



# QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE **ECONOMIC RECOVERY BID SUPPORT PROGRAM**



CAIRNS  
CONVENTION  
CENTRE

**As part of the Tourism Industry Reference Panel's Interim Action Plan, the Queensland Government has launched a \$7 million program dedicated to attracting business events to the three state-owned Convention Centres.**



The Queensland Government Convention and Exhibition Centre Economic Recovery Bid Support Program will boost the centres' competitiveness in securing national events and bring business travellers back to Queensland.

Events can apply for financial assistance of \$100 per in-person registered full program delegate for maximum of 1,000 delegates with the opportunity for events to increase this to \$120 per registered full program delegate if they do a multi-year deal.

## What events are eligible?

- The event must be a national association or corporate event
- Held across a minimum duration of three days.  
This may include events which comprise a welcome reception and /or workshops on Day 1, and at least two full conference days of a minimum of 7 hours duration each day (e.g. 9am to 4pm)
- Must be held before 30 June 2026
- The event must be contracted within 60 days from the Letter of Offer from the Convention Centre
- The event has been held nationally before with historical attendance data available
- Event organisers must be considering other destinations outside of Queensland (you will need to provide the list)
- The event must meet the following in-person delegate requirements (virtual attendees must not be included):

• Minimum in-person registered full program delegates each day	350
• Maximum number of delegates to receive incentive per event	1,000
• Minimum percentage of in-person registered full program delegates from outside Qld	50%

## What events will be given priority

Priority will be given to events which demonstrate:

- Economic benefits to Queensland including increased overnight visitor numbers and expenditure as a result of the event
- Extending visitation to Queensland through pre or post event touring, satellite meetings, field visits, partner programs
- Other additional benefits that the event will deliver (for example, jobs supported through the event)
- Events that fall into the following Priority Industry Sectors for Queensland:
  - Advanced manufacturing
  - Aerospace and Aviation
  - Agriculture and Food
  - Banking and Finance
  - Biofutures and Biomedical
  - Construction, Engineering and Property
  - Defence
  - Education
  - Environment, Sustainability and Resource Recovery
  - Health, Medical, Science and Research
  - Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications
  - Mining Equipment, Technology and Services
  - Renewable Energy
  - Retail
  - Transport and Logistics
  - Tourism, Entertainment, Screen and the Arts
  - Other industry sectors that align with Queensland's economic development may be considered.

## What events are not eligible?

- New or an inaugural event
- Events already contracted or confirmed, including multi-year contracted events
- Events already supported through other business event support programs such as:
  - Tourism and Events Queensland's (TEQ) National Business Events Program and Business Events Acquisition and Leveraging Fund;
  - Regional Tourism Organisation administered business event programs; and
  - Tourism Australia's Business Events Australia Bid Fund program and Business Events Boost Program

## Who will submit the application?

The Convention Centre will apply for funding on your behalf. We will work with you to get the information that is required to complete the application with the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS).

## How long will the application process take?

Once the completed application has been submitted with all required information, it will take up to three business days for the outcome to be advised.

## Can I still seek sponsorship from other non-government organisations or another Queensland Government Department?

Yes, you can seek other sponsorship opportunities, including from the Queensland Government. For example, you may still seek sponsorship through the [Queensland Government sponsorship portal](#).

## What can I spend the funding on?

Approved funding must be spent with Queensland-based businesses and may include:

- Venue hire costs
- Engagement of local Professional Conference Organiser or Destination Management Company
- Food and beverage supplies
- Theming
- Welcome to Country
- Local entertainment
- Local speakers and facilitators
- Audio Visual services
- Exhibition/stand building and production costs
- On-the-ground transportation
- Delegate materials such as lanyards, satchel, promotional material.

Approved funding is not to be used to off-set non-refundable venue hire deposits.

## Can the event be hybrid?

You will only receive funding for an in-person registered full program delegate attending an event at the Convention Centre. Payment does not apply for online delegates.

## What funding will I receive?

### Select one Queensland Convention Centre for a single event

- \$100 per in-person registered full program delegate attending an event to a maximum of \$100,000

### Select two Queensland Convention Centres over two years (can be the same Centre or two different Centres)

- YEAR 1 - \$100 per in-person registered full program delegate attending an event to a maximum of \$100,000
- YEAR 2 - \$120 per in-person registered full program delegate attending an event to a maximum of \$120,000

## When will I receive payment?

We will pay you funds once the event has been staged and final in-person registered full program delegates are confirmed.



## What happens if the Centre does not have dates available?

We strongly recommend you speak to the other Queensland Centres in the program to be eligible for the funding.

## What happens if my event is cancelled?

The funding is conditional upon the number of actual in-person registered full program delegates attending the event.

If an event is cancelled no funding payment will be made.

## What happens if I have to postpone my event due to COVID19 impacts?

The funding will be reallocated to the new date subject to availability. The event must be held before 30 June 2026.

## What if my numbers fall below 350?

The funding is conditional on you achieving 350 and above in-person registered full program delegates.

## What do I need to provide to you to receive the funding?

- The Queensland Government and the Convention Centres may publicise your event details, which may include delegate numbers and economic value of the event to Queensland.
- We may ask your delegates to be part of future research projects. We will let you know in advance if your event will be part of any research projects.
- Acknowledgment and announcement opportunities for the Minister, Assistant Minister or delegate in connection to the event.
- We will ask you for in-person registered full program delegate numbers 48 hours after the event and we may ask you to provide high-level details about the success of the event.
- We will also ask you for the postcode breakdown of your in-person registered full program delegates to show the 50% interstate visitation.
- We will ask you to provide evidence of event expenditure with local businesses (must be Queensland based) to the equivalent value of the funding provided.

## Who is counted in the final numbers?

Registered full program event delegates and exhibitors who are attending in person at the Convention Centre.

## Who is not counted in the final numbers?

- Event staff and contractors
- Speakers

## What is a Business Event?

An association conference, corporate and government meetings, incentive travel rewards programs and exhibitions.

## Contact



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