




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOPER

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ADJOURNMENT

Small Business Month

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (7.06 pm): May is Small Business Month and it is an opportunity to celebrate the almost half a million small businesses that make up Queensland—in fact, 97 per cent of all Queensland businesses. On Wednesday, 15 May, the Brisbane Inner West Chamber of Commerce, along with the Westside Business Heart, will be joining up for the first time to host a small business lunch. Guest speakers include me—I will be talking about all the offerings that the Queensland government has for our small businesses—and our Small Business Commissioner, Dominique Lamb, who will be talking about her role in dispute resolution, mediation and advocacy. She is fantastic. We have had her out before.

The event includes lunch at Zegatos in Ashgrove, which is fantastic, and commences from midday. You can register from the Brisbane Inner West Chamber of Commerce website. At the event, we will formally launch our Cooper Small Business Awards. Last year our office held the inaugural Cooper Small Business of the Year Award. It was a really popular event and a wonderful way to celebrate and support our local businesses and give them the recognition they deserve and need sometimes to keep their doors open.

Over 500 local businesses were nominated, and I want to recognise a couple of them tonight. Jordan Mostert from Just Movement personal training is fantastic. He is a young fellow who picked up our young entrepreneur of the year award, with nominees making statements like, 'Jordan has created a wonderful community of like-minded people who want to look after their health but are not traditional gym goers.' I am sure we can all relate to that. Then there is Pramesh and his family who run Cafe Tara, a well-established and loved local cafe. One nominee said, 'They are a great small business with friendly staff and great coffee and are always welcoming.' Our Small Business Awards will officially kick off on Wednesday, 15 May. I encourage all of our businesses across Paddington, Ashgrove, The Gap, Milton, Rosalie, Newmarket, Bardon and Kelvin Grove to get in touch with my office and pick up their Cooper Small Business of the Year Award pack.

While I am on my feet and talking about small businesses, I have to raise my concerns again about a pending DA before Brisbane City Council for the McDonald's restaurant application for the Ashgrove area. Many of us do not mind a bit of Mickey D's. However, over 2,000 Ashgrove residents—a third of our suburb in Ashgrove—have reached out to our office against this application. If council does approve this, it will be an absolute small business killer in the location in which it is planned. I am not against new restaurants and not against development, but this is a huge McDonald's. They are anticipating over 850 cars a day on a residential street where small businesses are already struggling. This is complete lunacy, and council really need to intervene and stand up for what the community wants and reject this application.