



# Small Business Round-up



## January 2025



As the calendar turns to a new year, I'm filled with excitement and optimism for what 2025 will bring to small businesses across Queensland. The festive season gave many of us the chance to reflect on the year gone by. Now, with the holiday period behind us, it's time to roll up our sleeves, reconnect with our communities, and continue driving success for Queensland's small businesses.

In my role as Small Business Commissioner, I am constantly inspired by the resilience, innovation, and passion of small business owners. This year, my

office is hitting the ground running, ready to support you in tackling the challenges you face and seizing the opportunities that lie ahead. Whether you need assistance on leasing disputes, guidance on business relationships, or simply a listening ear, we're here to help.

One of the greatest joys of my role is visiting small businesses in every corner of our great state. From the vibrant streets of Southeast Queensland to the bustling coastal towns and the quiet gems of remote and rural Queensland, I can't wait to get back out there to meet the incredible people behind the counter, in the workshop, and at the heart of our communities.

If you've set big goals for 2025, know that you don't have to navigate the journey alone. My office is here as a trusted partner, ready to support you with practical tools and resources. You can contact my team on 1300 312 344 or by lodging an **enquiry online**. Together, we can make this a year of growth, opportunity, and success for Queensland's small business sector.

### Upcoming activities

- **7 Feb** - Coraggio Guest Speaker - Gold Coast
- **19 Feb** - Brisbane Southside Chamber of Commerce Breakfast
- **20 Feb** - Ipswich City Council New Business Breakfast
- **24-28** - Birdsville Roadshow RAPAD



**Dominique Lamb**

Queensland Small Business Commissioner

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**A 'Pawfect' Story**



In this episode, we chat with Haragh-Mae "Kaz" Kelly, the passionate founder of Doggy Day Care Brisbane. Kaz takes us on a journey from her early days in animal welfare to building a business that truly connects with her community and 'pawrents' alike.

In a heart-to-heart with QSBC's Dominique Lamb, Kaz talks about the power of self-care, the value of real friendships, and creating a values-driven business. Her philosophy? "Success doesn't always mean scaling up." For Kaz, it's all about building a life that feels right—true to the vision you started with.

Whether you're a seasoned business owner or just getting started, Kaz's story is packed with insights on creating a business that fits your life—and why success doesn't have to look the same for everyone.

Tune in on [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#) or visit our [website](#).

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Digital is the Future



Digital isn't optional—it's essential for every business. Even hands-on trades like bricklaying can use tools like CAD to plan efficient structures. Digital skills help you not just keep up but get ahead!

Take EZee Industries, for example. Partnering with QUT's IT Capstone Program, the students helped them transform their vision into a game-changing app and e-commerce platform. Imagine what mobile development, data analytics, or cybersecurity expertise could do for your business!

The next cohort starts March 2025, and spots are filling fast. Don't miss your chance to innovate and grow. Ready to take your business digital?

**Register your project today.**

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*Avoid Lockout Act Now*





The QSBC has noticed a rise in enquiries from tenants facing notices or lockouts. If rent or lease issues are affecting your business, don't wait—take control today:

- Review your financial position.
- Learn practical negotiation strategies.
- Access expert guidance tailored to small businesses.

Visit our **Not Paying Rent** factsheet for actionable tips: **Not paying rent.**

For direct support, call 1300 312 344 or visit our **website**. Take the first step toward resolving your lease challenges!

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## Network to Success

Want to build a trusted business network but not sure where to start? International Networking Week (Feb 2-8, 2025) is the perfect opportunity to connect! Here are our tips to enhance your networking strategy:

- Join an industry group or business chamber to engage with like-minded professionals and raise your profile.
- Explore the **Business Queensland events calendar** for networking opportunities or even register your own business event.
- Access online groups or join a peer advisory group to connect with experts who provide valuable advice.



**Understanding the lifecycle and mindset of small businesses** can provide valuable insights to building stronger connections. Read our report to discover how these insights can enhance your networking strategy.

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## Avoid Underpaying Staff

From 1 January 2025, new Commonwealth laws apply to the intentional underpayment of wages and other entitlements. That means intentionally underpaying an employee can now be a criminal offence. Honest mistakes aren't considered a criminal offence.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has information about how the new laws work and has introduced the Voluntary Small Business Wage Compliance Code and supporting guidance for small business employers.

## Why join the code?

- Get practical tools, advice, and a handy checklist to avoid errors.
- Meet the Code's requirements and reduce the risk of penalties

**Learn more and access the Code.**



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## Have Your Say

The Department of the Treasury is seeking community input on mandatory acceptance of cash for the purchase of essential items.

While people are increasingly using digital payments, there is an ongoing place for cash in our society. Input from local businesses and the broader community will help ensure that the mandate balances the needs of all Australians and supports a more efficient and inclusive payments system.

Small businesses and other interested parties are invited to provide comment on the consultation paper.

Submissions close **14 February 2025**. **Find out more and have your say.**



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## Opportunities for you



Get 12 months of free mentoring, training, and support through the Australian Government-funded Self-Employment Assistance Program. Open to June 2027.

**Learn more and apply.**

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Get up to \$2,500 in rebates, plus free support to improve your digital capabilities. The second round of program applications opens early



2025.

**Find out more**

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Social enterprises and businesses can apply for WorkFoundations grants to provide tailored, paid employment placements for vulnerable or disadvantaged job seekers.

**Learn More**

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Stay connected via our social channels



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one conversation at a time*

