

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Winner of 2013 Perth Airport 'Indigenous Business of the Year Award' in the Belmont Small Business Award Encourages other Indigenous Businesses to Enter the 2014 Awards**

The 21st annual Belmont Small Business Awards are underway, and many small businesses have been submitting their entries into the Awards. One of the categories that gains a lot of interest from small business owners entering the Awards is the Perth Airport sponsored 'Indigenous Business of the Year Award'.

Murlpirrmarra Connection assists to improve the education, educational options, social skills, self-esteem, and employment prospects of young indigenous Wiluna men and women. This is achieved by a variety of activities performed between the students, parents, educational facilities, partnered organisations and government departments. This interaction creates a smooth and comfortable transition for the students into educational facilities, development programs and helps maintain a high level of engagement with those involved in the program.

Darren Patten, CEO of Murlpirrmarra Connection said, "Winning the award last year opened up so many opportunities for our organisation. The positive PR we received helped us go for some new grants to secure funding to expand our services, and we were successful! A big thankyou to Perth Airport for supporting this important award. I encourage other indigenous focussed business to enter the 2014 Belmont Small Business Awards."

The Belmont Small Business awards are coordinated by the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre (Belmont BEC). Belmont BEC is a non-profit community based organisation established, in 1994. The Belmont BEC offers 'one stop shop, no cost or low-cost advisory services' and provides small business support through 'online' training and mentoring, networking events and an extensive range of specialised and innovative projects and small business support programs. This includes access to the TCF Australia ONLINE ENERGY EFFICIENCY Training & Mentoring Project being conducted by TCFWA & TCF Australia.

Belmont BEC CEO and Founder of the Belmont Small Business Awards Carol Hanlon said "Businesses wishing to enter the awards can access Free Information Sessions on 'How to Prepare Award Submissions', Free Award Entry Kits and Submission Mentors are available."

Please email Belmont BEC at [awards@belmontbec.com](mailto:awards@belmontbec.com) or phone 9479 3777 to arrange assistance with your entry. Closing date for entries is 5pm Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014, and the final "Night of Stars" event when the winners will be announced will be held Friday October 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 in the Ballroom of the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre.

For more information contact [awards@belmontbec.com](mailto:awards@belmontbec.com)

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