




Speech By
Hon. Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Small and Family Business First Action Statement

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.56 pm): There are now more than half a million small and family businesses in Queensland—508,000 to be specific—which is a wonderful achievement for a sector that employs over one million Queenslanders and contributes more than \$132 billion to the state's economy. The number of small and family businesses that call Queensland home is growing because they are supported by the Crisafulli government, which has a plan to back them and support them with an operating environment that enables them to grow and thrive. Our Small and Family Business First Action Statement is continuing to drive this growth through targeted initiatives for small and family businesses. We are at half a million now, but we have a plan to push the number of small and family businesses beyond 600,000 by 2032. We know that Queensland small and family businesses will be vital when it comes to delivering the greatest Olympic and Paralympic Games in history.

We also support safety and security for small and family businesses and their staff. We know Labor are hopelessly divided when it comes to backing our tough-on-crime laws and reducing victim numbers. They are also behind the times when it comes to supporting our Secure Communities Partnership Program. We will never let those opposite forget why this program was so vital in the first place. Skyrocketing crime rates and the softening of crime laws will forever be the legacy of the opposition leader.

Obviously, they still do not get it. In late February, the member for Lytton and the member for Bundaberg put out media releases saying that 'earlier this month' the Crisafulli government opened the program to include direct applications from small and family businesses. A few phone calls, a quick check of *Hansard* or a quick search of their colleagues' own social media pages would have shown that I announced our plans and opened applications for small businesses to apply directly back in November of last year—almost four months ago. In that time, more than 300 small businesses have started to submit applications for funding under this round of the program. Yet again: sloppy, lazy and not getting with the program.

These small businesses obviously knew about the program, unlike the member for Lytton and the member for Bundaberg. This program delivers physical infrastructure upgrades such as lighting, perimeter and security improvements, upgraded CCTV and fencing, to name but a few. It follows round 1, which actually funded 42 projects which are being delivered and will benefit hundreds of small and family businesses across Queensland. Businesses like Pedlar Project, Gecko Interiors on Flinders Street in Townsville, Caffin8 Cafe in Gordonvale and Beechwoods Cafe in Mossman are just a few of the small businesses where owners, staff and customers will have improved security measures.

In Central Queensland, the member for Rockhampton and I listened to the stories of local small business owners from PNE Art and Framing, City Printing Works and Artizan Gluten Free Bakery. Just across the river from this House, Shays Shoes and Swiss Gourmet Deli are among the small businesses

that will benefit from our partnership with the Brisbane City Council to support traders on Boundary Street, West End. Round 2 is still open and we encourage all eligible small businesses to directly apply for funding of between \$5,000 and \$20,000 to implement crime prevention measures.

We know that those who sit opposite are hopelessly divided when it comes to small business safety. I do not know what it is about them and their attitude to small business. Why do they not like them? I do not know. While the member for Bundaberg is out there attacking this vital program, his colleagues—the rest of them—are backing the program. He is attacking a program that is delivering safety and support for hundreds of small and family businesses. What is it with the member for Bundaberg? Whether it is across the beautiful Cape York Peninsula or the Gold Coast, we are supporting them.

In conclusion, let's be crystal clear: whether it is a small business applying directly or chambers of commerce working with local governments to apply, we are providing \$40 million worth of crime prevention measures to improve the safety of small and family businesses, their staff and their customers. On this side of the House, we will always put small and family business first in every corner of Australia. Why then do those opposite not back our champion small and family businesses?