



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 April 2019

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Jordan Electorate, Small Business**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.09 pm): In my electorate of Jordan we have some well-known and much loved local small businesses, so it was an absolute pleasure to host many of them at a recent event in the electorate with the Queensland Minister for Employment and Small Business, the Hon. Shannon Fentiman. This free event was an opportunity to showcase our small businesses—many of them family-run enterprises. I would like to thank Minister Fentiman for making time to join us. Many of the small business owners I spoke with were so pleased to have the opportunity to meet with the minister.

It was also good to see representatives from the Office of Small Business there who provided important information on how the Queensland government can support the growth of this important sector. The event was strongly supported by not one but two of my local chambers of commerce—the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and the Logan Country Chamber of Commerce. I am very fortunate as an MP to have two very active chambers in my electorate that do so much to support local business in our communities. I thank President Neil Coupland from Greater Springfield and President Kerry Menck from Logan Country for their ongoing support.

The recent *State of small business 2018* report showed that the number of small businesses is on the rise in Queensland, with more than 426,000 small businesses contributing around \$113 billion to the state's economy and employing more than 900,000 Queenslanders. We certainly know that small businesses are the engine room of our diverse local economy and that investing in their growth leads to more local jobs.

The report also highlighted that 99.8 per cent of businesses reported increased capability after taking part in one of our Queensland government small business programs. During the event the minister was able to highlight some of these fantastic programs like the Small Business Entrepreneur Grants Program and the Small Business Digital Grants Program. In fact, some really great local businesses in the Jordan electorate like Two Butchers, VM Family Law, Aquashield Bathrooms, Rollie A Designs and Happifeet Podiatry were all successful in receiving small business grants in the last year or so.

One program of particular interest to many of the small businesses is the Mentoring for Growth program. This free program offers business owners the chance to spend time with volunteer experts who are available to offer insight and assistance, with opportunities or challenges that these owners may be facing in their business. It is a credit to anyone in our community who has an idea or enterprise and turns it into a small business, because we know that particularly in outer metropolitan areas like Greater Springfield and Greater Flagstone small business is absolutely vital to the economic prosperity of our region.

It would have been good to see some more support for small business in the federal budget because from small things big things grow, and a strong small business sector means a growing economy that delivers even more jobs in the Jordan electorate.