

Question on Notice
No. 291
Asked on 6 March 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will he describe the services and assistance offered by his department to support small businesses in the Sandgate Electorate?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring Queensland offers the best possible environment for businesses to grow, prosper, and succeed in the long term.

The Queensland Government actively seeks to promote and support Queensland businesses by offering a range of business development services through its state-wide network of State Development Centres.

Businesses within the Sandgate Electorate are serviced through the Northside State Development Centre located at Aspley. Specifically services and programs offered include:

- Facilitation of *SmartLicence* applications. *SmartLicence* is the Department's one stop shop for business registration and licensing requirements;
- Dissemination of business information and business self help tools;
- Provision of one-on-one business consultations assisting with business start-ups, business planning, investment attraction, adoption of new technologies and domestic and overseas market expansion; and
- Delivery of workshops, seminars, forums and networking sessions covering small business management skills development, e-Commerce, industry cluster facilitation, enhancement of manufacturing capability and export development.

The Northside State Development Centre regularly holds export information forums and seminars that provide specific market intelligence about target countries and regions. Most recently 17 local businesses attended the *Getting Export Smart* workshop conducted by the Northside State Development Centre. This workshop targeted business operators wanting to assess their export potential, and those seeking assistance as first-time exporters.

Furthermore, in conjunction with the Brisbane City Council and the Brisbane North Chamber of Commerce, the Northside State Development Centre recently conducted a survey of more than 280 businesses in the North Brisbane area. Information obtained from this exercise has been used to

establish a number of strategic industry clusters and networks within the region. These form a key component of the Department's *Smart State-World Class Manufacturing Project*.

Assistance to businesses in the Sandgate Electorate is also available on-line through the Smart Small Business Website (www.smartsmallbusiness.qld.gov.au). It offers a range of Queensland Government services such as *SmartLicence* Online, *Smart Skills* Online and the *Steps to Growth* program.

Additional resources for business information, licensing and support are available through the Department's Call Centre on telephone 1300 363 711.