



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 March 2017

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Small Business**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (9.59 am): I rise to update the House on some more great news for Queensland. According to recently released ABS data, Queensland's small business sector is growing, with an increase of 2.1 per cent in the 12 months to 30 June 2016. There are now 414,684 small businesses in Queensland, which is an increase of 8,000 small businesses in a year and the biggest increase in numbers of small businesses in Queensland in three years. This is encouraging news, because as small business numbers grow, new jobs are created for Queenslanders. The result is further evidence that Queensland small businesses are confident that the Palaszczuk government is creating the right environment for businesses to start, grow and employ. This follows a recent Bankwest survey that showed Queensland's small and medium sized businesses have the nation's highest level of confidence about their future prospects. The ABS data showed that Queensland small businesses in the construction industry, in particular, showed solid growth, increasing by 2.3 per cent.

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 are supporting businesses such as People Power Services, started by former African refugee Pacifique Gakindi, in the electorate of South Brisbane. He came to Australia, had an idea to start a cleaning business and sought advice from the Office of Small Business. After participating in the Mentoring for Growth program, People Power Services grew from a not-for-profit organisation to a business with 25 employees.

Another example is Mackay's Airconstruct HVAC. Recently, the business received funding through the Accelerate Small Business Grants Program. Airconstruct HVAC will use that funding to develop a new predicted maintenance system and improve its business operations, enabling it to work smarter and bid for new work, which will help them grow their business. The growth in small business in Queensland is fantastic news and yet another sign that the Palaszczuk government's strong economic plan is helping businesses to start, grow and employ.