

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mrs. Finocchiaro to the Minister for Business and Innovation

Small Business**1. How many businesses in the Territory are small businesses?**

As at June 2017 (latest data available), there were 13 782 small businesses in the Territory. A small business is classified as a business with 0-19 employees.

2. How many small businesses were there in the Territory in 2015, 2016, and 2017?

There were 13 582 small business in June 2015; 13 630 in June 2016; and 13 782 in June 2017.

3. What resources does Budget 2018-19 dedicate to supporting small business?

Direct grant funding available for small businesses in 2018-19, through the following programs administered by the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation (DTBI):

- Business Growth
- Smarter Business Solutions
- Aboriginal Business Development Program
- Biz Secure
- First Homebuyer Home Renovation Grant (closes on 30 September 2018)
- Business Innovation
- Regional Economic Development Fund, and
- Trade Support Scheme.

DTBI is committed to skilling the Territory's workforce to do the jobs of today and in the future. The Skilling Territorians incentives and grants are available to support skilling of the workforce to meet small business needs include:

- Apprentice/Trainee Training Program which includes direct employer incentives, assistance with the cost of training, access to mentors to support both business and individuals through the Australian Apprenticeships Services Network
- Aboriginal Workforce Programs
- Industry Buildskills Program upskill existing workers where there has been legislation or technology changes
- Pre-employment Program, and
- Equity Program.

The creation of the Buy Local Industry Advocate (the Advocate) is to ensure a large proportion of the NT Government procurement is retained within and delivers benefits for the Territory economy and community. The Advocate provides an independent advocacy function in relation to buy local procurement matters to government on behalf of local industry.

4. How does this compare to Budget 2016-17 and 2017-18?

In 2017-18, direct grant funding available to small businesses, through the following programs administered by DTBI:

- Business Growth
- Smarter Business Solutions
- Aboriginal Business Development Program
- Biz Secure
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Business Readiness Program (a one year program funded by the Department of Health)
- Business Innovation
- Regional Aboriginal Economic Development Fund
- 8th Indigenous Economic Development Forum (October 2017). DTBI showcased 53 Aboriginal businesses and 133 Aboriginal business participation
- Trade Support Scheme; 36 applications approved, 41 businesses assisted, to undertake export marketing activities
- Apprentice/Trainee Training Program includes direct employer incentives, assistance with the cost of training, access to mentors to support both business and individuals through the Australian Apprenticeships Services Network
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- Equity Program.

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- Industry Buildskills Program to upskill existing workers where there has been legislation or technology change
- Pre-employment Program, and
- Equity Program.

In 2016-17 and 2017-18, the following one-off economic stimulus programs were targeted at NT small businesses:

a) Home Improvement Scheme

- Budget for 2016-17: \$12.5 million; and for 2017-18: \$15 million

b) First Home Owner Home Renovation Grant

- Budget for 2016-17: \$2.3 million; and for 2017-18: \$5 million

5. How many small businesses have 'gone under' in the last financial year?

DTBI does not have access to this information, and businesses are not required to register or report closures to DTBI.

6. How many small businesses were started in the last financial year?

In 2016-17, there were a total of 1919 new business entries in the NT. However, no breakdown of business size is available.

7. How do these numbers compare to 2015, 2016 and 2017?

Total number of business entries over the last three years is outlined below, however, no breakdown of business size is available:

- a) 1919 in 2014-15
- b) 2012 in 2015-16
- c) 1991 in 2016-17, and
- d) the number of business entries for 2017-18 will be available next financial year.

8. How many staff in the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation work directly to support small business?

DTBI's Business and Innovation NT division includes 24 dedicated Small Business Champions (SBC). Another five employees work directly to support small businesses to innovate and grow their businesses, and a further five process small business grants.

Six Regional Workforce Training Coordinators provide information and support employers' access to training to develop their local workforce. Officers are located in Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs and service the surrounding communities.

9. How many work directly with small business?

SBC and Business Innovation teams are located in Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. The teams:

- o support businesses to Start.Run.Grow, survive and innovate through business support services and programs to boost business performance, profitability and sustainability
- o support businesses through challenging times with economic stimulus and other targeted grant programs
- o conduct regular business 'Upskills Workshops' on identified business needs
- o connect businesses to all layers of government, including support and assistance to navigate regulations and processes to expedite business activity
- o support the growth of a range of industry sectors that either directly or indirectly support opportunities
- o provide information and support employer access to training to develop their local workforce

- assist with direct funding opportunities to support growing and emerging industry identified in the NT Government's Economic Development Framework
- through the Innovator in Residence program, assist small and medium enterprises throughout the NT to accelerate commercialisation potential through proactive mentoring and support; as well as help connect entrepreneurs to investors, specialist advisors and service providers
- through the Business Innovation Support Initiatives (BISI), assist businesses to innovate and grow, including provision of grant funding to commercialise innovations, and
- host, sponsor and/or provide in-kind support for over 60 Mastering Innovation NT events designed to support small businesses to successfully enter and draw value from the NT innovation ecosystem.

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10. How many businesses are Business Champions working with this year?

The SBC team proactively engage with, and respond to enquiries from, small businesses. SBC regularly visit urban, rural and remote regions to meet with small businesses one-on-one.

SBC team record their engagement through business 'Snapshots'. A Snapshot is a series of questions to gather businesses confidence; discuss any impediments to businesses as well determine any business support required through DTBI's suite of business support programs and services.

It should be noted this does not constitute the full range of business engagement. The number of snapshots for 2018-19 will be available next financial year.

11. How does this compare to last year?

In 2017-18, the SBC team conducted 1901 Business 'Snapshots'.

12. Is the Small Business Roundtable still in existence?

Yes, Small Business Round Tables continue to be regularly held across the NT.

13. Please provide an update on the actions and outcomes of the Small Business Roundtables.

In 2017-18, there were nine Small Business Round Tables meetings held. Details and key focus areas of each meeting are at **Attachment A**.

Matters raised at the meetings are actioned by the relevant Minister's office with support from the SBC team as required.

14. What was the median attendance at Small Business Round Table events across the Territory?

In 2017-18, a total of 80 businesses were represented at nine Small Business Round Table meetings. This is an average of nine businesses represented at each meeting.

ATTACHMENT A

Small Business Round Tables – Details and Key Focus Areas

- 1. Yots Greek Taverna, Darwin held on 28 June 2018**
 - Key focus: construction industry
- 2. Bluestone Motor Inn, Tennant Creek held on 18 May 2018**
 - Key focus: procurement and tenders, tourism, employment and retention strategy
- 3. Karama Tavern - Karama held on 26 April 2018**
 - Key focus: women in business
- 4. Vibe Hotel - Zealander Room, Darwin held on 26 March 2018**
 - Key focus: CBD and waterfront businesses
- 5. OKA Malaysian and Chinese Cuisine, Darwin held on 20 December 2017**
 - Key focus: opportunities stemming from an increase in Chinese visitors for tourism and hospitality businesses
- 6. Barrel & Cruse Bistro, Giles Street Katherine held on 6 December 2017**
 - Key focus: tourism and retail and issues in the town affecting business
- 7. Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation, Nhulunbuy held on 4 October 2017**
 - Key focus: Aboriginal businesses and local issues
- 8. Club Tropical Resort, Darwin held on 29 September 2017**
 - Key focus: retail and local businesses based in the Casuarina area
- 9. Alice Springs Quest Hotel, Alice Spring held on 5 July 2017**
 - Key focus: tourism and retail