

**Question on Notice
No. 742
Asked on 11 May 2006**

MS MOLLOY asked the Minister for Small Business, Information Technology Policy and Multicultural Affairs (MR CUMMINS) —

QUESTION:

Will he outline the potential benefits to the Sunshine Coast region of the Department of State Development's Small Business Start-Up Session being held in Noosa in May?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and for her strong support for small business within her electorate. The Beattie Government recognises that small business represents 96.5% of all Queensland businesses and employs around 50% of all private sector workers, and as such, this Government is committed to driving economic growth and innovation, developing business and industry and securing employment opportunities for Queenslanders.

The Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation actively seeks to promote and support small businesses through a range of business assistance and skills development initiatives offered through a statewide network of State Development Centres. The Sunshine Coast State Development Centre delivers the Department's services and programs to a region which includes the three local authority areas of Caloundra City and Maroochy and Noosa Shires.

The Small Business Start-Up Session is one of a number of workshops and seminars delivered by the Sunshine Coast State Development Centre to support and encourage development of the local small business sector. It is an introductory workshop which addresses the information needs of people intending to establish a small business. It concentrates on "what to do" when making the decision to start in business, outlining the basic features of a small business and the steps that have to be taken. The most common questions people ask about going into business are also addressed.

The foundation provided by the Small Business Start Up Session allows attendees to build their businesses and take progressive steps to achieve their goals. Proper research and planning is an important consideration so that attendees understand the key factors that can help increase the chance of business success. To facilitate this process, participants are also introduced to the Department of State Development's Smart Small Business website (www.smartsmallbusiness.qld.gov.au) which provides additional market and industry research information, business planning and on-line training.

The Small Business Start-Up Session is held monthly in various locations across the Sunshine Coast, including Noosa. The most recent Small Business Start-Up Session in Noosa was held on 16 May 2006 at the Noosa Leisure Centre. The workshop attracted 15 participants and was very well received, with feedback indicating a satisfaction rate of over 95%.