

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1067

asked on 15 September 2021

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (HON D FARMER) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the Business Basics Grant and the criteria requirement that states applicants must 'submit their own applications - DESBT considers application submissions or answers from third parties ineligible'—

Will the Minister clarify (a) why business owners cannot request the assistance of a third party (i.e. accountant), to help submit an application, (b) what options are there for business owners with low computer or written literacy who require assistance from a third party to apply for this grant, (c) why has the Queensland Government made this specification when many other grants (ie Jobkeeper) have been able to be submitted by a third party at the request of the business owner and (d) does this requirement discriminate against those business owners with literacy issues or no computer access?

ANSWER:

The Big Plans for Small Business Strategy offers grants for small business as part of the Palaszczuk Government's \$14.5 billion COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan.

Grants of more than \$25 million were designed from consultation with small business through the Small Business Roadshow in February and early March 2021.

The Roadshow comprised of 17 face-to-face sessions with small business owners and local chamber representatives, seven online sessions with peak stakeholder organisations and the small business online survey which resulted in direct input from over 2500 participants.

Feedback from the Roadshow was clear and unambiguous and has been integral in the design of the Strategy and the grants programs.

- a) Small business owners can, and often do, obtain advice and assistance in applying for a Business Basics Grant. Small business owners are required to submit the application but there is no impediment to requesting the assistance of a third party in preparing the application. There are several reasons for requiring the small business owner to submit the application including as a fraud prevention strategy that best ensures the actual business is applying for and receiving the funding.

- b) Regional support teams along with the 24/7 small business hotline offer dedicated one-on-one support to help small businesses navigate all programs including the grant application process and can provide access to translation services where required. By providing documentation in advance of funding rounds opening, this allows businesses to seek out support and advice for their application. This also provides further opportunity for small businesses to grow their skills and confidence to submit applications for current and future grant rounds, equipping our small businesses today, and into the future.
- c) Due to a range of feedback received from small businesses which includes those who believe applicants are unfairly advantaged by a third-party submitting grant applications and the reason of fraud prevention as stated in answer a.
- d) No, due to the range of support measures available to small businesses in preparing, and applying for grants, businesses who may require more support than others are not discriminated against.

Queensland business owners are front and centre of their business, they understand their needs and the Palaszczuk Government is committed to supporting and empowering their growth.