

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 786**  
**Asked on 17 August 2004**

MR PURCELL asked the Minister for State Development and Innovation (MR McGRADY) —

QUESTION:

- (1) Will he detail all the programs currently available through his department which provide assistance to small businesses in Queensland?
- (2) Will he provide examples of individual businesses that have been assisted in 2003-04?

ANSWER:

(1)

- The Queensland Government, through the Department of State Development and Innovation, currently has over sixty different products and services designed to assist small business people. These are outlined in detail as part of the Government's *Agenda for Smart Small Business* (the Agenda) which was launched in October 2003.
- This support is encapsulated by four specific areas:
- Firstly, there are a number of financial assistance programs directed to help business to:
  - adopt technology;
  - develop new products;
  - plan and implement expansion;
  - identify and develop new markets;
  - research and develop innovative products and services;
  - improve process design;
  - adopt new technology;
  - adopt new processes leading to improved environmental management; and
  - uptake e-business.
- This assistance is available through various programs including:
  - *Queensland Industry Development Scheme (QIDS)*;
  - *Small Business Accelerator Program (SBAP)*;
  - *Innovation Start-up Scheme (ISS)*;
  - *ICT Industry Cluster Program (ICTCP)*;
  - *Indigenous Business Development Scheme (IBDS)*; and
  - *Leadership and Management Program (LAMP)*.
- The Queensland Government, in the last financial year, provided 412 grants, for a total value of approximately \$41 million.
- These financial assistance programs are very important to Queensland businesses and have an obvious flow-on effect to the State economy and hence small business.

- For example, the Queensland Industry Development and the Regional Business Development Schemes on their own are projected to generate over \$604 million of investment and 4,826 new jobs over a three year period.
- Secondly, there are a number of programs to assist in enhancing the capacity of business to compete in a highly competitive environment. This includes helping business to become investment ready. This work is driven by a specialised unit, the Venture Capital and Commercialisation Unit.
- Since its inception four years ago the Venture Capital Unit has assisted 2,555 mainly small companies in investment readiness. 184 of those companies have 'pitched' to investor groups with 60 of these companies receiving \$60.6 million in investment. In the last financial year, the Unit helped 27 companies successfully raise \$33.8 million, including one IT company that was able to raise \$26 million. As a result of this capital raising, at least 10 new positions have been created, most of which are in regional Queensland.
- The Government also works to improve the skills of business owners in areas such as financial management, marketing, business planning, and networking. Last financial year the State Government provided 32,000 instances of helping people make a real go of their businesses. This was achieved through the running of over 1200 workshops.
- Thirdly, tailored assistance is available to business in the area of supply chains, clustering and overall sectoral development.
- Some examples of the assistance programs include:
  - *'Queensland World Class Supply Solutions' online business directories;*
  - *industry/geographic cluster facilitation; and*
  - *ectoral development, including the following sectors:*
    - *pharmaceuticals & nutraceuticals;*
    - *food & agribusiness;*
    - *biotechnology;*
    - *information and communication technology;*
    - *creative industries;*
    - *aviation;*
    - *advanced manufacturing;*
    - *environmental services; and*
    - *marine industries.*
- Finally, the Department assists business to navigate their way through business licensing and regulation through the Queensland Regulations – Have Your Say and SmartLicence.

(2)

- Throughout the State a wide variety of small businesses have been assisted by the Government via the Department's grants schemes, client interaction and attendance at Departmental workshops and seminars. Specifically in the Bulimba electorate:

## **Grants**

<b>Number of grants approved</b>	<b>Programs under which assistance provided</b>	<b>Total amount approved</b>
9	QIDS QMPDI ITSA LAMP	\$574,482

- Specific small businesses in the Bulimba electorate which have received or gained approval for grant assistance include:
  - Airwrap Pty Ltd;
  - IMT Processing Pty Ltd;
  - Queensland E-learning Cluster Inc; and
  - Tavrida Electric Australia Pty Ltd.

## **Client Management**

- Number of businesses assisted by the Department through one-on-one interaction in Bulimba: 28

Manufacturers	19
Education Services	3
Industry Association	2
Personal/Household Services	1
Network/Cluster	1
Professional Services	1
Wholesale/Retail/Distribution	1

## **Workshops/Seminars**

- Number of businesses assisted through attendance at workshop/seminar conducted by the State Development and Innovation Centre Brisbane from this electorate: 20
- Types of workshops/seminars attended:
  - Business Improvement Series;
  - Export Pathways Program; and
  - Investment Facilitation.