

The West Australian

Minister allays centre's funding fears

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Federal Small Business Minister Craig Emerson has assured a Belmont small business help centre that its \$250,000 a year in Government funding is safe.

The guarantee follows the WA Government's decision to scrap \$93,000 of State funding to the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre, (BEC) which is part of a network of centres reliant on a combination of Federal and State funding.

The centre had feared Federal funding was reliant on State support.

However, in a visit to Perth yesterday Mr Emerson said the State decision did not affect the Federal funding. "We have signed a contract with Belmont BEC, and we have no difficulties with the way they are travelling," Mr Emerson said.

At a small-business function at Fremantle Prison the Minister also conceded the higher tax break for small-business spending on new equipment would miss some companies.

"Of course there will be some small businesses that don't have the cash flow that would enable them to take advantage of this," Mr Emerson said.



Funding reprieve: Craig Emerson