

Northern Territory business support guide

2026

Programs, grants and support to help Territory businesses start, grow and succeed.



We are
**BACKING
TERRITORY
BUSINESSES**





Find the support you need

Businesses are the backbone of the Territory economy.

The Northern Territory Government offers a range of programs designed to help businesses start, grow, and expand into new markets. No matter what stage you are at, there is support available to make it easier to do business in the Northern Territory.

This guide brings together key programs and initiatives to help you access the support your business needs.

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Starting a business





Territory Business Advisors

If you are thinking about starting a business or improving your current business operations, a Territory Business Advisor can test your idea and provide valuable insights and recommendations.

What they offer

- One-on-one, practical advice tailored to your business needs and local conditions.
- Guidance to start a new business or strengthen existing operations, including testing ideas and planning next steps.
- Help to identify and access the right grants, programs, tools and resources.
- Advice on workforce and training options.

Best for

NT businesses of all sizes including not-for-profits, incorporated associations and registered training organisations looking for practical support to start, improve or grow their operations.



Learn more
[business.nt.gov.au/
 territory-business-advisors](https://business.nt.gov.au/territory-business-advisors)

Territory Business Centres

Territory Business Centres can provide you with information about starting a business, including advice on licensing and registration requirements for both individuals and businesses, as well as government assistance programs.

Territory Business Centres are located in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

What they offer

- Licensing requirements and lodgement advice.
- Application lodgements.
- Direct businesses to grants and other assistance programs.

Best for

NT businesses seeking practical business support including navigating licences, permits and government processes.



Learn more
business.nt.gov.au/territory-business-centres



Ignite Program

Funding and support to help local founders and early-stage businesses turn innovative ideas into investment-ready opportunities.

What it offers

- Funding to support the development and commercialisation of innovative concepts.
- Mentoring to help refine business models and prepare for investment.
- Networking opportunities to connect with industry, investors and the broader innovation ecosystem.

Best for

NT founders, start-ups and early growth-stage companies looking to develop, commercialise and scale innovative ideas.



Learn more
nt.gov.au/ignite-program

Business Enterprise Centre NT

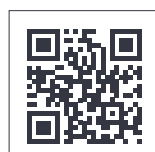
Business Enterprise Centre NT (BECNT) works with businesses of every size and stage.

What they offer

- Free Essential Business Skills Course to give a new business the tools they need to help turn ideas into actions.
- Free one-on-one mentoring from NT business-owner mentors.
- Support services in strategic development, sales, business finance, and marketing.
- Subsidised access to professional services.

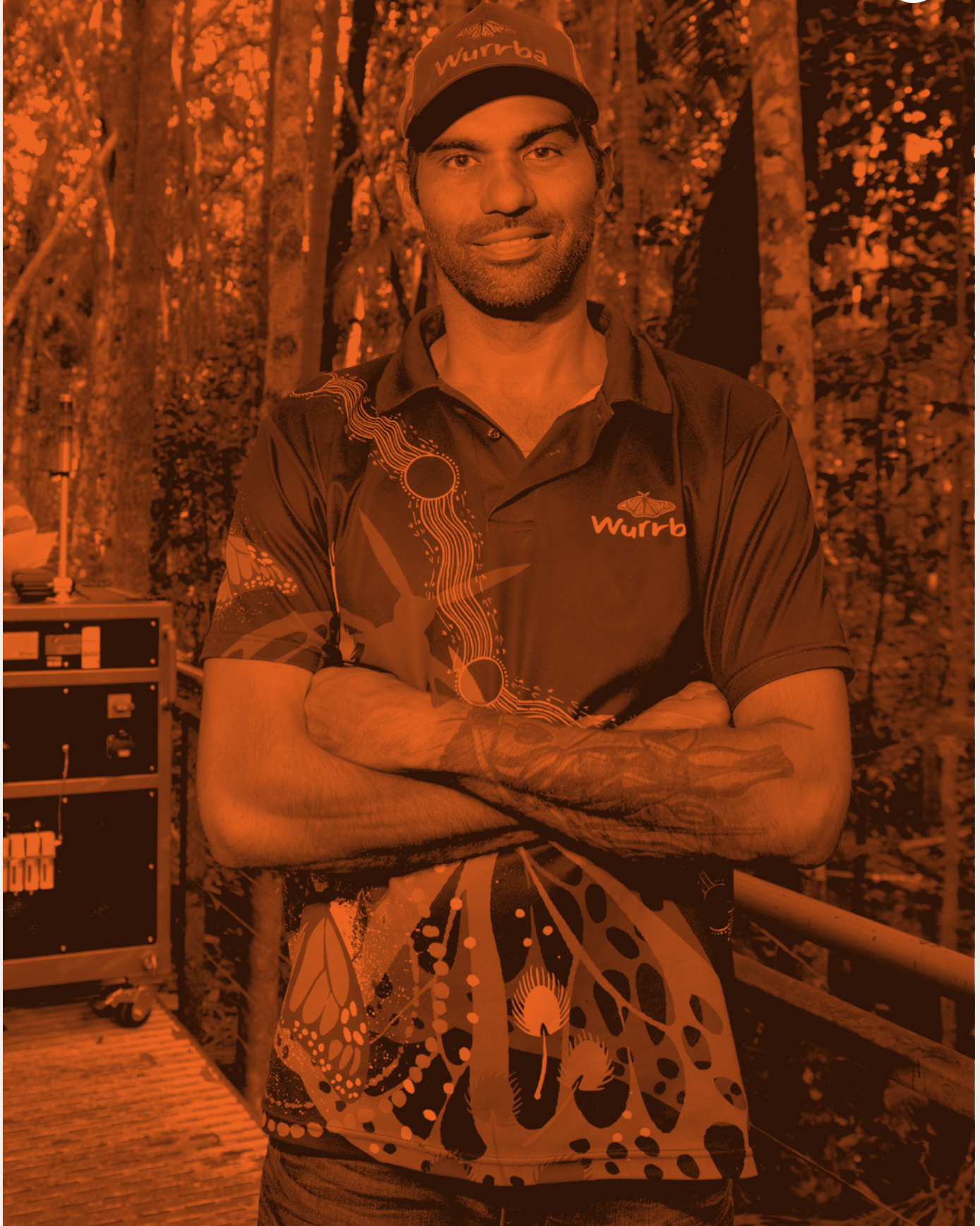
Best for

NT businesses of every size and stage.



Learn more
becnt.com.au

Workforce and training





WorkerConnect

A free local digital jobs board that connects employers in the Northern Territory with active jobseekers locally, interstate and overseas.

What it offers

- Access to a growing pool of jobseekers across all industries and occupations.
- The ability to promote job vacancies and showcase your business to a targeted audience.
- Candidate matching tools to help you identify and connect with suitable applicants faster.

Best for

NT businesses and employers looking to recruit across a range of industries.



Learn more
WorkerConnect.com.au

Skills NT Grant

Support for local businesses to prepare, plan and pilot targeted workforce initiatives in partnership with Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).

What it offers

- Funding for vocational education and training (VET) delivery and workforce development initiatives.
- Support for innovative training approaches, including apprenticeships and traineeships.
- Assistance for mentoring, foundation skills and wraparound supports to improve training completion.

Best for

NT employers, industry groups and organisations looking to build workforce capability in high-demand industries and regional or remote areas.



Learn more
education.nt.gov.au



NT Business Workforce Readiness Checklist

Support for local businesses to assess workforce readiness, identify workforce risks and prepare for future projects and business growth.

What it offers

- Assessment of workforce strengths, risks, and areas for improvement.
- Practical recommendations to strengthen workforce planning and workforce readiness.
- A Workforce Toolkit, including Workforce Action Plan and Skills Matrix templates.
- Support to improve workforce capability, resilience, and preparedness for future projects and growth.

Best for

NT businesses looking to strengthen workforce capability, plan for future workforce needs and improve readiness.



Learn more
business.nt.gov.au

Community Workforce Plans

Support for businesses to better understand local workforce opportunities, community priorities and employment pathways when planning their workforce.

What it offers

- Access to local workforce information, including current and future workforce needs.
- Insights into community priorities, local industries, and employment opportunities.
- Information to support workforce planning, recruitment, and workforce development activities.
- Opportunities to strengthen partnerships with local communities, training providers, and employment services.
- Practical guidance to support local employment and workforce participation.

Best for

NT businesses operating in regional and remote communities, or those looking to strengthen local workforce participation and better align workforce planning with community priorities.



Learn more
nt.gov.au

Grow your business





Grow Your Business Grant

Funding for Territory businesses to access professional advisory and specialist services that build capability, improve resilience and support sustainable business growth. Three funding tiers provide support matched to the scale and complexity of the business need, from targeted advice through to business improvement, transformation and strategic growth.

What it offers

- 50:50 co-contribution funding to engage professional advisory and specialist services.
- Tiered funding streams aligned to the scale and complexity of business needs.
- Support for activities that strengthen business capability, performance, resilience and growth.

Best for

Established Territory businesses looking to address capability gaps, improve performance, strengthen resilience, scale or pursue new growth and strategic opportunities.



[Learn more
nt.gov.au/grow-your-business-grant](https://nt.gov.au/grow-your-business-grant)

Industry Capability Program

Funding for peak industry bodies to deliver projects that enhance sector capability and competitiveness, contributing to Northern Territory economic development.

What it offers

Up to \$500,000 (excluding GST) per year per project for strategic, innovative and collaborative initiatives that strengthen Northern Territory industry capability, competitiveness and resilience.

Best for

NT-based industry and business representative organisations.



[Learn more
nt.gov.au/industry-capability-program](https://nt.gov.au/industry-capability-program)

Stronger Associations Program

Support for not-for-profit incorporated associations to build resilience, capability and capacity.

What it offers

- Face-to-face and online governance diagnostics checks to assess sustainability and operational capacity.
- Targeted governance training and support to implement actions identified from the diagnostic check.
- Group information sessions focusing on foundational governance.

Best for

NT incorporated associations.



[Learn more
nt.gov.au/stronger-associations](https://nt.gov.au/stronger-associations)

Territory Growth Initiative

Powering bold ideas and high-potential projects with Government-backed capital to help businesses start, scale and succeed in the Northern Territory.

What it offers

- Collaborative Investment Program – Co-investment to de-risk ambition and unlock private capital.
- Territory Infrastructure Loans – Patent finance for projects that enable growth and jobs.
- Paspalis Co-investment Fund – Equity backing to accelerate innovation and expansion.

Best for

High-growth businesses ready to move faster, think bigger and make a lasting impact in the Territory.



[Learn more
AustraliasNorthernTerritory.com.au/TGI](https://AustraliasNorthernTerritory.com.au/TGI)

Business Health Check

Access free online tools to help you understand your business strengths and where you can improve.

What it offers

Assess your business across six topics to identify areas you can focus on. Receive a tailored report with tips and resources to grow your business.

Best for

NT businesses looking to improve and grow their business.



[Learn more
business.nt.gov.au](https://business.nt.gov.au)

Protect your business





Safer Businesses Program

Financial assistance to help Territory businesses, mobile businesses and business precincts improve the safety of their facilities to contribute to a growing economy and improve the lifestyle of Territorians.

What it offers

- Matched funding for safety upgrades for fixed location businesses and mobile businesses.
- Matched funding for precinct safety improvement projects.

Best for

NT fixed businesses, mobile businesses and business precincts.



[Learn more
nt.gov.au/business-grants-funding](https://nt.gov.au/business-grants-funding)

Business Safety and Security Checklists

Access the free online tool to help explore the best options to secure your business premises.

What it offers

- Assess your current security arrangements.
- Receive tailored recommendations to improve.

Best for

NT businesses looking to improve security and safety.



[Learn more
business.nt.gov.au](https://business.nt.gov.au)

Cyber Invest Business Program

Support for Territory businesses to uplift their cybersecurity and resilience using local service providers.

What it offers

- Up to \$10,000 in funding on a 50:50 co-contribution basis for eligible cybersecurity services.
- Support to strengthen business resilience and protect against common cyber threats.

Best for

NT small to medium-sized businesses.



[Learn more
cyber.nt.gov.au](https://cyber.nt.gov.au)

Resecure your Small Business through Victims of Crime NT

Support for small businesses to resecure their premises after a break-in.

What it offers

- Funding up to \$2,500 to re-secure the premises.
- Access to counselling and victim support services.

Best for

NT small businesses.



[Learn more
victimsofcrime.org.au](https://victimsofcrime.org.au)

Small Business Safety Assistance Program

Support for businesses to understand their work health and safety obligations.

What it offers

- Advice on development and implementation of safety management systems.
- Help to devise strategies and solutions to manage risks and hazards in the workplace.
- Provide resources and guidance material on work health and safety issues.

Best for

NT small businesses.



[Learn more
worksafe.nt.gov.au](https://worksafe.nt.gov.au)

Exporting and international markets





Global Trade Scheme

Funding to help NT businesses become export ready and expand their exporting capabilities.

What it offers

- Support to build export capability, from early planning through to expanding into new global markets.
- Three funding streams aligned to your stage of export readiness:
 - Up to \$3,000 to become export ready.
 - Up to \$10,000 to grow existing markets or enter new markets.
 - Up to \$50,000 for collaborative export projects through industry groups or clusters.
 - Each stream is based on a 50:50 co-contribution basis.

Best for

NT businesses looking to start exporting or expand into new international markets.



Learn more
nt.gov.au/global-trade-scheme

TradeStart

Support for businesses seeking to export their goods and services internationally.

What they offer

- International market entry strategies, insights and identification of international opportunities.
- Guidance on tariffs, certifications, regulations and standards when entering international markets.
- Tailored advice regarding opportunities, risks and processes in different markets.
- Connections to Austrade's global network and in-market support.
- Information on training and workshops such as export readiness programs.

Best for

NT small to medium-sized businesses looking to export goods or services.



Learn more
australiasnorthernterritory.com.au/trade/export/tradestart

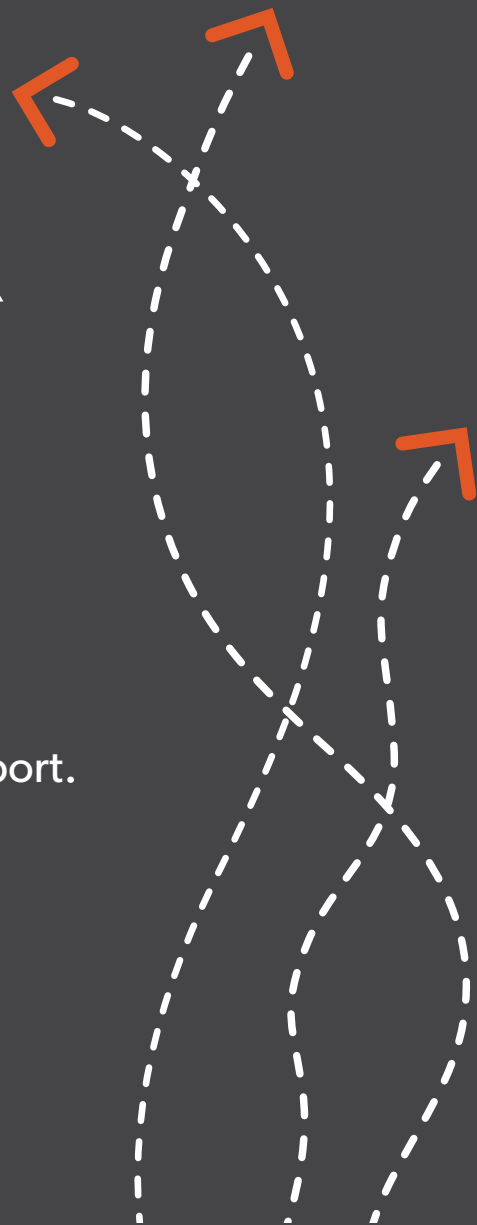


TEAM UP WITH YOUR **TERRITORY** **BUSINESS ADVISOR**

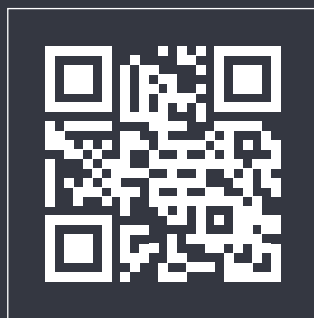
Get free, practical support at every stage of your business journey:

- one-on-one advice tailored to your business
- help navigating programs, grants and services
- connections to tools, training and workforce support.

Scan the QR code or visit business.nt.gov.au to connect with your local advisor.



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business.nt.gov.au