




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

Coronavirus, Small Business

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.29 pm): Our resilience and experience in past natural disasters has enabled the Palaszczuk Labor government to lead the state with a strong health response that has been recognised around the world during this pandemic. Our response has allowed the Queensland economy to reopen more quickly, including the Mansfield electorate's small business community. I am delighted to announce that through the innovative Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant Program the Palaszczuk Labor government has funded more than \$1.6 million to 177 small businesses across my electorate to adapt and sustain operations and build resilience during these unprecedented times.

While time does not allow the indulgence of naming all businesses, I can say that the Palaszczuk Labor government has funded businesses across many sectors including health and fitness, medical, education, retail, tourism, manufacturing, hospitality, financial and legal services, beauty, human resource management, and trade and technical services. Not only is this a solid investment for small businesses in the Mansfield electorate but it is also an injection of nearly \$200 million for small businesses across the state. The Palaszczuk government is the only government that has offered nearly \$200 million in grants and \$1 billion in interest-free loans to businesses.

I commend the Premier on her strong stance to keep the borders closed to protect the health of Queenslanders, which has also allowed the Queensland economy to reopen more quickly. The opposition leader called on the government to open the borders 64 times. This would have completely decimated Queensland's small businesses. Over the past few months I have spoken with many small businesses in my community and they have said that they would not survive a second wave of COVID-19 like we are now seeing in Victoria. It has also been an honour that the Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning and the Minister for Employment and Small Business have regularly visited my electorate to see firsthand how small businesses have adapted and sustained operations and built resilience as part of the Queensland government's plan to unite and recover and finish the job of kickstarting the Queensland economy together.

Mansfield electorate's small businesses are so resilient that I have had the pleasure of opening two new businesses during the past week. The Treasurer and I officially opened Tabouli, a delicious Mediterranean restaurant and takeaway in Wishart. What was particularly special about this opening was the final sentence on their official opening plaque, a testament to unite and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our message is resonating very clearly in the Mansfield business community: Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor support small business and we have a plan to unite and recover.