

You may use it to renew your rego, but did you know that Service NSW can also help you grow your business?

Kiara Ferguson, a business concierge for Service NSW, told the audience at the Braidwood Connect event at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club on Tuesday 29 August, that Service NSW offers a host of free services to support and advise businesses.

Ms Ferguson told the meeting, which was hosted by RDA Southern Inland in collaboration with the BAVBC, Braidwood Community Association and QPRC, that the business concierge service offers free one-to-one ongoing support for businesses over the phone, in person or online. A concierge can help you to navigate the red tape of government licences and permits; provide mental health support for you and your employees, provide disaster recovery assistance, support women in business, and offer financial assistance including vouchers, rebates and grants.

She said the concierge can also connect you with a Business Connect Advisor who can support you at every stage of your business journey.

Business Connect advisors, who have experience running their own businesses, offer free, tailored business advice in one-on-one sessions for 8-12 hours. You can also attend events and access online resources on these topics and more.

They can also give you practical insights to develop business skills, marketing, financial planning, writing or improving business plans.

Service NSW also offers an Aboriginal Business Advisory Initiative that offers one-on-one coaching and advice delivered by local Aboriginal business advisors.

You are now able to create and link a business profile to your individual profile on Service NSW which, Ms Ferguson said, make it easier to access government support and manage transactions, track progress of business applications, save business employer licences, search government tenders and apply for grants.

She said Service NSW also offers mental health support for businesses with fewer than 200 employees by way of mental health training with up to four hours of one-on-one coaching.

She reminded businesses that there is a great opportunity to promote local business in the Senior Card booklet by offering discounts to seniors.

Service NSW can also offer businesses help with cybersecurity such as data breaches support, advice on compromised ID documents, and offer support and counselling.

Free specialised advice was also available for businesses exporting overseas and for businesses looking for staff, there is the option to use NSW Jobs Connect for International Students. <https://www.study.nsw.gov.au/work/nsw-jobs-connect>

Plus smaller businesses can apply for a \$1,000 rebate to help buy safety items to help make their workplaces safer. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/1000-safework-small-business-rebate>

Service NSW also offers assistance in accessing energy saving schemes, that will save you money by helping you to upgrade your equipment, appliances and system processes to help your business become more energy efficient. <https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/business-and-industry/programs-grants-and-schemes/business-equipment>