




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Accelerate Small Business Grants Program

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerster—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.13 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to providing small business owners and operators with the support they need to succeed. Today I am delighted to announce the latest round of funding under our \$22.7 million Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy. Another 19 Queensland small businesses will share more than \$185,000 under the Palaszczuk government's \$3 million Accelerate Small Business Grants Program. Some 53 Queensland small businesses have now received Accelerate Small Business Grants. Recipients of the Accelerate Small Business Grants receive matched funding of up to \$10,000 to engage business mentors, coaches or an advisory board to work closely with the business for six to 12 months. These grants are helping small businesses grow and employ more Queenslanders.

Accelerate Small Business Grant recipient Sue-Ellen Watts is the powerhouse behind Brisbane business wattsnxt. Sue-Ellen started her small business 10 years ago, working with small to medium sized businesses to create an individual approach to their human resource needs that will bring about cohesive teams and great workplaces. Wattsnxt now works with more than 100 clients across all aspects of human resources—from audits to exits and hiring to performance management. She says that Queensland is a terrific state to have a small business and that being part of grant programs like this one show the Queensland government means business when it comes to small business.

Another Accelerate Grant recipient, Furniture Hardware Supplies at Varsity Lakes on the Gold Coast opened its doors in 2007, wholesaling kitchen and bathroom hardware to cabinet-makers. Its Gold Coast operation has a staff of five and it has its eye on franchising into northern Queensland and eventually other regional centres. Owner Mark Turner says that the business is 'experiencing growth' and he needs to ensure the business is well structured to handle future growth and employment projections. He says the Accelerate Small Business Grant will enable them to get the business support and advice they need to make sure their success continues so that they can grow and employ more Queenslanders. Since October more than \$477,000 in Accelerate Small Business Grant funding has been allocated to 53 Queensland small businesses. The Palaszczuk government's economic plan is setting the right conditions for small business growth after the disastrous slash-and-burn approach of the Newman-Nicholls government. We will continue to back our 414,000 small businesses to help them grow and employ, especially in our regional communities.