




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Indigenous Business Month

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.12 am): Queensland is home to more than 3,000 Indigenous owned small businesses across the state, making up more than one quarter of the nation's Indigenous small businesses. Indigenous Business Month is the time to celebrate our state's rapidly growing and innovative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander small business sector. We are leading the nation when it comes to growth in Indigenous businesses, which is a fantastic achievement. Research shows that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses are more likely to collaborate with other Indigenous businesses and are up to 100 times more likely to employ an Indigenous person.

Supporting growth in Indigenous businesses is not only good for our state's economy but it is great for local communities. Through our successful small business grants program we have now helped well over 100 Indigenous businesses such as Primal Sport, cofounded by Rugby League legend Preston Campbell. They received a digital grant that will enable the business to expand their website and improve the customer experience. Through our Advancing Indigenous Business strategy we are also providing crucial mentoring and networking to increase the number of Indigenous businesses in Queensland and improve their business success rate.

Last month, in the lead-up to Indigenous Business Month, I had the pleasure of opening a two-day construction symposium, organised through my department. It provided over 80 Indigenous businesses in the construction sector the opportunity to learn and collaborate with each other while accessing knowledge from industry experts about how to position their business. As part of Indigenous Business Month there are more than 10 department sponsored events and workshops occurring right across Queensland. These events will encourage conversation and foster support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business and innovation, focusing on the 2019 theme Indigenous Ingenuity. The workshops cover topics such as media training and pitching. As well, there are business capability workshops for Indigenous women in business that are held in partnership with Griffith University. We want to continue our support for Indigenous businesses to grow and help them create more local jobs for Queenslanders.