**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Perth Airport 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.

Perth Airport will support the Volunteer of the Year Award. Entrants can be located anywhere in WA and the Award acknowledges the efforts of a special volunteer in the community.

Ms Debra Blaskett, Chief Corporate Services Officer at Perth Airport said, “Perth Airport is proud to work with the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre in supporting and recognising excellence in the small business sector.”

“At Perth Airport we value our own volunteers – the Gold Coats who help provide a warm welcome to everyone who passes through our airport.”

 “Volunteering is very much the heart and soul of our community and it’s wonderful that the Volunteer of the Year Award will recognise someone who has given their time, effort and passion toward building a better community.”

“If you know someone who has made a special contribution to our local community, I encourage you to nominate them for this award,” Ms Blaskett said.

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](http://www.belmontbec.com/awards)

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