

Watts Next is taking HR support national

Sophie Foster

WHEN her son was barely three months' old, Sue-Ellen Watts got her business off the ground by juggling breastfeeding and a lap-top in her son's childcare centre.

Four years later, the Watts Next managing director has nine staff members and provides specialist HR support to more than 130 small and medium-sized businesses. Watts Next operates like an external human resources department for smaller businesses for whom having an internal solution might prove too costly.



HR-departments," the 35-year old mother-of-two said.

"Watts Next works with SMEs that are time and resource poor, supporting them to navigate the murky waters of HR and staff management."

It's a comprehensive approach that includes SME employment contracts, policies and procedures,

"I believe that SME employees and managers deserve access to the same level of HR support as larger organisations with in-house

implemented over a 12-month period.

"We also ensure our clients' vision, missions and values flow through their employee lifecycles," Ms Watts (pictured) said. "While SMEs often can't compete on salary, their corporate culture can set them apart from larger organisations. We embrace that by taking our clients' culture and embedding it in their HR."

From a platform where she had no start-up funds and no business contacts, Ms Watts has reached the stage where her efforts have been recognised in the state, when

she became a Queensland finalist in two categories of the recent Telstra Queensland Business Women's Awards this year.

"Having children, lack of skills or no money shouldn't stop you," she said. "You just need to be clear on what you want and take action."

Based in Upper Mt Gravatt, Ms Watts now plans to open offices across the country in coming years, kicking off with Adelaide.

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