

## MEDIA RELEASE

Monday May 27, 2019

### **Adani backs Isaac small businesses with new scholarship fund.**

Small businesses in the Isaac region have the opportunity to build their skills and boost their strength thanks to Adani and Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3).

Launched this week, the Adani Small Business Scholarship Fund will support business owners to further their professional development, by providing \$500 per successful applicant to go towards the cost of attending a professional development class, forum or event of their choice.

Adani Mining CEO Lucas Dow said the new Scholarship Fund would help local businesses cover some of the costs of professional development, such as travel, registration fees or staff costs.

“Small business owners in regional Queensland are generally some of the most entrepreneurial as they often have to overcome issues that those in larger metro areas simply don’t face,” Mr Dow said.

“We’re really pleased to be able to support Isaac small businesses and help ensure they have the same opportunities for professional development, regardless of their physical location.”

With the support of the Local Buying Foundation, GW3 has established the Isaac Business Support Program (IBSP) which assists businesses in the western rural and resource communities to be successful and sustainable.

Part of the IBSP is that it provides a Business Support and Facilitation Officer based in the Isaac region who connects small businesses with a range of resources and support to address key local challenges.

Collectively, small business is Australia’s biggest employer and a healthy small business sector means a robust community.

GW3 CEO Garry Scanlan said GW3 was excited to be the strategic stakeholders with Adani to deliver this important opportunity to the Isaac region.

“Promoting small business will not only grow economic prosperity for the Isaac region, it will give small business owners the chance to strengthen their professional development skills, which will benefit them in the future,” Mr Scanlan said.

To apply for The Adani Small Business Scholarship, you must be a business in the Isaac region with less than 20 full-time employees. You must apply online and complete the GW3 Business Skills Self-Assessment tool.

If you are a successful applicant a GW3 Business Support and Facilitation Officer will discuss your choice of professional development and the scholarship criteria.

Applications for the scholarship are open from June 1, 2019 and you can apply via <http://www.greaterwhitsundayalliance.com.au/isaac-business-support-program> or by contacting GW3 Business Support and Facilitation Officers Prue Lonergan and Jessie Appleton on 0408064850/ 0419571411

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