

MEDIA RELEASE

Carol Hanlon Invited to attend APEC Women in the Economy Forum, June 28-30, St Petersburg, Russia

Carol Hanlon, CEO of non-profit organisations Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc. (BEC) and Textile Clothing Footwear Resource Centre of WA Inc (TCFWA), has been invited to join the Australian Government delegation for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Women and the Economy Forum in St Petersburg Russia, between the 28th and 30th of June 2012. There are only 12 delegates that have been invited from across Australia and only 4 from the private and public sector.

Belmont BEC provides small business assistance with training and mentoring, networking and advisory to those wishing to start a small business or growing an existing business. TCFWA assists designers and fashion industry with specialist business skills development, linkages in the global supply chain, trade and industry networks, coordinates village sewing projects and facilitates a TCF Global network. Both organisations have assisted over 10,000 women in small business not only locally and but nationally through online virtual business incubation.

The APEC event will involve the 21 member countries from the Pacific Rim and focus on Women and Small Business. The Forum will include discussions on the following topics:

- Policy-Partnership on Women and the Economy
- Public-Private Dialogue on Women and the Economy
- High-Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy
- Women in the Innovative Economy
- Investment in Human Capital
- Women and Entrepreneurship
- Women and Work-Life Balance
- Women in Corporate Management
- Women and IT

Ms Hanlon said of the opportunity to attend the International Forum, "The APEC Women in the Economy Forum will be a fantastic opportunity to share some of the issues that clients of Belmont Business Enterprise Centre, TCFWA, TCF Australia and TCF Global have shared with me over the years regarding their small businesses. Some of these include access to finance, lack of business skills, lack of confidence and the access to buyers. I am looking forward to learning about other issues facing women business owners around the world, and bringing back tips and opportunities for Australian business women".

Belmont BEC and TCFWA has a developed a focus on women in small business and in March 2012, was invited to present an 'Empowering Creative Women' seminar during 2United Nations Commission for Status Women (UNCSD56) NGO Forums in New York where the BEC & TCF also launched in conjunction with BPW International the BPW Business Incubator for women to gain access to small business training and mentoring online".

Another BPW International project for women in business that Belmont BEC & TCF are promoting with the International Trade Centre (ITC) is the "Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women Vendors" where multinational Fortune 500 companies are allocating % of procurement budgets to women owned businesses.

For further information:

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