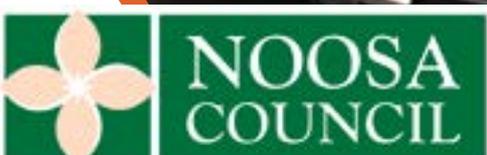


# Noosa Shire Business Assistance Guide



Information to support  
local business

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This guide is designed to simplify the abundance of information that is available to support local business.

To make it easier for local business to access relevant information, the guide focuses on those industry sectors and available services that can assist local businesses to prosperity and growth.

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# 1

## Noosa Shire Council

Council recognises that business and industry drive the economy and that government and other organisations make a significant contribution to the setting in which they operate. We do that in the following ways:



Noosa's Local Economic Plan aims to broaden the economic structure of the local economy by achieving growth in smart industry sectors that align with our environmental and social values.

Council is working with the local business community to implement the plan.

[More information](#)

Helping local business understand Noosa's regulatory environment.

### Economic Development

The Economic Development Unit works with the business community to coordinate the development and implementation of projects identified in the Local Economic Plan. This includes acting as a point of contact for business enquiries, the provision of economic data, and connecting people and organisations through events and networking.

[More information](#)

### Planning and development

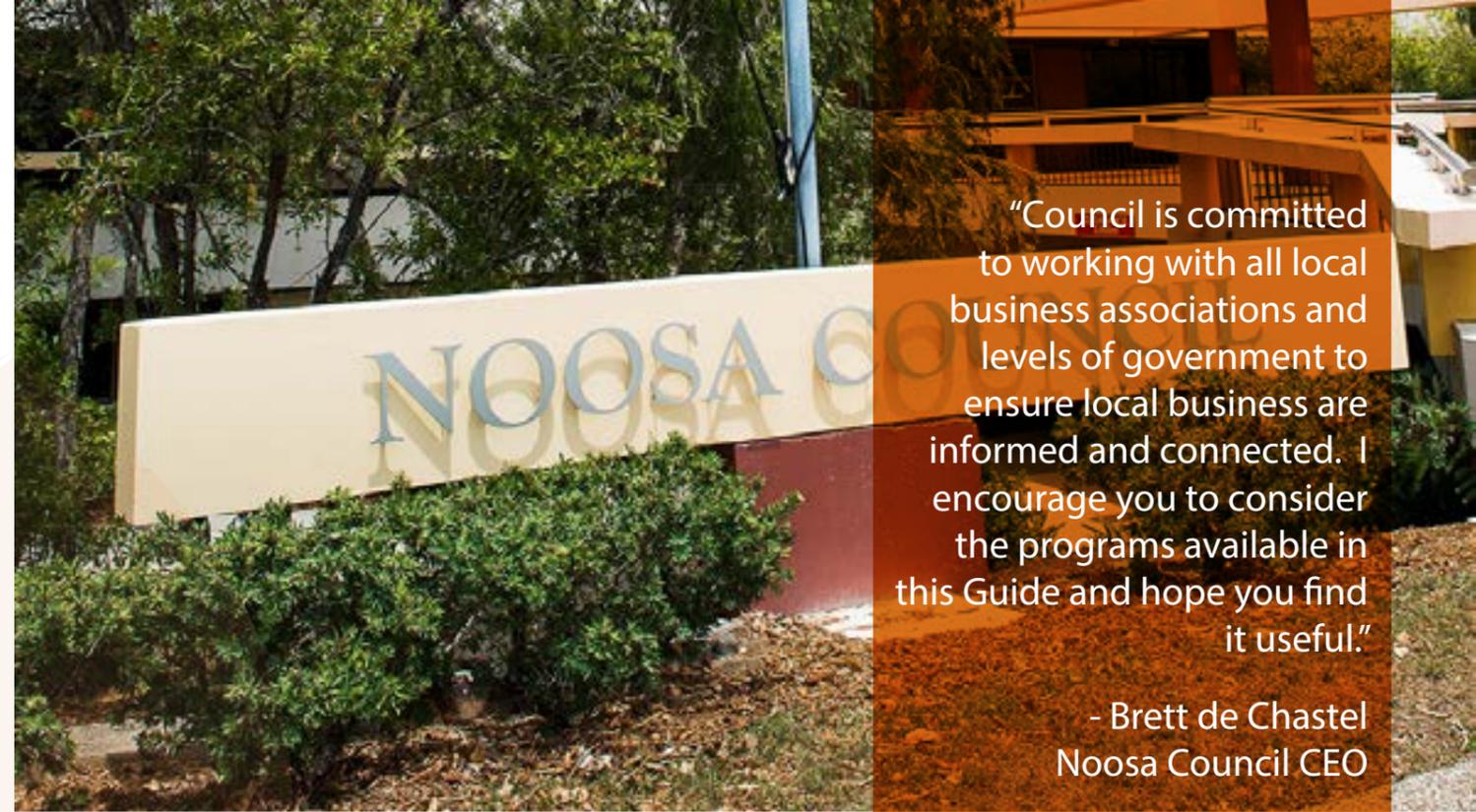
Noosa Council has a range of tools and information to help local businesses with planning and development. Council offers pre application advice services including prelodgement meetings, to prospective planning applicants. Prospective business operators can find more information on preparing, lodging and tracking planning applications within the Noosa Shire, and you can call or visit Council.

[More information](#)

### Planning Scheme

The Noosa Plan is the planning scheme for Noosa Shire and sets down the expectations for future development. The Noosa Plan determines where a business can locate by setting out criteria for consistent land uses and desired development outcomes.

[More information](#)



"Council is committed to working with all local business associations and levels of government to ensure local business are informed and connected. I encourage you to consider the programs available in this Guide and hope you find it useful."

- Brett de Chastel  
Noosa Council CEO

### Local laws and regulatory requirements

Noosa Council has a range of information on rules and local laws and regulations relating to operating a business such as signage and advertising guidelines, parking, requisite approvals.

[More information](#)

For businesses wishing to operate a food business, appropriate licences must be sought.

[More information](#)

### Tenders and procurement

As a major employer and purchaser of goods, Noosa Council provides opportunities to engage commercially with local businesses. All new Council tenders are publicised on Council's website and tender documents are available to download from LG Tenderbox.

Council also accessess supplier arrangements via Local Buy which also uses LG tenderbox.

Interested parties are encouraged to register with LG Tenderbox to receive notification of all new tender opportunities, and to also regularly monitor Council's website.

[More information](#)

### Vendor Panel Marketplace – L

Businesses can also register with Vendor Panel Marketplace which is an online quoting and purchasing tool that Council purchasing staff will use to request and obtain quotes from businesses/suppliers online, and evaluate and accept quotes online.

[More information](#)

Local businesses can also contact Noosa Council's customer service with specific enquiries.

[More information](#)

# 2

## Business support programs

### [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au) – F

Businesses of all sizes can find information, services and links to government programmes using business.gov.au. It's a whole-of-government service providing essential information on planning, starting, funding and growing your business. This online resource acts as a one stop portal to access government information, grants, forms and services.

The portal includes three interactive tablet apps that step you through the process of creating a tailored business plan, marketing plan and emergency management plan.

[More information](#)

### Small Business – F

Small businesses can refer to the section tailored specifically to their needs at <https://www.business.gov.au/smallbusiness>. This includes government initiatives and support that can drive growth and success in small business, including an online tool. The tool lists a full range of initiatives and support available for small business all in one place.

[More information](#)

Business can also contact 13 28 46.



### [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au) – S

This portal provides business and industry with a single point of access to Queensland Government information and regulatory services and provides information on:

- starting and running a business in Queensland
- Queensland's many industry sectors
- investing in Queensland.

Business can also contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

## Business Planning

Whether you are starting or looking to grow, your business plan will explain all the important aspects of your business. It maps your current situation, identifies your goals, and describes what actions to take to move your business forward. Valuable information on various planning processes and template can be found via the following websites.

### Business Planning Portal – F

The business planning section covers a broad range of topics to assist in planning your business development including writing a business plan, marketing, innovation, market research, export and succession planning.

[More information](#)

### SelfStart – F

Self Start is a Federal government portal aimed at supporting people through the first stages of starting a business.

[More information](#)

### Business Planning Kit – S

This free business planning kit provides easy to understand templates, tools and information to assist you write a business plan, including a financial plan.

[More information](#)

## Australian Business Account – F

Australian Business Account (ABA) is a national service delivered by a partnership of Australian, state, territory and local governments which allows businesses to better manage all government-related licences, permits and registrations.

### Program Offering

The Australian Business Account (ABA) is an online service designed to help set up, expand and manage a business. Registering for this program allows business to:

- Create a free business account, and
- Use this account to deal with all levels of government, in all states and territories
- Search the Australian Business Licence and Information Service (ABLIS) for licensing and compliance information and then save results to your ABA.

### Who can apply

All Australian businesses wanting a central registration portal for their business licences, permits and registrations.

[More information](#)

## Australian Business Licence and Information Service - F

Australian Business Licence and Information Service (ABLIS), is a free online service that will help business find the right local, Queensland and Australian government licences, permits, registrations, approvals and codes of practice you need to operate a business.

### Program offering

- a summary of state or territory, local and Australian government requirements
- information about licence fees, how to apply, periods of cover and renewals
- how to access application and renewal forms
- who to contact for more help and information.

### Who can apply

Any business looking to access information and/or apply for a licence, permit, registration service and business code of practice.

[More information](#)

## Workplace Health and Safety Small Business Program – S

The Small Business Program provides free and easy to use services to help manage health and safety in Queensland businesses.

### Program offering

Safety workshops; workplace consultations; presentation and information sessions; group session and workplace safety guidance. There is no cost.

### Who can apply

This program is suited to Queensland small businesses that have limited or no safety systems in place.

[More information](#)

## Tourism Noosa Limited (TN)

Tourism Noosa is the Local Tourism Organisation responsible for the strategic marketing of the Noosa region to domestic and international consumers, trade, media and business. It is also responsible for managing tourism event funding for the Noosa Shire.

### Program offering

Tourism Noosa is a membership based organisation and provides a variety of services to members including: networking, marketing opportunities, visitor information centre booking service, visiting journalist famil program and industry information, customer service and business skills training programs.

### Who can apply

Tourism Noosa has a variety of membership options available to businesses.

[More information](#)

## Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland

The Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland is Queensland's peak association for employers in any industry. It is a not for profit organisation run by business owners. Members pay a fee to join to access services.

[More information](#)

### Program offerings include

1. The Employer Assistance HotLine is staffed with human resource and industrial relations professionals that provide advice to member businesses on hiring, performance management and dismissal. Information is also provided on legislation changes and up-to-date wage tables. [More information](#)
2. The Workers' Compensation Hotline is a free service for all Queensland-based employers to help with information on managing WorkCover claims, premiums and return-to-work plans. [More information](#)
3. ecoBiz is a free program that helps businesses save money by reducing energy, waste and water consumption and introducing sustainable strategies into their business. The program includes one-to-one coaching, site survey, tools to benchmark, workshops and webinars. Members will gain access to free tools to monitor how much energy, water and waste your business uses. [More information](#)
4. CCIQ Templates have a range of up to date human resource, social media and workplace health and safety policies, record keeping obligations and more, for businesses to customise. CCIQ Members receive 15% discount. [More information](#)

5. Ninepence is a free e-commerce website for businesses to promote their products and services globally. [More information](#)
6. CCIQ Pay is a portable device to process credit card and ATM payments to help businesses improve cash flow. [More information](#)
7. Register My Business is an online portal to easily register a business. [More information](#)
8. A wide variety of Information sheets, webinars, human resource workshops and events are also available. [More information](#)
9. CCIQ Training is a video-based training system that lets staff complete up-to-date HR, safety and leadership courses anywhere. [More information](#)

# 3

## Business growth programs

Programs profiled in this section offer dedicated opportunities designed to assist you develop and expand your business to become more productive and profitable. These programs provide skill development opportunities, business advice and in some instances, funding options. Small to medium enterprises underpin the Noosa economy and growing sustainable small to medium businesses will strengthen the Noosa economy.

### Entrepreneurs' Programme – F

This program offers easy access to practical support to Australian businesses in a simplified and streamlined way. It promotes competitiveness and productivity to Australian businesses through practical advice; co-funded grants to commercialise new products, processes and services; access to a national network of business, research and market experts; funding to take advantage of growth opportunities; and connection and collaboration opportunities.

#### Program offering

With a national network of more than 100 experienced private sector advisers, the Entrepreneurs' Program offers support through:

- Business management – includes advice and facilitation services tailored to provide strategies for business growth and business improvement, and small co-contributions for re-engineering or growth opportunities for business
- Innovation connections – helps small and medium businesses to access knowledge, engage with researchers and foster innovation

#### Who can apply

Businesses must have operated for 3 years with annual turnover between \$1.5M-\$100M\*

#### [More information](#)

\* Some exceptions apply.



- Accelerating Commercialisation – helps small and medium businesses, entrepreneurs and researchers to commercialise novel products, service and processes. Provides successful applicants access to expert guidance and grants to find the right commercialisation solutions.

#### Who can apply

Businesses with a novel product, process or service to commercialise.

#### [More information](#)

### Mentoring for Growth – S

This program connects eligible firms to experts to help address growth opportunities and challenges.

#### Program offering

The program offers eligible businesses a panel mentoring experience and the benefit of the combined expertise of 8-10 volunteer business mentors. M4G is provided at no cost to business. Specialised panels can be convened to assist businesses with investment readiness, export readiness, and disaster recovery.

#### Who can apply

M4G is for businesses that are experiencing strong growth or have clearly defined growth opportunity; have Queensland headquarters or significant Queensland operations and are innovative with competitive opportunities in local or international markets.

#### [More information](#)

### Small Business Solutions – S

This program is an initiative designed to improve the business skills, profitability and growth of small businesses. The program also offers vocational and education training qualifications through a skills recognition program.

#### Program offering

- Mentors who deliver advice and guidance tailored to your industry and market
- A series of hands on business workshops
- Business Health Check to assess essentials for developing, managing and growing a business
- Toolbox of business guides

#### Who can apply

- Must be based in Queensland and not be enrolled in a Certificate IV or higher
- Must be a Queensland based business owner, manager or employee and not be enrolled in a Certificate IV or higher program.

#### [More information](#)

### Business Mentoring Noosa - L

This program engages volunteer private sector business people to provide a personalised mentoring program aimed at supporting and growing local business.

#### Program offering

The volunteer mentors are matched to the specific business. An introductory session is held to check there is a suitable fit between both parties and establish a framework for the meetings.

Goals related to the specific needs of the business are established, options are explored, and an action plan agreed. From there the parties can monitor and discuss progress.

An annual fee of \$150 and mentees must be paid-up members of a Sunshine Coast Chamber of Commerce (e.g. CCIQ Noosa).

#### Who can apply

Any small business in any industry with an ABN and has less than 25 employees.

#### [More information](#)

## Accelerate Small Business Grants – S

This Program provides targeted assistance to small businesses that demonstrate high-growth and employment aspirations, to engage high-level expertise in their business for an extended period.

### Program offering

Matching funding of up to \$10,000 may be provided to eligible businesses to engage business mentors, coaches, or an advisory board, for between 6–12 months. The funding must be matched by a cash contribution from the participating business.

### Who can apply

Queensland-based small businesses that are financially sound and have the potential for high-growth over the next 1 to 2 years.

[More information](#)

## Small Business Entrepreneur Grants - S

The Small Business Entrepreneur Grants Program provides new small businesses access to professional advice and support in the critical early stages of establishing a business.

### Program Offering

Matching funding up to \$5000, may be provided to eligible businesses to engage a consultant, or business coach to help establish or develop the business, in the following areas:

- professional business, tax, computing, legal or financial (accounting) advice
- mentoring/coaching
- business and strategic planning
- market research and marketing strategies, including branding strategies and social media/digital strategies.

### Who can apply

Queensland based business with less than 20 employees can apply.

[More information](#)

## Office of Small Business Workshops – S

Workshops and forums that focus on the challenges that small businesses face at all stages of their life-cycle.

### Program offering

Workshops on the following subjects are delivered across the region throughout the year.

- Survive to five years
- Evolve to Thrive
- Small Business in a Day
- New Ideas Forum

### Who can apply

Any Queensland based small business.

[More information](#)

## Made in Queensland - S

This initiative was developed to support the manufacturing sector to become more internationally competitive and adopt innovative processes and technologies.

### Program offering

Eligible manufacturing businesses will be able to apply for grants of between \$50,000 and \$2.5 million to become more productive, grow, innovate and create knowledge-based jobs for Queensland's future. Made in Queensland grants will reimburse eligible businesses up to 50 per cent of the cost of implementing recommendations detailed in their Benchmarking Report and Action Plan

### Who can apply

Applicants must be a QLD based manufacturer and is considered to be a small to medium enterprise.

[More information](#)

# 4

## Innovation and startups

Innovation is important to every sector of the economy from ICT to healthcare and education to agriculture. Innovation is about new and existing businesses creating new products, processes and business models to deliver new sources of growth.

Additionally technology is changing just about every part of our lives, from the way we work to the way we communicate and access services.

Assisting business to stay competitive through innovation and the use of new technologies will contribute to economic growth, job creation, our quality of life and support diversification in industry sectors of high economic value that have low environmental impact.

## Innovation Journey

There are a wide range of Federal and State programs related to innovation support and product development, outlined [here](#). More detail of these programs are outlined in this section and throughout this guide.

### Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast - L

The Innovation Centre, based at the University of the Sunshine Coast, is a business incubator and business accelerator supporting the startup and growth of innovative businesses on the Sunshine Coast.

### Program offering

Enterprises are provided with flexible office space, expert mentoring and the right connections to accelerate growth and support knowledge based businesses in the region.



### Who can apply

Applicants must have a viable business concept that involves technology based products or services, be able to demonstrate an idea can be translated into a viable commercial business, and have a competitive advantage.

[More information](#)

### Innovate Noosa - L

Innovate Noosa is a private economic development collective, which aims to facilitate change through connecting ideas to resources, and providing solutions through projects and programs with and for the Noosa community.

[More information](#)

### Spark Bureau Incubator - L

Spark Bureau provides early-stage business incubator membership to a limited number of founders and teams. Founders/teams receive support on topics relevant and specific to their business, from world-class experts in their fields.

### Program offering

The incubator program is offered via a monthly membership subscription with check-ins to monitor progress against agreed milestones. Coaching is conducted by experts and mentors on topics such as: Design Thinking; Lean Methodology; Legal issues for entrepreneurs; Social Media Marketing and Growth Hacking; Accounting for startups; Unlocking Investment and Pitching.

Spark Bureau members have opportunities to pitch their vision and demonstrate their solution to peers, business and political leaders and potential future investors.

#### Who Can Apply

Membership applications are open now.

[More information](#)

## Digital Business Kits - F

Digital Business Kits provide industry specific information and resources to assist small to medium enterprises and not for profit organisations engage in the digital economy and take advantage of the opportunities available through digital technology.

#### Program offering

The program is a partnership between the Australian Government and nine industry peak bodies, intended to address industry specific gaps in digital knowledge and encourage increased use of innovative digital solutions by business, to market products and services; engage with clients; and improve business operations.

[More information](#)

## Go Digital Qld Program – S

The GoDigitalQld website provides regularly updated information on digital activities and opportunities to encourage the use of digital technologies by government agencies, business and individuals.

#### Program offering

The website provides a summary of the latest in digital innovation for business including new business apps, latest digital research, and digital opportunities and funding programs, to create business opportunities, promote economic growth and improve the lives and lifestyles of Queenslanders.

#### Who can apply

Businesses looking to learn more about latest the technology trends and how to better utilise technology within their business.

[More information](#)

## Digital Scorecard – S

The Digital Scorecard will help businesses identify ways to improve their digital capability and be more competitive in a global digital economy.

#### Program offering

Businesses can use the online scorecard to find out how digitally aware and capable they are compared with others in similar industries.

Businesses who complete a digital assessment will be invited to targeted workshops to improve their digital readiness in areas including website development, social media, and the use of mobile and other new technologies.

#### Who can apply

Any Small to medium enterprises and not-for-profit organisations interested in improving their digital readiness.

[More information](#)

## Small Business Digital Grants - S

This Program provides small businesses with access to digital technologies and services to enable them to work smarter, engage with the global economy and make the most of online business opportunities arising from digital disruption.

#### Program Offering

Matching funding of up to \$10,000 may be provided to eligible businesses for the purchase of hardware, software and services (such as digital coaching) that will enhance the digital capabilities of their business and help them to be more competitive and employ more staff.

#### Who can apply

Queensland businesses who have fewer than 20 employees and less than \$2M turnover p.a. The business must show that the digital technology or service purchased and adopted will enhance the digital capabilities of their business and help them be more competitive and employ more staff.

[More information](#)

## Research & Development Tax Incentive – F

The Research & Development Tax Incentive looks to help more businesses to innovate through research and development.

#### Program offering

This incentive is a targeted, generous and easy to access entitlement program that helps businesses offset some of the costs of doing research and development.

#### Who can apply

The Research & Development Incentive is open to firms of all sizes in all sectors who are conducting eligible research and development.

[More information](#)

## Australian Institute of Commercialisation - F

The Australian Institute of Commercialisation works with entrepreneurs, businesses and research organisations and governments to convert ideas or intellectual property into successful business outcomes. Key programs include:

#### Program offerings

Innovator Consultation Service is aimed at Queensland Innovators / Inventors seeking assistance to progress the development of their ideas, to the market.

The Consultation service provides the following tailored assistance to innovative Queenslanders: Speak with an experienced Business Advisor; Ask questions in a confidential consultation; Understand the steps to take your 'Idea to Market' and access valuable resources and connections.

[More information](#)

The Commercialisation Advisory Service provides innovators with professional services and leading practice programs that assist business to convert ideas into successful outcomes. An experienced commercialisation advisory team offers customised advice, tools, and solutions for a wide range of needs including intellectual property policy, intellectual property audits, commercialisation strategy and project management.

[More information](#)

Innovation Clinics assist the development of innovation and technology in small to medium enterprises. Clinics assist participants in understanding issues, identify opportunities and to implement innovative solutions from within their organisations. The Clinics promote the adoption of innovation and technology to solve problems for firms.

[More information](#)



## Digital Networks & Information

### Coding from Beach – Meetups

An informal networking group for Sunshine Coast based programmers with a focus on new technologies.

[More information](#)

### Silicon Coast

An entrepreneurial online community on the Sunshine Coast. A place for discussions, collaboration and ideas about innovation, creativity and startups.

[More information](#)

### Digital Sunshine Coast

Digital Sunshine Coast is a local network which aims to connect people in the area of digital innovation. It implements the Digital Sunshine Coast Action Plan which outlines a series of digital initiatives to grow and support the sector on the Sunshine Coast.

[More information](#)

### Startup Queensland

Startup Queensland is a not for profit organisation that supports and showcases Queensland innovation, technology, entrepreneurs, startups, founders and investors. The website provides a wide range of resources, events, news and links to the Queensland startup ecosystem.

[More information](#)



## Co-working and Accelerator Spaces

Co-working spaces are a key part of the innovation and entrepreneurial eco-system. They provide purpose built spaces for freelancers, sole traders and micro and small business to work beside like-minded people in a professional, cost effective environment to encourage connection, collaboration and creative thinking.

- [Noosa Boardroom](#)
- [Junction 2](#)
- [Duke Douglas](#)
- [Ecom Noosa](#)
- [Dulcie Joe](#)
- [Powerhouse Collective](#)

## National Innovation and Science Agenda – F

The National Innovation and Science Agenda is designed to embrace new ideas and enable innovation. The Agenda puts forward a package of initiatives that will be developed over time in four key areas:

Culture and Capital – Collaboration – Talent and Skills – Government as exemplar

[More information](#)

Program offerings

1. Crowd Sourced Equity Funding assists entrepreneurs raise funds online in return for business equity. Open to unlisted Australian public companies with turnover and gross assets less than \$25M.

[More information](#)

2. Incubator Support Initiative provides support for new and existing incubators, and funding for Expert in Residence to provide access to top quality research, managerial and technical talent through secondment of expert advisers.

[More information](#)

3. Innovation Connections will drive new industry-led collaborations between researchers and small and medium enterprises. The partnerships will foster the development of new ideas with commercial potential, provide facilitators so that businesses can access innovation infrastructure; and matched grants to support business researchers to be placed in publicly funded research organisations.

[More information](#)

4. The Global Innovation Strategy initiatives and support for international innovation and science engagement. This includes: Landing Pads in global innovation hotspots to support entrepreneurial Australians; Global Connections Fund to support global SME-researcher collaborations; seed funding to test concepts; funding to assist Australian businesses and researchers to collaborate with global partners on strategically focused, leading-edge research and development projects through the Global Innovation Linkages programme.

[More information](#)

5. Tax incentive for early stage investors sees concessional tax treatment for high growth startups that undertake an eligible business. It assists companies that have been incorporated for 3 years, are not listed on a stock exchange and have expenditure/income between \$200,000 - \$1M.

[More information](#)

6. The Digital Marketplace is a platform where government buyers and sellers can connect and have the procurement interactions they need. The purpose is to make it easier for smaller businesses to compete for the government's \$5 billion a year spend on information and communications technology (ICT) products and services.

[More information](#)

## Advance Queensland – S

Advance Queensland is a comprehensive suite of programs designed to create the knowledge-based jobs of the future, drive productivity improvements and build on Queensland's natural advantages.

The program includes educational initiatives, funding programs, practical tools and networking and collaboration opportunities for entrepreneurs, innovators, industry, universities and government.

[More information](#)

## Queensland Startup and Activities Fund

This fund aims to build capability within Queensland's startup community.

### Program offering

This funding is for activities that build skills, deliver practical information and advice, and enable networking, increased connectivity, collaboration and transformational entrepreneurship.

### Who can apply

Funding is open to Queensland based profit and not for profit organisations that have an ABN and are registered for GST. Activities must be conducted on a not for profit basis and demonstrate broad benefit to the Queensland Startup community

[More information](#)

## Innovate Queensland

This program is a suite of workshops, webinars and collaborations that help innovators, entrepreneurs and organisations to reduce development costs, integrate innovation into existing businesses, reduce time lag from ideas to income, connect business to technologies and experts, and explore business models.

### Program offering

1. Pathways Workshops commercialisation courses provide practical know how to translate innovative ideas into commercial outcomes.

### Who can apply

Business owners, managers (operational and technical), product/service developers, innovation team leaders.

### Program offering

2. GRID Group and Webinars is an online members' forum and free webinar series that connects people who are starting their innovation journeys with experienced practitioners.

### Who can apply

Entrepreneurs, innovation team leaders, researchers and scientists, Intellectual Property practitioners, Commercialisation consultants, university technology transfer professionals, angel and private equity investors, venture capitalists.

### Program offering

3. IQ Link is a series of collaboration activities (online and hosted events) bringing people together to generate ideas and solve industry-specific problems. For example: Industry Innovation Challenge Events; Queensland's Innovation Portal that facilitates the crowd sourcing of ideas to solve specific industry 'challenges'; Enterprise Access is a web-based tool to help businesses identify and connect with new technologies; Collaboration Connectors provides structured networking events to help connect people with the resources needed to take ideas further.

### Who can apply

People looking for opportunities to meet and work with potential innovation partners and commercial collaborators.

[More information](#)

## Business Development Fund

This program is a \$40 million early stage investment fund for emerging and high growth Queensland businesses, to help turn their ideas and innovations into commercial reality.

### Program offering

A direct Investment of between \$125,000 and \$2.5 million is available to Queensland businesses who:

- are commercialising research, an innovative idea or an innovative product or service
- require seed, early stage or follow-on investment
- will create opportunities for new, high value and skilled employment
- have a realistic prospect of becoming commercially successful.

### Who can apply

Innovative Queensland businesses needing investment, or investors seeking investment opportunities.

[More information](#)

## Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Program

This program provides innovative businesses with a funded opportunity to partner with a University to hire a graduate.

### Program offering

Funding of up to \$50,000 per project is available to help businesses with the cost of hiring a graduate to work on an innovative project.

### Who can apply

Small to medium sized enterprises with an innovative project.

[More information](#)

## Innovation and Market Insight Program

This program will assist Queensland startups, business leaders, investors and support organisations to engage with world leading companies, venture capital and angel investors, accelerator programs and startup systems via inbound and outbound missions.

### Program offering

Targeted high profile entrepreneurs and investors will be 'in residence' across Queensland to engage with businesses (inbound). Similarly, opportunities will be sought for local entrepreneurs to visit overseas markets and hot spots (outbound).

### Who can apply

Queensland entrepreneurs and businesses, startups, business leaders, investors and support organisations can submit a suggestion for a global partnership.

[More information](#)

## Young Starters

This program aims to help young Queenslanders develop and pitch their great ideas to the world.

### Program offering

There are two components to this program:

- The Young Starters Fund: will provide funding up to \$20,000 to eligible organisations to deliver events and activities that build entrepreneurial and technology startup skills in young Queenslanders, aged 15-24.
- The Competition: will see young entrepreneurs pitching their ideas at a state level, to win prizes including a place in an accelerator program.

### Who can apply

Funding is open to profit and not for profit organisations with an ABN and who are registered for GST.

[More information](#)

## Advance Queensland Navigator

This program is an online engagement tool that offers Queensland entrepreneurs, start-up businesses and investors a platform for submitting and sharing their ideas, innovations, products and services.

### Program offering

Submitting an innovation or idea and being featured on the navigator, offers access to a bigger network of successful Queensland innovators and entrepreneurs who are sharing and supporting featured Queensland initiatives.

### Who can apply

This is an opportunity for anyone with an original product, idea or business that contributes to Queensland.

[More information](#)

## Hot Desq

Hot DesQ invites startups to move to Queensland, Australia. Up to AUD\$100,000 equity-free funding is available to discover the perfect place for big ideas.

Attracting international and interstate entrepreneurial talent to boost Queensland's startup

### Program Offering

This program aims to attract international and interstate startups to Queensland innovation hubs, including the Sunshine Coast, for at least six months to pursue their businesses and help grow the entrepreneurial base.

### Who can apply

- Early stage entrepreneurs and startups
- Aussie expatriates
- Established startups looking to expand into Asia-Pacific

## Platform and Technology Program

The program provides investment for collaborative research and development activities, focusing on technology platforms.

### Program Offering

Provides financial incentives to larger scale co-funded projects that accelerate the development and deployment of significant and highly collaborative industry based platform technology projects

### Who can apply

Applicants must be a registered business, have at least 3 partners and be able to demonstrate an ability to fund at least 75% of the cost of the eligible project, outside of Queensland Government funding source.

[More information](#)

## Ignite Ideas Fund

This program provides grants to supports startups and small to medium Queensland businesses to commercialise market ready innovative ideas

### Program offering

Grants of up to \$250,000 (excluding GST) are available to support activities that will test and implement commercialisation plans for a product, process or service that is at or beyond minimum viable product or market ready stage.

### Who can apply

Queensland registered businesses with less than 200 FTE staff with an innovative product, process or service at a minimum viable or market ready stage

[More information](#)



# 5

## Awards and events

### Sunshine Coast Business Awards

The Sunshine Coast Business Awards are the regions premier business awards program that recognise the efforts and achievements of businesses across the Sunshine Coast who excel in their industry. With a range of categories and special awards, any business that has been operating for over 12 months can be nominated.

[More information](#)

### Sunshine Coast Business Woman's Awards

The Sunshine Coast Business Women's Network Business Woman's Awards are held annually to recognise the woman behind the business, based and operating on the Sunshine Coast.

[More information](#)

### Premier of QLD Export Awards

The Premier of Queensland's Export Awards acknowledge the important contribution that Queensland exporting businesses make to our state's economy through job creation and increased prosperity in the community. This annual program is open to all Queensland exporters

[More information](#)

### iAwards

The iAwards honour Australian's smartest digital and technological innovators.

[More information](#)

### The Queensland Tourism Awards

Recognise the outstanding achievements of the state's tourism industry, including individuals, businesses (industry operators) and events across 30 categories.

[More information](#)

### Telstra Business Awards

Telstra Business Awards are renowned for showcasing and celebrating the achievements and entrepreneurial spirit of Australia's most brilliant small and medium-sized businesses.

[More information](#)

### Telstra Business Women's Award

The Telstra Business Women's Award are the longest running women's award and recognise outstanding women in business.

[More information](#)

### Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Ernst and Youngs' Entrepreneur of the year Award celebrates and acknowledges the significant accomplishments of entrepreneurs around the world.

[More information](#)

## Premier's Sustainability Awards

This Award recognises the achievements of Queensland businesses in adopting sustainable business practices.

[More information](#)

## Startup Weekend Sunshine Coast

Startup Weekend is an intense, action-based, coffee induced and sleep deprived event made for entrepreneurs, by entrepreneurial people. This event is for everyone - people with business ideas looking for skills, or people with skills looking for a business idea.

All Startup Weekend events follow the same basic model: anyone is welcome to pitch their startup idea and receive feedback from their peers. Teams organically form around the top ideas (as determined by popular vote) and then it's a 54 hour frenzy of business model creation, coding, designing, and market validation.

The weekends culminate with presentations in front of local entrepreneurial leaders with another opportunity for critical feedback. Startup Weekend Sunshine Coast is 100% led by volunteer community leaders and held at the Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast.

[More information](#)

## Queensland Small Business Week

Queensland Small Business Week is a celebration of Queensland entrepreneurs and the diversity of small businesses operating in the state. A wide range of events and activities are held during the Week to help businesses innovate, collaborate, identify and seize opportunities, and prepare for digital disruption.

[More information](#)

## GovHack

GovHack is a national competition that has been running since 2009. The event encourages innovation using open government data. Prizes are awarded to geeks, digital creatives, data analysts, story tellers and entrepreneurs who develop useful ways of reusing the data.

[More information](#)

## Digital Entrepreneurs Network

Digital Entrepreneurs Networking events are held twice a year in Noosa and provide an opportunity for coders, developers, gamers, and others specifically using digital technologies to connect, collaborate and share opportunities amongst the digital business community.

[More information](#)

## Innovation Centre Pitch Competition

The Innovation Centre Pitch Competition is targeted at advanced entrepreneurial startups and established businesses that are investment ready and in the market for angel, private equity or venture capital investment. The competition looks for innovative business pitch's that incorporate unique intellectual property. The event has a substantial prize pool and attracts investors from across Australia and overseas.

[More information](#)

## Queensland Government Event Calendar

This calendar lists events that provide advice and assistance to businesses. These events are organised, sponsored or authorised by Queensland Government departments and agencies, including statutory authorities.

[More information](#)

# 6

## Trade and export assistance

The Noosa Shire Local Economic Plan supports the notion of exporting goods and services outside of the region - including international trade, in order to grow the economy.

The following State and Federal Government programs provide advice and assistance to business looking to expand their global reach.

### TradeStart Program – F

The TradeStart Program provides a network of experienced trade advisers located all over Queensland - including the Sunshine Coast, that are linked to Austrade and Trade and Investment Queensland's international trade networks.

#### Program offering

These advisers are trade professionals and have the knowledge and ability to support small and medium regional businesses approach the global market place. They provide advice; workshops; access to information on becoming ready for export and an international readiness indicators; and can provide personalised information for individual businesses.

#### Who can apply

If you are considering export or looking for assistance to grow your international markets, please contact:

Ross Tilly, TradeStart Adviser  
T: 07 5413 7501 M: 0403 580 016  
E: ross.tilly@tiq.qld.gov.au  
W: www.tiq.qld.gov.au

## Trade and Investment Qld - S

Trade and Investment Queensland is the State Government's global business agency. They:

- connect – international buyers to Qld product
- connect - investors to investment ready QLD projects
- connect – export ready businesses to international markets.

#### Program offering

Trade and Investment Queensland's network of export advisers work with the TradeStart program in regional areas to provide existing and new exporters with:

- export advice
- skill development programs
- information on overseas markets
- trade missions and business introductions.

[More information](#)

## Export Finance and Insurance Corporation – F

The Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC) is Australia's export finance agency. They operate on a commercial basis and assist with export finance, working capital and export contract bonds.

#### Program offering

EFIC provide financial solutions to help business achieve international export success. Additionally EFIC undertake research to understand the export environment and provide educational material and tools to inform businesses on their export journey.

#### Who can apply

- Small and medium enterprises that are exporters
- Australian companies in an export supply chain
- Australian companies looking to establish an overseas direct investment.

[More information](#)

## Export Market Development Grant - F

The Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) scheme is a financial assistance program for aspiring and current exporters. Administered by Austrade, the scheme supports businesses in a wide range of industry sectors to promote:

- the export of goods and most services
- inbound tourism
- the export of intellectual property and know-how

#### Program offering

The program provides up to eight (8) grants to each eligible applicant and is designed to:

- encourage small and medium sized Australian businesses to develop export markets
- reimburse up to 50% of eligible export promotion expenses above \$5,000 provided that the total expenses are at least \$15,000

#### Who can apply

EMDG is open to any Australian individual, partnership, company, association, co-operative, statutory corporation or trust that has carried on export promotion activities during the year for which they wish to apply for an export grant.

[More information](#)



# 7

## Employment, training and education

Education and learning underpins the development of not only smart industry sectors (knowledge industries), but also Noosa's traditional sectors of retail, tourism and construction. The Local Economic Plan aspires to build a culture of learning and skill development where knowledge is shared by a connected and skilled business community.

The following programs can assist your organisations' human resource needs, from training to employment.

### Jobactive - F

jobactive is a recruitment service helping businesses to find staff at no cost. jobactive is delivered by a network of jobactive providers in over 1700 locations across Australia.

Services they provide, include:

- screened and job-ready candidates
- pre-employment training and work-related equipment, if needed, for candidates
- access to work experience and internship programs
- support while new employees settle in
- access to wage subsidies.

Businesses can also advertise and manage job vacancies through the jobactive website: [jobactive.gov.au](http://jobactive.gov.au)

Find a local provider [here](#).

[More information](#)

Businesses can also contact the employer Hotline by phoning 13 17 15



### Employer Wage Subsidies

Wage subsidies can help businesses employ new staff and expand their business.

#### Program Offering

Through an employment services provider, employers can access wage subsidies of up to \$6,500 or \$10,000 (GST inclusive) for employing eligible job seekers who are young, a principal carer parent, long-term unemployed, Indigenous or of mature age (50 years and over).

#### Who can apply

Eligible business can apply for a wage subsidy for any new employee who is registered with an employment services provider and who meets the other eligibility provisions.

[More information](#)

## National Work Experience Program

National Work Experience Program is a work experience program which places job seekers in real life work experience placements.

### Program offering:

Employers can trial a person in an unpaid work experience placement for up to four weeks to see if they are the right fit. All work experience candidates are insured for the length of the placement. Employers could be eligible for a wage subsidy if they hire the work experience candidate following the placement.

### Who can apply

Employers can apply to host a work experience candidate through a jobactive provider, a Disability Employment Services provider (helping people with disability into employment) or a Transition to Work provider (helping 15 to 21 year olds, including early school leavers into employment).

You cannot host a National Work Experience Program placement if:

- you have downsized your workforce in the previous 12 months; or plan to downsize during the placement, or
- the placement would result in the reduction or replacement of any existing paid workers and/or any paid workers' hours of work.

[More information](#)

## New Enterprise Incentive Scheme – F

Training, business mentoring and assistance to help people not in education, employment or training become self-employed business owners.

### Program Offering

NEIS is a program delivered by a network of job providers who provide individualised help for job seekers to become self-employed business owners.

NEIS provides job seekers with:

- accredited small business training and business mentoring for up to 52 weeks
- income support for up to 39 weeks (NEIS Allowance) and NEIS Rental Assistance for up to 26 weeks (if eligible)
- personalised mentoring and support from a NEIS provider in the first year of the new business to help a job seeker put their business idea into practice

### Who can apply

Job seekers who are interested in running a new small business may be eligible to participate in the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS).

[More information](#)

## Youth Jobs PaTH - F

Youth Jobs PaTH is a flexible new program designed to better meet business needs, by helping to prepare young people for work

### Program offering

With a PaTH internship, employers can trial a young person in their workplace to see if they are the right fit before they hire. The PaTH internship placement can be between four and 12 weeks. All PaTH interns are insured for the length of the placement.

Employers will get \$1,000 to help with the costs of the internship and they could also get a wage subsidy if they hire the intern.

### Who can apply

Employers can apply to host an intern through a jobactive provider, a Disability Employment Services provider or a Transition to Work provider.

[More information](#)

## Apprenticeship and Traineeships Programs - F

Apprentices and trainees (including school-based) are an effective way to attract and recruit staff while maintaining and preserving the quality of skills in your industry and giving you a competitive edge by having a trained and skilled team.

You can find an Australian apprentice by:

- searching websites such as Australian Job Search
- contacting an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Provider in your region
- contacting a jobactive organisation in your region
- contacting a Group Training Organisation
- recruiting someone you know or have had recommended to you

[More information](#)

Significant incentives are available for employers who hire an apprentice or trainee, a summary table of incentives available under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Programme is available [here](#).

## Skilling Queenslanders for Work – S

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a suite of skills and training programs supporting Queenslanders to gain the skills, qualifications and experience needed to enter and stay in the workforce, and includes the Work Start Incentive Program which is specifically for employers.

### Program offering

Work Start provides a one-off incentive payment of \$10,000 to private sector employers who employ a participant from a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program in a traineeship or apprenticeship.

### Who can apply

Private sector employers

[More information](#)

[Training information for employers](#)

Alternatively call Training and Skills on 1300 369 935.



## Education Institutions

### Central Queensland University (CQU) – Noosa Campus

CQU, Australia's largest regional university has a campus in Noosa offering a range of undergraduate and post graduate programs, including nursing, education, science, creative industries and digital media.

The Noosa campus boasts clinical nursing laboratories, library and student resource centre facilities, and collaborative learning spaces and is home to the Learning and Teaching Education Research Centre.

[More information](#)

### University of the Sunshine Coast (USC)

The University of the Sunshine Coast offers a range of graduate and post graduate degree programs that include business, IT and tourism, health, nursing and sports science, creative industries, design and communications.

USC operates a Noosa campus which offers a number of business courses. The Tertiary Preparation Pathway program is also offered at USC Noosa.

USC has a strong focus on research and innovation, finding solutions to real world problems.

USC's researchers collaborate with local, national and international governments, institutions and industries to deliver innovative, high-quality research that has real impact in areas such as sustainability and the environment; agriculture and aquaculture; medical and health sciences.

USC has amassed and continues to grow a range of latest technologies and hardware including the Immerse Studio.

[More information](#)

### Work Integrated Learning Program

The University also work closely with business and industry to develop the local economy and offers businesses the opportunity to engage interns through their Work Integrated Learning Program.

#### Program offering:

This program is an intern program that allows employers to host a student, in a related field of study, as an additional resource on a project at no cost. The employer provides valuable work experience while benefiting from the additional expertise.

#### Who can apply

Local businesses

[More information](#)

### TAFE Queensland East Coast

TAFE Queensland East Coast is the major vocational education provider for the Sunshine Coast funded by the Queensland government. Campuses on the Sunshine Coast are in Nambour, Mooloolaba and Maroochydore. Certificate and Diploma qualifications in a wide range of areas, including apprenticeship and trainee options. University pathways also available.

[More information](#)

# 8

## Procurement

Local, State and Federal Governments are looking to ensure that local and regional economies benefit from government spending. The programs identified in this section will help businesses to better understand government procurement policies and processes and similarly major private sector procurement processes.

### Industry Capability Network – Gateway - F

ICN is a business network that introduces Australian businesses to projects large and small. The ICN Gateway is a powerful online tool that connects suppliers to major projects in Australia and overseas.

#### Program offering

This innovative industry matchmaker offers a new source for suppliers and a sophisticated search service for project managers. It offers a new business source for suppliers and a sophisticated search service for project managers.

#### Who can apply

Businesses looking to secure contracts are encouraged to register for free on the ICN Gateway.

[More information](#)

### Australian Government Procurement Information - F

Austender is the Australian Government's centralised publication of government business opportunities, annual procurement plans, multi-use lists and contracts awarded. Businesses are able to register their area of interest for notification of relevant tenders.

#### Who can apply

Businesses looking to secure Federal Government tenders and contracts are encouraged to attend.

[More information](#)

### Tendering for Government Business Workshops - S

This program is delivered by the Department of State Development to assist existing and potential suppliers to increase their knowledge and understanding of Queensland government tender process.

#### Program offering

A program of workshops that helps suppliers maximise their chances of winning government work.

#### Who can apply

Businesses looking to secure Queensland government tenders and contracts are encouraged to attend.

[More information](#)

### Queensland Government Procurement Information - S

Supplying to the Queensland Government.

[More information](#)

Queensland Government tendering opportunities

- **QTenders:** Tenders for goods and service.
- **Etender:** Tenders for construction and maintenance of Queensland government projects.
- **Building, Construction and Maintenance Services:** For companies able to provide building services less than \$500,000 to government, register [here](#).

### 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Opportunities - S

Find out what business opportunities are available through the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

[More information](#)

# 9

## Government representatives

### Local government - Noosa Shire

Tony Wellington  
Mayor  
Ph: 07 5329 6100

Frank Wilkie  
Deputy Mayor  
Ph: 07 5329 6103

Jess Glasgow  
Councillor  
Ph: 07 5329 6114

Ingrid Jackson  
Councillor  
Ph: 07 5329 6115

Joe Jurisevic  
Councillor  
Ph: 07 5329 6106

Frank Pardon  
Councillor  
Ph: 07 5329 6102

Brian Stockwell  
Councillor  
Ph: 07 5329 6120



### Federal Member for Wide Bay

Hon Llew O'Brien  
319 Kent Street  
Maryborough, QLD, 4650  
Telephone: (07) 4121 2936

#### [Website](#)

Three Queensland Government electoral districts span Noosa Shire. The Noosa electorate covers the coastal regions from Boreen Point to Peregrin Beach. The Gympie electorate includes Ring Tail Creek, Cootharaba, Pomona, Cooran and Kin Kin, while Cooroy, Black Mountain, Ridgewood and Federal sit in the Nicklin electorate.

### State Member for Noosa

Mr Glen Elmes  
Suite CB05, Noosa Civic  
28 Eenie Creek Road  
NOOSAVILLE QLD 4566  
Phone: (07) 5319 3100  
Email: Noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au

#### [Website](#)

### State Member for Gympie

Mr Anthony (Tony) Perrett  
Electorate Office Postal Address  
58 Channon St  
GYMPIE QLD 4570  
Phone: (07) 5329 5100  
Email: Gympie@parliament.qld.gov.au

#### [Website](#)

### State Member for Nicklin

Hon Peter Wellington  
Electorate Office Postal Address  
PO Box 265nn  
NAMBOUR QLD 4560  
Phone: (07) 5406 4100  
Email: Nicklin@parliament.qld.gov.au

#### [Website](#)

## Local business associations

Business Associations provide a variety of support services for local businesses including: networking, skill development, compliance, marketing and business planning and advocacy services.

[Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland – Noosa](#)

[CleanTech Industries – Sunshine Coast](#)

[Cooroy Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Country Noosa](#)

[Food & Agribusiness Network](#)

[Hastings St Association](#)

[Innovate Noosa](#)

[Noosa Business Group](#)

[Noosa Creative Precinct](#)

[Noosa Junction Association](#)

[Noosaville Business Association](#)

[Peregrin Beach Business Association](#)

[Sunshine Coast Business Council](#)

[Sunshine Coast Creative Alliance](#)

[Sunshine Coast Business Women's Network](#)

[Tewantin Traders Association](#)

[Tourism Noosa](#)

## Useful Websites

### Business Research

[Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

[Business Research Resources](#)

[Economist Intelligence Unit](#)

[Grant Finder](#)

[Industry and Consumer Trends Research](#)

[KPMG Demographics](#)

[QLD Government Statistician's Office](#)

[Regional Australia Institute](#)

[National Economic Indicators Series](#)

[Queensland Government Data](#)

[Industry Monitor](#)

[Office of the Chief Economist](#)

### General Business Information

[Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)

[Australian Competition and Consumer Commission](#)

[Australian Industry Group](#)

[Australian Securities and Investment Commission – Small Business Hub](#)

[Council of Small Business Australia](#)

[Fair Work Commission](#)

[Family Business Association](#)

[Franchise Council of Australia](#)

[IP Australia \(Intellectual Property\)](#)

[National Broadband Network](#)

[Regional Development Australia](#)

[Smart Company](#)

[Startup Smart](#)

[Workcover](#)

[Australian Taxation Office](#)

[Office of Fair Trading](#)

[Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise](#)

[Ombudsman](#)

[Selfstart](#)

# 10

## Key

### Industry Information

[Agribusiness Association of Australia](#)  
[Food Innovation Australia](#)  
[Agriculture Industry Associations](#)  
[Department of Agriculture and Fisheries](#)  
[Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance](#)  
[DealFlow](#)  
[Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation](#)  
[Creative Enterprise Australia](#)  
[Regional Arts Development Fund](#)  
[Sunshine Coast Destination Limited](#)  
[Tourism and Events Queensland](#)  
[Tourism Pathways](#)  
[Tourism Portal](#)  
[Tourism Grants](#)  
[Health and Wellness Industry Associations](#)  
[Environmental Industries Associations](#)  
[Retail Industry Associations](#)  
[Schools for Social Enterprise](#)  
[Social Traders](#)  
[Coding from Beach Meetup](#)  
[Franchising Industry Associations](#)  
[Startup Aus](#)  
[Startup Catalyst](#)

### Export

[Austrade](#)  
[Export Council of Australia](#)  
[Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Sustainability](#)  
[Business Recycling Information](#)  
[Department of Energy and Water Supply](#)  
[Eco Efficiency Group](#)  
[Energex](#)  
[Ergon Energy](#)

### Venture Capital, Angel Investors, Crowd Funding

[Brisbane Angels \(Investors\)](#)  
[Australian Investment Network](#)  
[Business Angels](#)  
[List of Venture Capital Limited Partnerships](#)  
[List of Early Stage Venture Capital Limited Partnerships](#)  
[Crowd Funding](#)  
[Popular Crowd Funding Web Sites](#)

### L – Local Government Area Programs

Business Incubators  
Coworking Spaces and Accelerators  
Business Mentoring Noosa  
Digital Networks and Information  
Tourism Noosa Limited  
Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Education Institutions  
Innovate Noosa

### S – State Government Programs

[www.business.qld.gov.au](#)  
Business Planning Kits  
Workplace Health and Safety Small Business Program  
Mentoring for Growth  
Small Business Solutions  
Go Digital Queensland  
Advance Queensland Programs  
Tendering for Government Business Workshops  
Queensland Government Procurement Information  
Trade & Investment Queensland  
School to Trade Pathway Incentive  
Skilling Queenslanders for Work  
Queensland Government Procurement Information  
Tendering for Government Business Workshops  
2018 Commonwealth Games Business Opportunities  
Office of Small Business Programs  
Digital Scorecard  
Accelerate Small Business Grants  
Small Business Entrepreneur Grants  
Made in QLD

### F – Federal Government Programs

[www.business.gov.au](#)  
Business Planning Portal  
Australian Business Account  
Australian Business Licence & Information Service  
Entrepreneur's Programme  
Digital Business Kits  
Research & Development Tax Incentive  
Australian Institute of Commercialisation  
National Innovation & Science Agenda  
TradeStart Program  
Export Finance Insurance Corporation  
Export Market Development Grant  
[Jobactive.gov.au](#)  
Apprenticeships and Traineeships Program  
Industry Capacity Network Gateway  
Australian Government Procurement Information  
SelfStart  
Youth JobsPath  
New Enterprise Incentive Scheme

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Economic Development

<https://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/business>

General enquiries: 8.15am – 5.00pm Monday – Friday  
(excluding public holidays)

By telephone: 07 5329 6500

By email: [economicdevelopment@noosa.qld.gov.au](mailto:economicdevelopment@noosa.qld.gov.au)

Street Address: 9 Pelican St, TEWANTIN

Postal Address: PO Box 141 TEWANTIN 4565

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Disclaimer: This toolkit has been developed by Noosa Shire Council's Economic Development Unit. Information contained in this document was current at the time of publication and based on information publicly available at that time. This document is an information guide and Council does not endorse any of the programs included. Council or its officers accept no responsibility for any loss occasioned to any person or business acting in reliance upon any material contained in this document.

