




Speech By  
**Hon. Steve Minnikin**  
**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 June 2025

## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Small Business Month**

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.15 pm): Once again the Crisafulli government has demonstrated that small and family business and their staff are part of the LNP's DNA. It is why we back Queensland small and family businesses and their staff with active and practical support during the 2025 Queensland Small Business Month. It is why we shifted the focus of Small Business Month away from the previous Labor-centric, champagne-cork-popping, red-carpet celebrations. Gone are the days where Labor would spend \$26,000 for an event at Parliament House yet deliver very little practical assistance for Queensland's 495,000 small and family businesses and their staff. It is why we have prioritised meaningful engagement and direct support for small businesses.

Across Small Business Month the Crisafulli government delivered practical, tailored support, including 162 official events across Queensland. Forty-eight of those events were supported with our government's Better Local Business Grant program, with local governments, business groups and chambers of commerce leading the charge by hosting impactful sessions. In Boonah there was a Reels and TikTok masterclass, while in Ipswich the Ipswich business summit brought locals together to leverage collective strengths. The Western Cape Futures Symposium in Weipa gave locals a chance to reflect on better ways to transition towards a more diverse and sustainable economy, enabling new industry and investment into the region. The Brisbane Junior Chamber of Commerce took a forensic approach to business growth with their entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship workshops.

Redland City Council hosted an AI workshop that I attended with the member for Capalaba. I also joined the member for Southport and the Minister for Primary Industries and member for Gympie for their respective chambers' business breakfast. It was great to join the member for Caloundra to meet local small businesses, along with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, to present opportunities for small and family businesses on major infrastructure projects.

Members of the Crisafulli government's cabinet and our North Queensland MPs came together with more than 200 small business representatives from the Townsville region to discuss the LNP's Small and Family Business First Action Statement. In fact, right across this side of the House I thank all members for their contribution during Small Business Month. They were very active in showing that we understand the important role that small and family businesses and their staff play in delivering jobs for more than one million Queenslanders. I would also like to recognise the efforts of the Queensland Small Business Commissioner. Her passion for helping small businesses and their staff succeed was evident as she travelled across Far North Queensland and Central Queensland, in addition to attending events here in South-East Queensland.

From workshops on financial literacy and business recovery to embracing technology such as artificial intelligence and social media, the month-long program provided practical support, equipping small businesses with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive. The Crisafulli government delivered

11 financial literacy workshops, which I was pleased to launch earlier this year in the electorate of Condamine with Mr Speaker himself. There were also eight business recovery clinics, absolutely essential after the summer of natural disasters, to help small businesses and their staff get back on their feet, four Big Partners for Small Business sessions and a combined financial literacy and recovery clinic in Winton. Danielle Steendam from the Sunshine Coast participated in a financial literacy workshop and said—

I found it incredibly valuable and felt so supported throughout. I was genuinely surprised by the extent of wonderful support available.

Last week I was pleased to wrap up the month with a breakfast at the Coffee Commune with Phil De Bella, where over 80 small businesses were represented. That might have been the end of Small Business Month, but it was just another step in what the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland's small and family businesses and their staff. At the start of Small Business Month, as I have previously mentioned, we launched our Small and Family Business First Action Statement, underpinned by more than \$100 million in new investment with an aim to create more than 120,000 new jobs in Queensland over the next seven years. It outlines what we promised we would deliver and now we are actually getting on with the job, unlike the track record of those opposite. The reality is this: if you look at the CVs and the inaugural speeches of those opposite, you will see why they fundamentally do not understand small and family business.