

GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBILITY

# EXPERT CONNECTION

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAM



CONNECTING  
YOU TO  
PROFESSIONAL  
SUPPORT



Regional  
Development  
*Australia*

LIMESTONE COAST

[expertconnection@rdalc.org.au](mailto:expertconnection@rdalc.org.au)

LET US  
CONNECT  
YOU WITH  
AN EXPERT

**Making business decisions  
does not have to feel  
like you are alone  
in the world.**



Navigating a global pandemic has been the challenge that no one expected, turning your business (and at times, your world) upside down.

With so much going on, it can be difficult to make the right decisions for your business.

To help where you need it most, Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast (RDALC) has introduced a new program where we connect you with professional support, to make a difference in your business.

**PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES AVAILABLE  
THROUGH EXPERT  
CONNECTION:**

- Accountant
- Bookkeeper
- Business Advisor
- Finance Advisor
- HR Consultant
- IT Specialist
- Lawyer
- Marketing Specialist

*Other services can be arranged on request.*

## HOW IT WORKS

Thanks to the complexities of COVID-19, we've realised that some businesses need specialised guidance, beyond the assistance we already provide. If your business has been doing it tough, RDALC can pay for you to access up to 3 hours of professional, independent advice with one of our region's experts.

You may not have the time or money to find the right person to talk to about your business right now, so we have compiled a list of local professionals in a range of fields to provide you with the support and advice you may need.

Plus, if we don't have the expert you need here in the Limestone Coast, we will go a bit further afield to find you the right assistance.



Once you sign up for Expert Connection, we will provide you with a list of experts who have agreed to assist us with this program. You then get to select who you would like to see, make the appointment yourself and meet with them privately.

The expert will provide you with the support you need and send RDALC the bill. It's as simple as that.

Participants will have to meet some eligibility requirements to take part, however the process will be straightforward - so you can focus on your business.

**THERE ARE TIMES THAT WE  
NEED SOMEONE ELSE TO HELP.  
SIMPLE AS THAT.**

## YOU ARE ELIGIBLE IF:

- You are a small business, including sole traders and partnerships, with under 50 employees, lawfully operating in the Limestone Coast, South Australia (your business is currently registered and operating in at least one of the 7 local government areas that make up the Limestone Coast).
- You have been significantly impacted by COVID-19, including business and activity restrictions, and a reduction in turnover.
- You are seeking professional advice and support from an expert that you do not ordinarily receive services from.
- You can demonstrate (via the application form) why you need this support and advice for your business.

## HOW TO APPLY:

If you are interested in taking part in Expert Connection, please fill out the [online application form](#) or get in touch with us to have a confidential chat about how the program could assist your small business.

Your personal and business information will be managed confidentially.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

RDALC will apply the 'reduced turnover' test (as per the Australian Taxation Office Jobkeeper assessment) to determine eligibility. Applications for assistance may not be accepted if the applicant is unable to demonstrate that they have been significantly impacted by COVID-19.

RDALC has discretionary right to include participants in this program that did not meet the requirements for the JobKeeper program, or other State or Federal Government financial support. RDALC CEO has the final say on participation in this program.

All participants must enter into an agreement with RDALC, which will be provided to the participant once eligibility has been confirmed.

Participants deemed eligible for Expert Connection will be provided with the contact details of experts assisting with the program. It is up to the participant to choose the who they meet with - RDALC will not make recommendations of one expert in preference of another. RDALC will not suggest one expert alone, unless no other experts in that field exist in the region.

If you already routinely receive the services of one of the experts, for example, your weekly bookkeeper, RDALC will not pay for that ongoing service unless extraordinary circumstances apply.

## CONTACT US:

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L I M E S T O N E   C O A S T