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18 new firms open in Ipswich each week

Merrin Jagtman | 8th Apr 2013 7:47 AM

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LAPPING UP BUSINESS: Aunties' Cafe owner Arlouise Brooking (right) and waitress Ngahuia Walker.

David Nielsen

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BUSINESS is booming in Ipswich, with new data revealing almost three companies are opening a day.

Federal Government figures show more than 18 businesses started each week during the past financial year. In total, 932 new businesses registered for an Australian Business Number and Goods and Services Tax between July 2011 and June 2012.

That is one business created for every 179 residents.

One of those businesses was Aunties' Cafe at East Ipswich.

Owner Arlouise Brooking said her three-month-old business was thriving.

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"Opening this business was the best thing my husband and I have done," Mrs Brooking said.

"It turns over thousands a week because we have found a niche in the market."

Mrs Brooking, whose cafe specialises in Polynesian food, said research was the key to success.

"We did our research for about a year before we opened our doors," she said.

"We were faced with many challenges, but it's all come together so we must've done something right."

Ipswich Chamber of Commerce president Brett Kitching said the business data was positively surprising.

"These businesses have opened during a very slow time," Mr Kitching said.

"But it's good to know business growth was high despite happening at the bottom of the economic cycle."

He credited the positive figures to the city's growing population, low unemployment rate and low cost of living.

"All these things make starting a new venture attractive to prospective business owners," Mr Kitching said.

"New business will continue to grow."

Australian Institute for Commercialisation chief executive David Harrison said the data showed a strong sense of entrepreneurship in Ipswich.

He said the AIC was bringing an Ideas2Market workshop to Springfield to provide budding business owners with skills and contacts.

Since its inception, the small business program has assisted more than 1500 entrepreneurs to take their ideas to market.

"The AIC is keen to keep the entrepreneurial spirit high in Ipswich," Mr Harrison said.

"The AIC has the knowledge, networks and resources to help them, whether that's introducing them to another business with which they could partner or connecting them with university research."

The Ideas2Market workshop will be held at the Spring Lake Hotel on April 17.

For more information on the subject, visit ausicom.com/events.

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