

MEDIA RELEASE

Page 1 of 1

Federal Government Steps Up To Support Small Business

Minister Craig Emerson announced whilst visiting Perth last week that Federal funding for the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) which services countless small businesses across Western Australia would remain intact, unlike WA State Funding for the Belmont Small Business Centre (SBC) which the centre has recently lost from the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC)

Unfortunately, a few weeks ago the Belmont SBC was given notice by the SBDC in WA that they were cancelling the Centre's funding contract fourteen months before the contract was scheduled to be reviewed. This loss in funding could see thousands of small businesses miss out on free training, helpline and mentoring opportunities from the Belmont Centre.

The Committee of Management for the Belmont SBC would also like to clear up incorrect statements recently made by SBDC's Managing Director Steve Moir about why he chose to cease funding to the Centre. Mr Moir is currently ill-informed about some of the services that Belmont SBC and the Textile Clothing and Footwear Resource Centre Western Australia Inc (TCFWA) undertake for more than 12,800 clients in Western Australia.

"The Small Business Centre Belmont has never applied for, nor has it won any TCF grants. In fact, less than 20% of Belmont SBC clients in Western Australia are TCF Industry clients highlighting that 80% come from other industry sectors" said Carol Hanlon, Manager of Belmont SBC "TCFWA is a legally constituted industry association under the WA Associations Act and has its own committee of management, a legal constitution, separate banking accounts, insurances and is audited annually."

Carol Hanlon has been a volunteer manager to TCFWA for over 11 years and has volunteered 20-40 hours a week over that period and to assist and grow the TCFWA Inc with its aims and objectives. TCFWA and Belmont SBC operate from the same address in Fairbrother St, Belmont.

The Belmont SBC will no longer be able to offer its full range of free business support services and workshops for small businesses if the SBDC does not review its decision and reinstate funding for the popular Centre.

Belmont SBC Media Contact: Carol Hanlon

Ph: (08) 94793777

Mob: 0417 963 231

Email: carol.hanlon@belmontbec.com

Belmont BEC – Small Business Centre Belmont

PO Box 370, Cloverdale WA 6985 Phone 08 94793777 Fax 08 94793888

Email info@belmontbec.com www.belmontbec.com