

MEDIA RELEASE

Belmont BEC Wins Grant to Help Small Businesses

Small Business Minister, Senator the Hon Nick Sherry, recently announced that Belmont Business Enterprise Centre (Belmont BEC) is one of twenty-five not-for-profit business advisory organisations that have received Australian Government funding totalling \$2.5 million to assist small businesses affected by the recent natural disasters.

The grant of \$100,000 has been offered to Belmont BEC under the Small Business Advisory Services (SBAS) – National Disaster Assistance program. Belmont BEC will provide support to small businesses directly or indirectly impacted by the natural disasters that have occurred in Australia since October 2010. Webinars will be offered to small businesses by the Belmont BEC in disciplines such as business planning, finance, marketing, ecommerce, HR, websites and social media. Legal and accounting support will also be available to those needing specialist advice.

Belmont BEC will provide the national assistance 'virtually' through 'My Business Incubator' which will deliver support via one-on-one telephone assistance, email, mentoring through web meetings and group training webinars. All services will be provided free or low cost, by specialist business advisors in the creative industry, with assistance from specialist industry professionals.

Carol Hanlon, CEO of Belmont BEC said, "Belmont BEC is honoured to win \$100,000 of funding to help us provide business advisory services across Australia under our My Business Incubator project. We were the only organisation to receive this funding in Western Australia, and I believe that is because we are able to offer our services online – so any small business not in close proximity to another government funded business advisory can make use of our resources."

The Belmont BEC has a strong record of providing its services on a local, statewide and national basis. In past years, CEO Carol Hanlon was awarded as Best National BEC Manager in 2004 and 2008. The services provided by Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc are funded by the Australian Government.

A list of the organisations successful in obtaining SBAS-NDA funding grants is available at www.ausindustry.gov.au, via the Hotline 13 28 46, or by emailing hotline@ausindustry.gov.au.

To find out more about the business advisory services offered by Belmont BEC log onto www.mybusinessincubator.com.au/register or www.belmontbec.com

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