

14 March 2011

**Suncorp Bank throws \$250,000 lifeline
to flood affected small businesses**

Suncorp Bank is encouraging Queensland small business owners still battling to recover from floods and cyclones to put their hand up for one of 50 'back to business' grants worth a total of \$250,000.

The scheme was officially launched today with a \$5000 grant to a family run gym in Brisbane that lost thousands of dollars in equipment when Brisbane flooded in January.

Suncorp Bank CEO David Foster said there were hundreds of small businesses in a similar position to Workout Indooroopilly and he was pleased to be offering them some support.

"Small businesses are the lifeblood of Queensland's economy and it's more important now than ever to show them how much we value the contribution they make to our local communities," Mr Foster said.

"As a Queensland institution we understand how difficult it's been in recent weeks and how tirelessly Queenslanders have worked to support each other.

"The resilience shown by small business operators across the state has been inspirational and we're hoping these grants of \$5000 each will go some way to helping them to get back on the feet.

"We've already received nominations from 20 small businesses with their stories of disaster and recovery available at www.suncorpbacktobusiness.com.au and we're looking forward to receiving hundreds more."

Workout Indooroopilly Manager Anthony Burke said the grant was a welcome boost.

"Our gym was flooded all the way up to the roof and we've been working with family and friends, day and night, to repair the damage caused," Mr Burke said.

"We've set up a temporary gym so our members can continue to work out but there's a long way to go before we can return to normal.

"We're celebrating our 30th anniversary this year and it's reassuring to know that a Queensland icon like Suncorp Bank is committed to helping small businesses like us get back up and running again."

The grant scheme is a part of Suncorp Bank's new Maroon for March campaign which is also raising extra funds for the Queensland Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal.

“Suncorp has already donated \$100,000 to the flood relief appeal and collected more than \$2 million through its branches but there’s more work to be done so for the entire month of March we’ll be showing our Queensland colours and raising some extra funds,” Mr Foster said.

“In addition to the back to business grant scheme Suncorp Bank will be making a \$1 donation to the Disaster Relief Appeal for every person who goes through the gates at Suncorp Stadium and another \$1 for every person who opens a new transaction account with the Bank.”

Anyone can nominate a small business owner for a grant at:

<https://suncorpbactobusiness.com.au/>

For five weeks, nine small business grants of \$5,000 each week will be awarded by a judging panel made up of Suncorp CEO David Foster, Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland President David Goodwin and Kellie’s Kitchen small business owner Kellie Fenwick.

There’s also a People’s Choice Award – a \$5000 grant for the week’s most popular submission. To be in the running, nominate a small business and get friends and family to vote on the website.

The first round of grants will be announced on 21 March 2011.

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