Welcome to Queensland

Queensland Supporting Your Business.

Great state. Great opportunity.
Congratulations on choosing Queensland!

Known as the Sunshine State, Queensland is abound with natural attractions including pristine beaches and lush, tropical rainforests. The state is also rich in culture, providing a diverse mix of nationalities and an eclectic mix of arts, cultural, community and sporting events.

Queensland is a great place to work, live and play.

When you received your Australian visa, you may have been provided with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection booklet, *Beginning a Life in Australia* which is produced for all prospective and newly arrived migrants to Australia. The booklet is also published online. Now that you are in Queensland, we would like to provide you with some more general information about the State to help you get settled in both your personal and professional life here.
About Queensland

Founded in June 1859, the State gained its namesake in honour of England’s Queen Victoria. It is the second largest geographical mass in Australia and the third most populous state. Brisbane is the capital city, located in Queensland’s South-East corner. Queensland’s economy is primarily based on agriculture and mining, and more recently the state has developed burgeoning tourism, construction and education industries.

The State’s agricultural industry includes fruit and vegetable crops such as bananas and pineapples, beef cattle and sugar, grains and cotton. Queensland’s mining industry includes mineral extraction of coal, bauxite, silver, lead, gold, zinc and copper, and more recently Queensland has been establishing its coal seam gas industry. In tourism, visitors to the State experience attractions such as the world heritage listed Great Barrier Reef, its world-renowned beach strips such as the Gold and Sunshine Coast, and the state’s vast outback region. Queensland is also home to a leading academic community and is a regular host of international students who call Queensland home as they study a range of disciplines.

There is significant variation in the State’s climate due to its large size. More generally, Queensland has become known as the Sunshine State due to its vast amount of annual sunshine and popular outdoor lifestyle. In the northern regions, residents typically experience a monsoonal wet season during summer with warm temperate conditions along the coastline, and warm dry winters. South East Queensland’s weather usually includes warm humid summers and mild and dry winters.

The western regions are typically hot and dry during the summer months, with the north western regions experiencing a mild dry winter, and the state’s south western region experiencing a typically cold and dry winter.
Emergency services

It is important to be aware that if you are in an emergency in Queensland, or anywhere in Australia, you should telephone 000 for:

- Police
- Ambulance
- Fire brigade

Calls to 000 (triple zero) are free. Be prepared to say your name, where you are, the telephone number you are calling from and the type of service you need. If you cannot speak English, first tell the operator what kind of help you need – say “Police”, “Ambulance” or “Fire” – and then say your language. You will be connected to an interpreter, so do not hang up. The interpreter will then help you talk to the police, ambulance or fire service.

If you are using a home telephone, the emergency services can find your location automatically while the phone is being used, so stay on the phone. More information is available about the 000 (triple zero) service (including languages other than English).
Road safety, rules, fines and tolls

Australians drive on the left side of the road. All drivers must follow road rules, drive a registered and insured vehicle and carry their driver’s licence with them at all times.

Some Australian road rules may be different from those in your home country. Queensland police actively enforce laws which prohibit driving if you have been drinking alcohol or talking on a hand-held mobile phone. Driving above the speed limit is also illegal as is hitchhiking or picking up hitchhikers in your vehicle.

For your safety make sure you plan your trips well, take supplies that you may need with you, rest frequently and leave yourself lots of time to get to your destination.

Make sure you know about road safety, fines and tolls in Queensland and follow the road rules at all times.
In Queensland, you must carry your licence with you when you are driving and show it to a police officer if asked. However, if you hold an open-class licence and are driving a vehicle or riding a motorbike, you may be given 48 hours to present your licence at a police station.

Your licence has information about you, which vehicles you can drive and the conditions you must follow while driving.

The Queensland Transport website provides all the important information you need to know about Queensland licences or using a non-Queensland driver's licence to drive in Queensland.
All motor vehicles driven on Queensland roads must be registered. There is a range of registration information online, including registering a vehicle, registration costs and how to pay them.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is responsible for registration and licensing in Queensland and offer online services for licensing and registration including payment facilities, change of details such as name and address and practising the road rules test.
Transport

Queensland offers both large modern, cosmopolitan cities and laid-back regional towns across a stunning and diverse landscape that includes national parks, rainforests, coral reefs and some of the world’s most beautiful beaches.

Getting around Queensland is easy and trouble free. Our comprehensive transport network and motorway system will enable you to explore Queensland and its attractions with ease. Most of South East Queensland is serviced by buses, trains and ferries on the Translink network.

Visit the Translink website for timetables, maps, and other useful information for planning your travel around South East Queensland. The Queensland Government’s Q-Connect initiative provides public transport services that connects regional towns throughout Queensland.

Find out more about public transport including fares, access for mobility impaired, taxis and school transport. For longer distance, Queensland caters well to travellers, with a choice of international and domestic airports located throughout the State. International airports are located in Brisbane, Cairns and the Gold Coast.

For more information about air travel to, and around, Queensland including maps and travel times, you can visit the Queensland Holidays website.
Childcare and education

In Queensland, early childhood education and care services deliver educational programs and child care for children from birth to 12 years old.

You can use this search facility to find your nearest approved kindergarten program or a childcare provider of your choice (e.g. long day care, family day care, school age care, limited hours care, etc).

If you have school age children and need to enrol them in school in Queensland you can find a school that suits you and your child by searching the schools directory. In Queensland, schooling from year 1 is compulsory. The Prep Year program is available to children in the year before they start primary school and is not compulsory.

If you have older children or family members who are interested in doing additional study or learning English, you can find out more about the universities, TAFE, vocational education and training and other education facilities in Queensland.
Health and wellbeing

Staying healthy is more than just being physically fit. It involves leading a balanced lifestyle that makes you happy. A big part of staying healthy involves eating healthy foods and exercising for both fitness and relaxation.

High quality medical and health services are available throughout Queensland and a great deal of information is available on the range of services in the State including hospitals, health insurance, children’s health and staying healthy.
Community groups

When you first arrive in Queensland and once you settle, you might be interested in getting in touch with some of the local community groups. Community groups help people get together for a common purpose or to share an interest. The group may provide support for group members, or for others in their local community. There are all kinds of community groups in Queensland, including multicultural, sport and recreation and many more.

Cultural Diversity Queensland publishes the Queensland Multicultural Resource Directory which provides a comprehensive listing of more than 1500 key organisations with an ethnic community focus in Queensland including:

- ethnic media outlets and schools
- community, non-government and government organisations and agencies
- Consuls
- migrant service organisations
- bilateral business associations
- interstate multicultural offices.

You can search the directory online or download the directory to find groups that may be of interest to you.
Interested in finding a place to buy or rent in Queensland? There is information available about choosing what’s right for you and your family.

**Buying/renting a home**

Buying a home in Queensland may differ from the ways in which you could purchase property in your home country. It might be useful to research **buying a home in Queensland** so you understand what to do before you buy, how to appoint an agent, get finance, select a suitable home, make an offer, manage the sale and settlement and pay off your mortgage.

If you are interested in finding a place to **rent in Queensland** there is information available about choosing rental accommodation that’s right for you and your family, as well as what to do when applying for a rental property.
Recreational areas and facilities, sports, arts, events, school holiday activities

There is so much to see and do in Queensland and with the great weather and lifestyle, there is plenty of opportunity to get involved in recreational activities, sporting events, enjoy the arts and participate in school holiday activities. You can find out about all these activities [here](#).

*There is so much to see and do in Queensland with its great weather and lifestyle.*
Climate and weather

The Bureau of Meteorology website provides access to weather forecasts, severe weather warnings, observations, flood information, marine and high seas forecasts and climate information. Products include weather charts, satellite photos, radar pictures and climate maps.

The Bureau also has responsibility for compiling and providing comprehensive water information across Australia. You can also find out more about the climate and weather in Queensland including storm warning information.
Congratulations on choosing Queensland to invest in, or establish your business! As you will know by now, Queensland offers a range of business advantages including a stable economy, supportive government, and a solid growth forecast. Queensland’s low operating costs, highly skilled workforce and strategic Asia-Pacific location create an attractive investment destination.

Starting up and running a business in Queensland is an exciting prospect and rewarding experience, and there are many resources available to assist you.

To get yourself on the right track before you start, you should understand:

- which business structure is best for you
- licensing, permit or registration requirements
- how to register a trademark or domain name
- how to employ and pay your staff
- your taxation requirements
- the support that may be available to your business.

The Guide to operating a business in Queensland explains what you need to know before you start your business, as well as who to contact if you have any questions.

The Queensland Government’s Business and Industry portal is an extensive resource that can direct you through a range of topics. These are detailed below.
Starting a business requires careful planning and preparation. Information, training and advice is readily available on all aspects of business management such as business planning, resource and risk management, budgeting and decision making.

Starting a business in a location that is convenient and accessible to your customers will give it a much greater chance of succeeding. However, location may not be as important if you are starting a business that is home or internet-based.

When you start a business you are required to meet certain legal requirements. To comply with the law you may need specific licences, permits and registrations. You will also need to register your business name with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and register your business for taxation purposes with the Australian Taxation Office.

Professional advice is essential when starting a business. Enlist the help of business advisers such as accountants, financial advisers, insurance brokers, bankers and solicitors. They can advise you on all the issues above that relate to starting a business, how to legally structure your business (sole trader, partnership, company etc.) and on other important legal, financial, and tax matters.

You can e-mail the business support team at the Queensland Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and The Commonwealth Games for further advice on how to start a business.
Running a business

The Queensland Government Business and Industry portal provides an overview of some of the things you need to consider when running a business in Queensland and employing people including:

› Making and managing money
› Marketing and promotion
› Sales
› Customer service
› Technology

There is a range of support, tools and grants available for business and industry in Queensland that can help you navigate your way through the processes of licensing, business planning and market research. The Queensland, Australian and local governments offer funding programs, often in the form of grants, and business support services to help new and established businesses grow and succeed.

Government grants can help you develop your business through activities such as expansion, commercialisation, research and development, innovation and exporting. This economic support is backed up by:

› Advisory and mentoring services
› Workshops and seminars
› General and industry specific training
› Networking opportunities
› Subsidised products, such as business planning tools

A guide is available that explains how to access government funding and business support, apply for grants, and use government services to help your business thrive.

Once you and your business are established in Queensland, you can learn more about ways to prepare for and help your business grow. You may also be interested to learn more about some of the Industry Investment Opportunities or Regional Investment Opportunities that the State of Queensland has to offer.

An events calendar is available and is regularly updated with business events which are organised, sponsored or endorsed by Queensland Government departments and agencies, including statutory authorities, that are aimed at providing advice and assistance to businesses.
Local governments

Once you are settled in Queensland, you may find your local council can provide further support for you and your family. The Queensland Local Government Directory provides contact details and locality maps for Queensland’s 73 local governments. Some of the information that local governments can provide in relation to establishing a business in their area includes information about planning approvals, licence requirements, approvals and permits, services for businesses and general information and assistance.

By searching the Queensland Local Government Directory you can access:

› contact details for all councils in Queensland
› locality and location maps of Local Government Areas
› details of council officers - Mayors and CEOs
› links to local laws in effect within councils
› local area population and housing statistics for most Queensland councils
› links to council websites to find further comprehensive information including council services, employment opportunities and details of events.
Business and industry associations

Business and Industry associations are usually not-for-profit organisations that support business in a specific industry. The A-Z guide introduces a range of business and industry associations that can help you to run your business in Queensland.

They may:
› give you information about your industry (i.e. how changes to legislation will affect your business)
› provide you with useful resources (i.e. information and programs to help you meet industry standards)
› run training and education programs
› organise seminars
› facilitate networking events
› manage mentoring programs
› connect you with other businesses in your industry
› arrange public relations or advertising activities to promote your industry
› organise advertising campaigns to educate or persuade the public about issues relevant to your industry
› lobby on behalf of your industry to influence government policy

These associations offer some information and services for free, but, in most cases, you need to become a member and pay a fee to access their full range of information, resources and services.

In many industries, becoming a member of the peak body can give your business credibility as your membership proves to customers that you have met strict criteria and have certain qualifications and experience.
Regional economic development groups

Throughout Queensland there are regional economic development groups that will facilitate connections between business, industry, community and government agencies to improve the lives of the people living within their regions and drive long term social and economic benefits for the region.

Some of the regional economic development groups in Queensland include:

- Brisbane Marketing
- Advance Cairns
- Townsville Enterprise
- Central Highlands Development Corporation
- Capricorn Enterprise
- Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited
- The Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation
- Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise
- Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone
- Cape York Sustainable Futures

You may wish to check if your local area has an economic development group that may be able to assist you with your business.
Trade & Investment Queensland works with partner agencies, industry organisations and international allies to promote better access to overseas markets and decision makers for Queensland companies.

Across the globe, you’ll find Trade & Investment Queensland’s representatives in 16 locations, and across the state, you’ll find us in major regional centres.

If you are an exporter, we will work closely with you to develop required skills, provide you with market intelligence and business connections, and offer in-market introductions through targeted trade missions.

Trade & Investment Queensland can also assist international companies to identify investment projects and opportunities including investment in existing projects. This could include resource, energy, construction, food and agriculture, and tourism projects.

Business and Skilled Migration Queensland is one of the units within Trade & Investment Queensland.
Business and Skilled Migration Queensland supported you in your application for nomination when you applied for your business visa and has developed this brochure to assist you in your settlement process in Queensland.

Should you require more information on finding relevant contacts in regard to your business, or if you would like to provide comments or suggestions about this ‘Welcome to Queensland’ brochure you can email Business and Skilled Migration Queensland or phone them on +61 7 3514 3013.

Alternatively, you can contact Business and Skilled Migration Queensland at:

www.migration.qld.gov.au
migration@qld.gov.au

Business and Skilled Migration Queensland
Trade & Investment Queensland
PO Box 12400 George Street
Brisbane QLD 4003

Great state. Great opportunity.