

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1948

asked on 28 November 2019

MS C MCMILLAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (HON S FENTIMAN) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister update the people of the Mansfield Electorate on all the support available to owners of small business?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to helping our State's more than 438,000 small businesses to start, grow and employ, including Mansfield's 4,951 small business enterprises.

The Queensland Government is working in partnership with the business community to build capacity and create jobs through the *Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016-20* (ASBQ Strategy) which includes a range of support initiatives such as grants programs, mentoring and information resources. Since the ASBQ Strategy commenced in 2016, more than \$14.1 million has been allocated to over 2300 small businesses through our successful small business grants program.

In the Mansfield state electorate, 26 small business grants worth more than \$123,000 have been allocated to small businesses under the ASBQ Strategy.

The Government has invested a further \$4 million in additional small business grant funding in 2019-20 to help new businesses start, support existing businesses to work smarter and be more resilient, and assist businesses with high growth aspirations to grow and employ. This brings our total investment under the ASBQ Strategy to over \$26 million.

In the 2019-20 State Budget, included the Government's \$885 million payroll tax package which was implemented on 1 July 2019 to assist small and medium sized businesses to create jobs for Queensland. Under the package, the payroll tax exemption threshold has increased from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million – meaning more than 1500 additional Queensland businesses are no longer paying any payroll tax.

Through our skills strategy these programs complement broader work we are undertaking through the *Skills for Queensland: Great training for quality jobs* Strategy to provide opportunities for individuals to continue to skill, re-skill and up-skill throughout their working lives, and meet industry and employer needs in the labour market.

The Queensland Government's Free Apprenticeships for Under 21's initiative is providing support to employers by covering the full cost of apprenticeship training undertaken with a training provider in one of the 139 priority apprenticeship or traineeship qualifications. In the Mansfield State Electorate, the Queensland Government is supporting 110 apprentices and trainees under the program.

Our Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) – Work Start incentive program offers a one-off payment of \$10,000 to eligible private sector employers for employing former SQW participants in a traineeship or apprenticeship after a qualifying period of employment (3 months). Employers may also be eligible for an additional \$10,000 Youth Boost payment (taking the total payment up to \$20,000) if the trainee or apprentice is aged between 15-24 years.

Through these initiatives, the Queensland Government is ensuring Queensland, and Mansfield, continues to be the place to start and grow a business.