




Speech By
Hon. Steve Minnikin
MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Small Business Month

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.17 pm): As members know, it is Small Business Month throughout May. We are two-thirds of the way through an incredible month of events and activities with 77 events already delivered across the state and more than 80 still to go. Already this month thousands of small and family business owners have engaged in events, connecting locally to Recharge, Renew and Rebuild. There is certainly a growing recognition amongst small and family businesses that they now have a government willing to back them and their communities to not just survive but to thrive. Contrast that with the previous Labor government which continued to burden small and family businesses with more and more red tape. In fact, and I said this yesterday, according to the Business Chamber of Queensland *Efficient regulation report 2023* the burden of red tape on small and family businesses doubled in just two years under Labor, costing on average \$50,000 per year per business.

Among the highlights of the events I have attended so far was the Chef's Table delivered by the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise, TSBE. Held on a rural property near Dalby in the electorate of Warrego, this event showcased Western Downs produce. I was also pleased to join the Minister for Primary Industries and the Small Business Commissioner in Gympie at the chamber business breakfast and last week the member for Capalaba and I opened an AI workshop hosted by Redland City Council. Yesterday I joined Regional Development Australia Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast to celebrate an Indigenous enterprise, Stories of Success, backed by our Better Local Business Grants Program. These grants have funded 48 events and workshops across Queensland delivered by chambers of commerce, industry groups and regional councils, bringing local issues and opportunities to the table to explore new solutions and ways of working.

One of those events was the Montville Chamber of Commerce's Make Montville Shine workshop, held on 7 May in the electorate of Glass House. Marlene Thomas from Link Properties Montville attended the event and said—

Community level is valuable and effective in consolidating issues that are unique to our area and as small business owners, we can contribute and be supported to make progress together to identify priorities and strategies and monitor implementation and progress.

Comments such as that show the importance of bringing local small and family businesses together to build support and connections.

Queensland Small Business Month, backed by the Crisafulli government, is not over yet. My department has held a series of financial literacy workshops in Emerald, Toowoomba, Goondiwindi and Brisbane, with six more to be held across Queensland this month. Our nine business recovery clinics provide tailored financial support as well as wellbeing clinics. I encourage all Queenslanders to get behind them. For more information, go to business.qld.gov.au.

