

Small Business Artisan Producer Grants Program Guidelines

The guidelines contain essential information on the purpose of the grant including eligibility, how to apply and your obligations as an applicant. You should read these guidelines before completing an application.

About the program

Queensland consumers are increasingly sourcing gourmet food (including non-alcoholic beverages) from artisan producers to enhance their food experience. This shift in food trends is reflected by increasing interest in the “paddock to plate” food experience; growing consumer interest in organic, gourmet and specialised produce; and a preference to buy locally made products.

To provide Queenslanders with more opportunities to shop locally and to support Queensland artisan producers to gain an economic outcome and potential for economic growth, the Queensland Government, through the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT), is making grants available specifically to artisan food and non-alcoholic beverage producers. As artisanal producers face unique challenges in accessing market opportunities, this grant will enable them to access professional advice and support in the critical early stages of establishing or growing their business.

The objectives of the program are to:

- support Queensland gourmet food (including non-alcoholic beverages) artisan producers to establish and grow their business
- encourage entrepreneurship and increase business skills
- improve business sustainability, resilience, innovation and capability
- enhance their gourmet food expertise and ability to value add to their business through professional business advice
- assist artisan producers to access new market opportunities or improve access to existing markets
- provide Queenslanders with more opportunities to go local
- create an environment that makes it easier to do business.

How much can you apply for and what can it be used for?

If successful, a **50% funding contribution of up to \$5 000** (excluding GST) is provided following completion of your project. The applicant needs to meet the eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered and must provide satisfactory evidence of the project’s completion to obtain funding. The **minimum grant funding amount is \$1 000** (i.e. the value of the project is at least \$2 000).

Projects proposed will see businesses participate in training, engage a consultant, advisor, or business coach **for up to three months** to help establish or grow the business.

The training, advice or services must fall under one or more of the following areas:

- mentoring/coaching, professional business advice (i.e. information technology, legal, financial or digital)
- business and strategic planning e.g. business growth or risk management plans, food safety plans
- marketing, branding or digital strategy development, including market research (some content or implementation activities will be considered but no advertising costs)
- website development or upgrades or technology for e-commerce (selling and receiving payments electronically).

Who can apply?

All small artisan producers based in Queensland that operate within the gourmet food sector (including non-alcoholic beverages) can apply.

For the purpose of this grant, an artisan producer of gourmet food (including non-alcoholic beverages) is a small business that transforms or processes a single, or combination of, locally supplied or seasonal ingredients to provide a product for public sale.

Who can not apply?

The following organisations are not eligible to apply:

- Government departments or agencies
- unincorporated bodies
- alcoholic beverage suppliers
- franchisees and subsidiaries of larger companies
- mass catering businesses
- large scale operations
- businesses who do not manufacture artisanal food and beverage products
- artisan producers not based in Queensland.

What are the eligibility criteria?

To be eligible for this grant, the business must:

- be an artisanal producer of gourmet food (including non-alcoholic beverages) based in Queensland
- have a registered business name
- have fewer than 20 employees at the time of applying for the grant
- have an active Australian Business Number (ABN)
- have a Queensland headquarters (see FAQ for more information)
- not be insolvent or have owners/directors that are an undischarged bankrupt
- use ingredients in a unique or skilled manner
- be sensitive to the impact of production on people and environment.

Only one application will be accepted from an individual ABN or a financial beneficiary of a business for consideration under each round.

What won't be funded?

The following will not be funded:

- project proposals delivered over a timeframe longer than three months
- projects with a total cost less than \$2 000 will not be funded, as the minimum grant funding amount that can be provided is \$1 000
- travel costs for any party
- services delivered in-kind (funding will only cover services paid for via a financial transaction)
- fees for services provided by related parties (such as companies with a common shareholding or directorship with the applicant, and employees or immediate family of the applicant)
- franchise fees or related costs
- direct-selling businesses (where sales of another business' goods or services are made in the customer's home, work or other meeting place through methods such as party plans and network marketing)
- purchase of equipment or assets, such as stock
- premises rental fees
- mandatory start-up or licensing costs that are required to start a food business (e.g. Food Manufacturing licenses, Food safety licenses etc)
- salaries
- general business operating costs (including bookkeeping/accounting and tax returns)
- paid advertising campaigns e.g. Google AdWords, Facebook advertising or similar expenses. The grant can cover the development of a marketing strategy but not the actual advertising cost
- consumables such as ingredients, jars, packaging, etc
- retrospective payments for expenses already incurred prior to the grant funding approval date or for work already undertaken.

When must the project be completed?

All projects approved for funding **must be completed within three months of the date of approval**. You must advise DESBT of any variations to the project dates. If these timeframes are not met, the offer of funding may be withdrawn.

When and how can you apply?

Applications open 11 July 2019 and close on 22 August 2019. You can lodge an application online at www.business.qld.gov.au/artisanproducer.

What should you include in your application?

Your application must include:

- a detailed proposal and quote from the consultant or service provider for services delivered in up to three months
- a clear outline of how the advice or assistance will support development of the business
- details of how the training, advice or services will build the artisan producer's business skills and abilities

- potential outcomes for the business
- confirmation of your matched financial contribution.

If you will be using a consultant to deliver a service, a project proposal and quote from the consultant must be submitted with your application, and should include:

- the services the consultant will provide, including a breakdown of key activities
- delivery timeframes – up to three months (proposals over three months will not be funded)
- consultant/service delivery costs
- the estimated number of consulting hours for each of the key activities
- the names of the key people who will undertake the project work.

How will applications be assessed?

In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria, applications will be prioritised on:

- the extent to which the services will support the establishment and/or growth of the business
- the extent to which the services will enhance the artisan producer's skills and abilities
- potential business improvements
- the potential and likelihood the activity will deliver jobs growth
- value for money.

What's the process?

A. Online application

Applicants are required to complete an application form online via the SmartyGrants platform and attach the required documentation (quote/proposal from the supplier and/or service provider).

B. Eligibility check

DESBT reviews all applications against the key eligibility criteria and provides the assessment panel with the applications that meet the key eligibility criteria.

C. Assessment panel

An assessment panel considers all eligible applications and provides recommendations to the delegate for approval. The delegate then considers the applications and recommendations, as well as available funding. DESBT may give consideration to ensuring successful applications are equitably distributed across the state and industry sectors, and to recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and artisan producers.

D. Applicants notified of outcome

All applicants will receive formal notification of the outcome of their application as soon as possible following appropriate assessment. Successful applicants will receive an approval letter advising the delegate has approved the application. The letter will also reiterate the terms and conditions of funding.

Successful applicants will then have **three months from the date of the approval letter to complete the project**. DESBT may withdraw the offer if the project is not completed within this timeframe.

Applicants must not begin the project or pay for the service/s, in part or full, without confirmation that the project has been approved.

After approval, successful applicants must pay for the approved service/s **in full**.

E. Acquittal

On completion of the project, successful applicants will be reimbursed for 50 per cent of the total project cost, up to the approved grant funding amount. To do this, the applicant must complete and submit an acquittal report through SmartyGrants, issue a valid tax invoice to DESBT and submit copies of supplier invoices and proof of purchase for the total project cost.

The acquittal report is a simple online document providing information on the success and outcomes of the project to date, the activities undertaken and the learnings gained.

Successful applicants will be surveyed six months after the completion of the project.

DESBT will carry out random audits on a sample of applications to ensure information provided is true and correct. Where it is found that false or misleading information has been provided, penalties may apply, including refunding of some or all of the grant funding.

Application timeframes

The tables below summarise the important dates and timeframes in the application process.

Dates	
11 July 2019	Applications open
22 August 2019	Applications close at 5pm

Key timing
Application lodged at least three months prior to proposed project start date.
An approval letter will be issued to successful applicants once applications have been assessed and approved.
Project must be completed within three months of approval letter being issued.
Successful applicants must acquit projects within four months of approval letter being issued.

Funding Payment Timeframes	
On completion	A single payment will be made directly to the applicant’s business bank account upon acceptance of a final acquittal report and a valid tax invoice to the department. DESBT processes invoices and acquittal documentation in order of receipt and endeavours to pay grant funding within 4 weeks of receipt of compliant acquittal documentation.
NOTE: Successful applicants will be required to provide proof of payment for all products and services purchased as part of this grant.	

Frequently asked questions

What do I need to do if I receive a grant?

You must:

- enter into a funding agreement with DESBT
- purchase the training or service/s as per the funding agreement
- deliver the project as per the funding agreement
- complete a final acquittal within one month of the project completion date
- complete a follow-up survey six months after the grant is acquitted.

When will funding be available and how will payments be made?

If your application is successful, funding will be provided once you complete the project. The applicant will be reimbursed 50 per cent of the total project cost, up to the approved grant funding amount. To do this, the artisan producer must complete and submit an acquittal report through SmartyGrants, issue a valid tax invoice to DESBT and submit copies of supplier invoice/s and proof of purchase. Funding will be paid directly to the applicant.

Can I alter my application after funding has been allocated?

If you are unable to complete the approved project, wish to change suppliers or modify the approved product or service, you must immediately notify DESBT in writing. Any change to your project will need to be reassessed to ensure funding will still be granted. If you change your project or purchase without approval, DESBT can withdraw the funding.

If I have more than one small business with a different ABN for each, can I submit an application for each business?

No. Only one application will be accepted from a financial beneficiary of a business. The applicant must not be a financial beneficiary of any other Small Business Artisan Grants application. You make a declaration in the application form stating the above.

Do I have to be operating an existing business/artisan producer?

Yes. Your application must be for an existing operating business.

Do I have to be located in Queensland?

Yes. The business must have a Queensland headquarters. **To demonstrate this, the 'Main Business Location' of the applicant's ABN must be listed as being in Queensland** on the [Australian Business Register](#) (ABR) at the time of application. If the ABR listing for the applying business does not list Queensland as the main business location, you must provide evidence of a Queensland headquarters in writing to grants@desbt.qld.gov.au prior to the grant round closing. Evidence of a Queensland Headquarters includes:

- a copy of the applicant's Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) Company Statement listing a Queensland address as 'principal place of business'
- or
- a letter from the applicant's accountant confirming the business has changed to a Queensland main business location.

Do I need to be registered for GST?

No.

Will I be reimbursed for GST spent?

No. Grants are not subject to GST. Therefore, GST is not payable and grant funding will not compensate for any GST spent by the business. The grant amount is GST exclusive.

What are my tax obligations?

Grants are treated as assessable income for tax purposes, unless exempted by law. DESBT recommends you seek independent professional advice on your tax obligations.

Further information

For more information about the grants or advice on your application, call the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training on 1300 654 687 or email grants@desbt.qld.gov.au.

Complaints about the outcome of an application will be dealt with according to [Department of Employment, Small Business and Training's complaints management policy](#).

Additional information for businesses

www.business.qld.gov.au/support-artisans has more information on support available for Queensland Artisan Producers.

www.business.qld.gov.au has information on starting and developing businesses. Here you can subscribe to the Small Business Connect newsletter to receive regular updates on information relevant for small business.

www.business.gov.au is an online government resource for the Australian business community provided by the Australian Government.

To find answers to any of your business tax questions, visit the Australian Tax Office website at www.ato.gov.au.

ablis.business.gov.au has information on government licences, permits, approvals, registrations, codes of practice, standards and guidelines you need to know about to meet your compliance responsibilities.

My checklist

Applicants are to ensure they have:

- read and understood the guidelines
- read and understood the terms and conditions in the application form
- completed the online application form
- uploaded a proposal and quote/s from the supplier/s
- submitted the application
- received notification of the application outcome before commencing the project

Privacy statement

The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training collects information to assess and coordinate grants.

The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, its officers, employees, agents and subcontractors may use and disclose any of the information provided within the application to Queensland Government departments or agencies, Queensland Government bodies, non-government organisations and/or the Commonwealth Government or other state or territory governments for any purpose in connection with the administration of the Queensland Small Business Artisanal Grants Program. Successful applications may also be the subject of media releases and disclosure as otherwise provided in the approval letter, the terms and conditions in the application, and the terms and conditions in these guidelines.

Submitted documents may be subject to disclosure under the Right to Information Act 2009, subject to the exemptions under that Act.

The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training's privacy guide in relation to the treatment of information collected may be viewed at www.qld.gov.au/legal/privacy.

Disclaimer

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