**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Business & Professional Women of Western Australia and BPW Business Incubator supports the 24th Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards!**

The Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards provide recognition and encouragement for small business achievements and will be open for small businesses, individuals and organisations in Belmont and from across Western Australia from the 27th of April until 5pm, 26th of September, 2017.

Business & Professional Women of Western Australia (BPW Western Australia) and the BPW Business Incubator Programs will support the Business Woman of the Year Award. To be eligible to enter this award category, businesses can be located anywhere in Western Australia.

BPW Western Australia is part of a global network of Business & Professional Women that makes real differences in women's lives by creating awareness, leading discussion and driving change in gender equality and equal pay campaigns.

Kate Waters, WA State President from BPW Western Australia said, “We focus on issues that affect women and work including equal access to education and training and they recognise business excellence. We are proud to support the Business Woman of the Year Award.”

BPW Business Incubator projects are conducted by Belmont BEC, who is a specialist business improvement provider to women owner/managers in small businesses across Australia and beyond. A current BPW Business Incubator project is assisting women in small business to be better prepared for their retirement income planning.

The Awards are co-ordinated by the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc. (Belmont BEC) which is a not-for-profit community based organisation that was established, in 1994, to assist in the growth and development of small business.

Belmont BEC CEO and Founder of the Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards Carol Hanlon said “The Awards are open to small businesses both within the Belmont area and across the state with 26 categories available for entrants to consider. This is the 24th year we have held our Small Business Awards and it is exciting to see the awards grow each year to provide recognition to those striving for business excellence and acknowledging community achievements”

Potential entrants will be able to access a wide range of support in preparing their submission that includes Free Award Entry Kits, Workshops, Webinars and access to Award Mentors who can assist with tips in preparing award submissions to impress the judging panel.

Winners of this year’s 24th Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards 2017 ’will be announced at the ‘Night of Stars’ event that will take place in the Ballroom of the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre on Wednesday, October 25th, 6pm - 8.30pm.

For more information on how to enter the awards and other categories, please contact awards@belmontbec.com or phone: (08) 9479 3777 or visit www.belmontbec.com/awards

**For further information please contact:**

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