

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Small Business and Employment
Witness:	Danni Jarrett, Deputy Secretary, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
Committee Member:	Richard WELCH
Page/s of transcript:	2-3

Relevant text:

Richard WELCH: Minister, will Business Victoria be providing any face-to-face support or grants?

Natalie SULEYMAN: Just one moment. Through our programs – for instance, the Small Business Bus we do provide face-to-face advice. The Small Business Bus travels across every local government area providing that important material, and online, whether it is –

Richard WELCH: Are there any others other than the bus?

Natalie SULEYMAN: Just to add, Business Victoria provides workshops face to face as well.

Richard WELCH: How many of those will you be providing?

Natalie SULEYMAN: Just one moment. Thank you. I will allow the department to answer that question.

Danni JARRETT: Thank you, Minister. For the year 2025–26 – apologies. Just to give you –

Richard WELCH: I can take it on notice if need be.

Danni JARRETT: We will be running a number of events for small businesses across the state, where we are targeting participation from around 4000 businesses in different programs.

Richard WELCH: How many events will that be?

Danni JARRETT: Planning for those is underway. We may need to provide that information to you.

Richard WELCH: Yes, if you would. Thank you very much.

Initial Question asked - Will Small Business Victoria be providing any face-to-face support or grants?

Supplementary Question asked – how many events will that be?

Answer:

Face to face workshops are a core element of the Business Victoria Toolkits Program. Planning for delivery in 2025-26 is underway and planning levels are expected to be consistent with recent years. In the 2024-25 financial year to 30 April 2025, there were 32 workshops delivered, with 466 participants.

Additional face to face engagement occurs through business advisory and information delivered by the Small Business Bus, which is available across all 79 Local Government Areas (LGSs) each year. In the 2024-25 financial year to 30 April 2025, there were 84 Small Business Bus tour locations with 636 face to face engagements.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee | Inquiry into the 2025-26 Budget Estimates

In the 2024-25 financial year to 30 April 2025, participation in Business Victoria events and access to business programs (including nearly 4,300 participants in the Toolkits program) was 5,483, exceeding the target of 4,000.

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Relevant text:

Richard WELCH: I have loads. Minister, how many small businesses have been directly supported by the department or by Business Victoria in the past 12 months?

Natalie SULEYMAN: That is a great question. We are really proud, and I have just indicated to you that the online visitation from small businesses actually connecting to the Business Victoria website has been close to 5 million, so that is significant.

Richard WELCH: Five million businesses?

Natalie SULEYMAN: But in relation to a little bit more detail, I will pass on to the department to outline –

Richard WELCH: Just the number of businesses, please. That is all I would like.

Natalie SULEYMAN: how many businesses in the last 12 months –

Danni JARRETT: Have been supported through the Business Victoria channel?

Richard WELCH: Yes.

Danni JARRETT: We have had, as the Minister said, just over 4 million visits to the Business Victoria –

Richard WELCH: How many unique businesses would that be?

Danni JARRETT: We would need to take on notice whether or not those are unique visits.

Initial Question asked -

How many small businesses have been directly supported by the Department or by Business Victoria in the past 12 Months?

Follow up question & taken on notice - How many unique businesses would that be?

Answer:

In the 2024-25 financial year to 30 April 2025, participation in Business Victoria events and access to business programs was 5,483, exceeding the target of 4,000. Data is not held to distinguish unique participants across programs.

In the 2024-25 financial year to 30 April 2025, there were over 4.2 million visits to Business Victoria digital channels, exceeding the target of 2,000,000. Of these visits, there were 2,702,403 unique visits to Business Victoria digital channels.