

This funding summary is specifically for grants and funding available to agricultural producers in Southern Queensland. There are many other industry support programs available that offer low interest loans and/or advisory services particularly through the following areas:

- Advance Queensland: <https://advance.qld.gov.au/>
- QRIDA: <https://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/>

Business Growth Fund

- Up to \$50,000 (plus GST) plus \$25k cash from your business
- Expected business growth of at least 20% over the next 2 years
- Production equipment to achieve the predicted growth demand
- Applications open 11/5/21
- Process:
 - Up front mentoring session by a Dept of Employment, small business and training staff member
 - Complete and submit application
 - Provide a “pitch” to a panel of business experts and departmental executives
 - The Business Growth Fund program : <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/starting-business/advice-support/grants/growth-fund>

Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant - Funding: up to \$10,000

- Areas: All areas in Queensland except South-East Queensland (Brisbane, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Noosa, Redlands, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba Regional Council areas).
- Eligibility:
 - have been impacted by covid-19 and demonstrate that your business revenue has had a minimum 30% decline since 23 March 2020 over a minimum 1-month period due to the onset and management of COVID-19
 - employ staff and have fewer than 20 employees
 - have a valid ABN and be registered for GST and is based in Queensland
 - Annual turnover over \$75,000 for the last financial year and payroll of less than \$1.3 million
- Eligible items include: financial, legal or other professional advice to support business sustainability and diversification, marketing and communication activities (eg. new website), digital training, capital costs associated with remaining COVID-safe (amenities, meal rooms etc), specialised digital equipment or software or meeting business expenses including utility expenses and rent.
- Further information: <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/Small-Business-COVID19-Adaption-Grant-Program-QLD>

For further information contact:

Bronwyn Ford, Senior Agribusiness Development Officer, DAF – 0439 465 047 or email: Bronwyn.Ford@daf.qld.gov.au

Business Basics Grant Program

- Opens 31/5/21 – closes 30/6/21
- up-front grant payment of \$5,000 (excluding GST).
- Activities can include:
 - Training and coaching: Business development, marketing, human resources or business planning topics, training or coaching
 - Website build or upgrades (including website refresh)
 - Adding e-commerce - Developing new website content
 - Professional business advice: Business plans, strategic marketing services, strategic marketing plans including search engine optimisation advice
 - Business continuity and succession: business continuity or succession plans, cybersafety training and tools
- Further information: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/starting-business/advice-support/grants/business-basics-grant>

Back to Work in Agriculture Incentive Scheme - Payments of up to \$1500

- The funding is to assist with accommodation and transport costs associated with travelling and staying in remote locations.
- Employment can be with different eligible employers, physical locations or farms in the eligible regions.
- Eligibility:
 - Be a permanent resident of Australia and your principal place of residence is in Queensland;
 - Have relocated from your usual place of residence: being the address in Queensland where you live as an owner, tenant or boarder, or where you reside with your family;
 - Have worked in paid employment in an eligible region for an eligible employer for 2 consecutive weeks (for the initial payment) and an additional 6 consecutive weeks (for the second and final payment) in one of the following roles
 - on-farm planting, maintenance, harvest, grading or packing of crops
 - off-farm grading or packing of horticultural fresh produce
 - on-farm breeding and caring of livestock (including shearing and aquaculture activities)
 - time-critical primary food processing of fresh, perishable produce
- Further information: <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/strategic-direction/economic-recovery-package-queensland-producers/back-to-work-in-agriculture-incentive-scheme>

Ag-move: Relocation assistance to take up short-term agricultural work

- From 5 May 2021 - Up to \$6000 for Australians
 - relocation costs covered up to \$2000 after completing 40 hours of work in at least two weeks.
 - a further \$4000 of relocation costs after completing 120 hours of work in at least four weeks.

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- From 5th May 2021 - Up to \$2000 for temporary visa holders
 - with general working rights like working holiday makers and some international students.
 - up to \$650 for relocation costs after completing 40 hours of work in at least two weeks.
 - Up to a further \$1350 for relocation costs after completing 120 hours of work in at least four weeks.
- Further information: or ph: 1800 062 332

Back to Work Employment Package – Up to \$20,000

Support payments are available to employers who hire a previously unemployed Queenslanders who has experienced a minimum period of unemployment directly prior to commencing work with them.

- The amount of payment offered varies depending on the type of worker employed:
 - job seeker unemployed for between 4 - 52 weeks - \$10,000
 - job seeker unemployed for 52 weeks or more - \$15,000
 - youth (aged 15-24 years) - \$20,000
- “Regional package”: Wide Bay Burnett, North Queensland, Far North Queensland, Mackay/Whitsunday, Central Queensland, North West Queensland and South West Queensland
- “SEQ package”: Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Scenic Rim and Somerset
- Criteria:
 - Ongoing paid full-time (at least 35 hours per week on average) or
 - Ongoing paid part-time (at least 20 hours per week on average) or
 - For a person with a disability who has a workplace assessment to work between 8 and 20 hours per week, hours consistent with their approved benchmark, on average or
 - A registered and eligible Queensland full-time or part-time apprenticeship
- For further information: www.backtowork.initiatives.qld.gov.au/for-employers/employer-support-payment/

Work Start Incentives QLD

- Work Start Incentives provide Queensland employers with an incentive payment if they employ an eligible trainee or apprentice.
- Funding up to \$10,000
- Work Start Incentives provides employers that are ineligible for the Back to Work program with one-off payments when they employ eligible trainees or apprentices. The trainee or apprentice must have previously participated in a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.
- Further information: <https://desbt.qld.gov.au/training/employers/funding/sqw#collapse-2-8482>

Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy

The subsidy will provide support in the first three years of an Australian Apprenticeship as follows:

- 75 % of the first year award wage

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- 50 % of the second year award wage
- 25 % of the third year award wage.

An employer will be eligible for the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy for one eligible Australian Apprentice.

Further Information: ph:1300 363 831 or email info@apprenticeshipsupport.com.au

Drought Relief

The following horticultural growing areas in Southern Queensland are currently drought declared: Southern Downs, Somerset, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim, Ipswich, Logan, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Gympie, Logan, Redlands, Noosa, Fraser Coast, Bundaberg, Goondiwindi, Western Downs, Toowoomba, South Burnett, North Burnett, Gympie and Balonne.

Farm Household Allowance (Centrelink)

- Funding \$555/fortnight (individual) for up to four years plus supplement twice a year.
- Additionally up to \$4000 for study, training, financial planning or other professional service
- Fine print – under \$5million in net assets (assets after debt), amount depends on taxable income. Other benefits include a health care card. Must be willing to enter a “financial improvement plan with Centrelink.
- Further Information: Rural Financial Counsellor – Derek Abberfield mob: 0428 755 708 email: derk.abberfield@rfcssq.org.au

Queensland Rural and Industry Authority (QRIDA)

- Low interest Sustainability Loans up to \$1.3 million can be used for a variety of drought-related infrastructure that can improve the long term productivity such as de-silting dams, purchasing equipment for feeding and fodder production, adding water points and water infrastructure to exclusion fencing.
- Existing loan clients can talk with QRIDA about possible repayment options to alleviate financial pressure.
- Restructuring farm debt—QRIDA has a free advisory service to access independent financial experts to analyse your farm business and provide you with restructuring options for your farm debt.
- For further information visit: [Drought Support | Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority \(qrda.qld.gov.au\)](#) or call 1800 623 946.

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