

Question on Notice
No. 919
Asked on 26 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

As the micro-business sector comprises approximately 83 per cent of small businesses in Queensland, what are we doing to assist this growing sector?

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 Queensland Government recognises the valuable contribution that the small business sector, which includes micro-business, makes to the Queensland economy.

Micro businesses must be smart to be successful. A smart business is one that runs better to remain competitive – plans better, knows its products, customers and suppliers better and carefully monitors its performance.

The Queensland Government, through the Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation, supports micro businesses through:

- delivering business information and skills development seminars and workshops through 19 State Development Centres and through contracted services throughout the State;
- providing significant one-on-one business consultations with State Development Officers;
- providing information packages which provide clients with interactive planning guides that take them step-by-step through all the key issues and practical elements of running a business;
- access to the Smart Small Business website that provides information on a range of business topics;
- significantly expanding Smart Skills Online with an additional 21 interactive modules on business related topics and a further 100 business fact sheets;
- providing a one-stop-shop information service including *SmartLicence*, Government Business Information Service, Business Resource Centre and Online bookshop; and
- access to the Small Business Accelerator Program to obtain financial assistance for fast growing small business to successfully manage their growth through planning activities.

The Queensland Government is actively promoting a culture of entrepreneurship and business success, and will continue to support the growth and development of micro businesses.