

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 258**  
**Asked on 22 February 2007**

MR CHOI asked the Minister for State Development, Employment and Industrial Relations (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

What contribution have small businesses made to the economy and employment status of Queensland?

ANSWER:

Small business makes a significant contribution to the Queensland economy, and the Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that Queensland can offer the best possible environment for business growth and success over the long term.

Small business is a key driver of economic growth. There are over 216,000 small businesses based in Queensland, with an average annual growth in the total number of small businesses of 4.5%. The sector employs approximately 612,000 Queenslanders and has contributed up to 40% of Queensland's Industry Gross Product.

The Government, through the Department of State Development (DSD), offers a range of products and services designed to assist small business operators throughout Queensland. These are delivered through a network of 19 State Development Centres across Queensland; and via the business hotline 1300 363 711 and online at [www.smartsmallbusiness.qld.gov.au](http://www.smartsmallbusiness.qld.gov.au).

Services and programs offered include:

- *SmartLicence* - the online one-stop-shop for business registration and licensing requirements;
- face-to-face and online dissemination of business information and business self-help tools;
- workshops, seminars, forums and networking sessions covering small business management skills development, e-Commerce, women in business, industry cluster facilitation, enhancement of manufacturing capability and export development; and
- business consultations, assisting with business start-ups, business planning, investment attraction, adoption of new technologies and domestic and overseas market expansion.

The Queensland Government is continuing its commitment to economic growth through implementing a variety of business development programs and services. These programs and services target existing and emerging businesses – both small and large - to achieve key objectives such as:

- adoption of enabling technologies and innovations;

- development of new products;
- development of leadership and business management skills;
- planning and implementation of business expansion;
- identification and development of new markets; and
- research, development and implementation of innovative products, services, processes and practices to improve business growth and environmental management.

All of this leads to a stronger and more prosperous economic environment in Queensland.

Additionally, and in order to assist businesses deal with specific challenges and opportunities confronting their particular sector, the Department has also introduced a range of tailored assistance measures that target the following industries:

- pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals;
- processed food and renewable fuels;
- biotechnology;
- professional services;
- manufacturing;
- information and communication technology;
- aviation;
- creative industries;
- indigenous business development; and
- marine industries.