

Australian Small Business Owners share their views on 2017

In its dedicated efforts to be the voice for small business owners and entrepreneurs across the globe, Sage recently conducted a survey to get a sense of how small business owners are feeling.

Small Business Owners ARE OPTIMISTIC

66% feel more confident about their business prospects in the next six months

HAVE BIG PLANS FOR 2017



Launch a new product
35%



Hire more staff
32%



Branch into new industries
25%



Move to accommodate more people
25%



Move to somewhere more affordable
27%

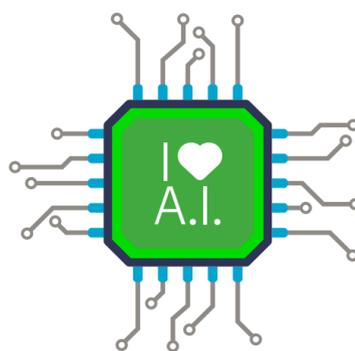


Start a new business
26%

WILL USE MORE TECHNOLOGY

73% would welcome an "admin free" world

More than half of respondents believe **artificial intelligence** to be the biggest trend for business in 2017



Listen Up, Policy Makers!

BUT

Only 54% of Small Business Owners believe that small businesses are fairly represented in our current political system



27% made cuts by getting rid of redundancies and closing their offices



25% reduced investment in innovation



28% froze hiring



26% made new hires to grow their business



29% changed investment strategies



24% have not done anything to safeguard their business from the impact of global political changes



Small Business Owners

SEE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES AS



Lack of business infrastructure (19%)



Too much Government bureaucracy (12%)



Taxation rates (11%)

WOULD LIKE SUPPORT THROUGH



Business support (e.g. grants, export opportunities)



Improvements to the tax environment



Good local services (e.g. transport, waste collection)

#SageBusinessBuilders

This survey is part of the Sage Forum for Business Builders, a platform that brings together insights, research, reports, regional events and policy-forming partnerships to provide entrepreneurs with the tools necessary to create a powerful collective voice that can be heard on the world stage. The Forum will also support in-person and virtual debates that bring entrepreneurs into the room with top decision-makers around the world.

<https://www.sage.com/company/business-builders>