 passionate small business operators, and this number is growing. According to ABS data, Queensland's small business sector increased by 8,000 small businesses in the 12 months to 30 June 2016. This growth is evidence that the Palaszczuk government is creating the right environment for businesses to start, grow and employ. This is further supported by the findings of a recent Bankwest survey, which found that Queensland's small and medium sized businesses have the nation's highest level of confidence about their future prospects.

The Palaszczuk government understands that by supporting small business we are supporting economic growth across the state, which is why the Queensland government allocated \$22.7 million to the Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy, including the delivery of a range of new and expanded grants, services and programs. We want to see Queensland's small businesses start, grow and employ.

The Small Business Week reception hosted at parliament during the last sitting week by the Premier and the Minister for Small Business, Leanne Enoch, provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate and showcase the substantial successes and contributions of our local small businesses. I was so proud to showcase just a few of the incredible local businesses operating in my electorate including Ben of Mozmo Creative, Stacey of She Wear, Steve of Street Science, Walter of Kuhn Corp Press and Packaging, and Graham and his wife, Charmian, of the Driven Business Edge, who all attended the reception.

Ms Enoch: They're amazing.

Ms LINARD: I take that interjection of the minister: they are amazing. I take this opportunity to thank the Premier and the Minister for Small Business, both of whom warmly greeted my local businesses. It was a special surprise when the Minister for Small Business included reference to She Wear in her opening address at the reception.

Each of these local businesses is making a fabulous contribution to our local economy and the small business sector generally, and it is a pleasure to see them, along with all businesses across my local community, excel. I take every opportunity to buy, shop and dine locally, and I encourage everyone in my local community to do the same to support our excellent small business community.