

What is a social enterprise

The [Queensland Procurement Policy 2026](#), defines a social enterprise as an organisation that:

- is led by an economic, social, cultural or environmental mission consistent with a public or community benefit; and
- trades to fulfil their mission and derive a substantial portion of their income from trade; and
- reinvests most of their profit/surplus into the fulfilment of their mission.

Social enterprises can take many forms, including for-profit businesses, non-profit organisations, and hybrid models.

The following social enterprise directories are recognised by the Queensland Government:

- Social Traders [Social Enterprise Finder](#).
- People and Planet First social enterprises directory via [Queensland Social Enterprise Council](#).

These two directories are used to badge social enterprises within the Queensland Procurement Solution (Vendor Panel), simplifying the process for government buyers to locate and engage with social enterprises. The badging is particularly useful for locating social enterprises on common-use supplier arrangements.

Why are B-Corps not a social enterprise

While [B-Corps](#) and social enterprises share similarities in their focus on social and environmental impact, they are not the same.

The distinction lies in their definitions, legal structures, and operational frameworks such as a B-Corp is a certification awarded to businesses that meet high standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency; whereas a social enterprise is a business model or organisation whose primary purpose is to address economic, social, cultural or environmental issues. It is typically structured to reinvest profits into its mission rather than distributing them to shareholders.

More information

For support and assistance on how your next procurement activity can support people from disadvantaged or marginalised backgrounds or procurement from social enterprises, please email socialprocurement@hpw.qld.gov.au