

Question on Notice
No. 780
Asked on 23 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

How is Smart Licence helping to reduce the red tape burden for small business operators in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and for his strong support for small business within his 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.

Since the Beattie Government took office in 1998, it is estimated that *SmartLicence* has saved business in excess of \$100M in time and effort that could have been spent trying to identify and apply for all appropriate government licences and permits.

SmartLicence is a significant contributor to the Government's determination to reduce the red tape burden for business. Business operators must acquire appropriate licences and permits from each level of government to establish and run a business.

By making one phone call to *SmartLicence*, or by visiting the Smart Small Business Website, business operators can easily find out what licences, permits and regulations they need to know about.

SmartLicence provides a comprehensive package to meet the needs of the particular business, including application forms and information sheets detailing licence requirements and relevant contact details for each level of government.

SmartLicence takes the run around out of complying with licence and permit requirements. *SmartLicence* assists businesses to get up and running, employing people, and contributing to the Queensland economy, more quickly.

The recent release of *SmartLicence* online has further streamlined the licensing procedure for business operators. Not only can businesses diagnose their own licence requirements online but can apply and pay for some licences online, saving even more time and effort.

SmartLicence is working with local councils to get more business licence processes online. To date online access is available to obtain licences from seven councils, including Brisbane, Redcliffe, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Gladstone, Emerald and Rockhampton.

SmartLicence is also working closely with the Australian Taxation Office to ensure all businesses who register for an Australian Business Number (ABN) in Queensland automatically receive online access to all their other licensing requirements.

Furthermore all those businesses who register online with *SmartLicence* are automatically advised of changes to regulations affecting their particular business.

Clearly *SmartLicence* has an impressive track record in reducing the red tape burden for business and I would commend the service to all Queensland businesses operators.