




Speech By
Hon. Steve Minnikin
MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Small Business, Cybersecurity Training

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (9.58 am): I am pleased to inform the House that the Crisafulli government has struck a partnership to deliver free cybersecurity training for small and family businesses. In a Queensland first, small business owners and their staff will be able to access free training to become cyber wardens thanks to the partnership between the Crisafulli government and the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia, COSBOA, and backed by the federal government.

Let me give members an example of why this program is so important. I recently met Fiona from a creative design small business. One of Fiona's staff members actioned what they thought was another staff member's email request to change their bank account details ahead of the next pay run. That staff member's email address had been stolen. Their pay disappeared to a criminal organisation and Fiona was left almost \$8,000 out of pocket. While the \$8,000 financial loss is one that no small and family business can afford, the stress and feeling of violation for Fiona and her staff was significant. Thankfully they now have the support they need to identify scams. I thank Fiona for being brave enough to come forward to tell her story so that others may benefit by avoiding a similar experience.

A cyber attack is reported every six minutes in this country, with small and family businesses a growing target. In fact, 43 per cent of cybercrimes target small business. It is time to fight back. The partnership between the Crisafulli government and Cyber Wardens will deliver free cybersecurity training to help small and family businesses and their staff to protect themselves and mitigate the financial risks associated with cybercrime. It will include training materials for key Queensland industries as well as weekly industry-specific cybersecurity webinars and on-demand options.

It is worth remembering how we got here. Labor botched a \$15 million deal for a company to deliver small business cyber training. That company, Cryptoloc, went broke. Small businesses were left without support and Queensland taxpayers were out of pocket by almost \$2 million. We are trying to recover that money. This sorry episode goes to the heart of mismanagement by the former Labor government and a few Labor MPs in particular. For example, why didn't the member for Bundamba, in his former role as the minister for small and family business, do the proper checks that I did? Why did the member for Springwood accept \$2,500 in donations from this company around the same time tenders closed? And why did the member for Murrumba, now opposition leader, also accept donations and give such a glowing endorsement of the company before the contract was announced? Perhaps the biggest question is to the former Labor treasurer and member for Woodridge: why did former treasurer Cameron Dick approve an additional \$10 million in Labor's last budget a few months before the contract was announced? Today they sit there. They all failed to take responsibility not just on this issue but, as we have discovered, for many others in this House.

With Cyber Wardens, we have ended Labor's decade of decline. We are proactively targeting different industries to come on board. From next month, there will be training tailored to the construction industry, with other industries to follow. Paul Bidwell of Master Builders Queensland recently shared examples of criminals pretending to be trade small businesses sending incorrect bank accounts to clients and having significant payments disappear. This is why it is so important that we stand shoulder to shoulder with small businesses in this fight against cybercrime. After 10 years of decline from those opposite, Queensland's small and family businesses have now had 10 months of delivery from the Crisafulli government.