

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Belmont BEC - Small Business Centre Celebrates & Commiserates**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2009, Belmont BEC - Small Business Centre (Belmont BEC) will celebrate serving the Western Australian small business community for 15 years.

Belmont BEC was set up in May 1994 to assist those wishing to start a new business and to provide ongoing guidance for existing business owners through mentoring, trade and business information, referrals to specialist advisors and business workshops.

The Centre is widely recognized for its vast range of innovative business development projects in niche business sectors that include fashion and creative industries, Indigenous, multicultural business women and the horse racing industry.

Belmont BEC has assisted in excess of 17,000+ small businesses during this time with some 13,000 small businesses coming from outside the Belmont region to seek its innovative projects, business training and mentoring support services over these years.

Manager of Belmont SBC, Carol Hanlon said, "We welcome all that have utilised or supported our services over the past 15 years to join us for our birthday celebration this Friday afternoon".

The function will take place at the Belmont BEC - Small Business Centre office at 7 Fairbrother St Belmont from 3pm and rsvp's need to be given to Pam Townshend on (08) 9479 3777 or email [events@belmontbec.com](mailto:events@belmontbec.com)

Unfortunately, the upcoming birthday celebrations have been tarnished with the news that the State Government has withdrawn funding for the Belmont Small Business Centre with only 60 days notice. The withdrawal of the state funding support will now place federal funding support of the Belmont BEC in jeopardy and the centre could be forced to cut services or be in jeopardy of possible close.

Attendees of the birthday function are encouraged to log into the Belmont SBC website & download a petition to help try and save the centre at <http://www.belmontbec.com>.

#### **For further information please contact:**

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