

MEDIA RELEASE: Small business expert braces for delayed COVID 19 impact in Mackay

17th March 2021

An expert in small business and financial management is urging Mackay's small and family businesses, that deferred debt during the pandemic, to get help urgently so they can survive the next 12 months.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service North Queensland is funded by the state and federal governments to provide small business financial counsellors in Mackay, Whitsunday, Townsville, Cairns and Western Queensland.

Small Business Financial Counsellors are small business professionals who can provide assistance to small businesses at risk of financial hardship. The service is free, confidential and impartial.

Kristy Wilson a small business financial counsellor based in Mackay has experienced a wave of enquiries and is bracing herself for extra demand.

"Many small businesses utilised deferrals of debt or bill payments last year which helped immensely however those periods are ending and businesses are having to pay the amount they owed last year and new costs for this year at the same time," she said.

Ms Wilson is encouraging businesses owners to be on the front foot and talk to providers to see if they can arrange payment plans.

With Federal Government payments through Services Australia scheduled to end in the next few weeks many small businesses are likely to feel the financial impact.

"The government assistance offered last year and early this year have helped keep many individuals and businesses afloat, with these payments wrapping up its likely to impact the amount of money being spent through small businesses as well," Ms Wilson said.

Small businesses owners interested in finding out how a financial counsellor can help should log onto www.rfcsng.com.au and make an appointment with their nearest counsellor, no referral necessary.

- ENDS -

To arrange an interview contact;

Nicole Bond 0417 199 369

Media and Communications Manager