

MEDIA RELEASE

Natural Disaster Assistance Program Helping to Rebuild Business Confidence

A Geneva based research centre described 2010 as the deadliest year from natural disasters in two decades - and Australia ranked in the top ten countries affected (source: <http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2011/01/deadliest-year-natural-disasters-2010>)

The Small Business Advisory Services – National Disaster Assistance (SBAS-NDA) program was set up to provide support to small businesses **directly** or **indirectly** impacted by all the natural disasters that occurred in Australia from October 2010 to now. Some of these disasters included cyclones, floods and fire and they affected multiple States in Australia.

The Belmont Business Enterprise Centre (Belmont BEC) is one of twenty-five not-for-profit business advisory organisations that received Australian Government funding to assist small businesses affected by natural disasters. Belmont BEC is providing national assistance 'virtually' through 'My business incubator' which delivers support via one-on-one telephone assistance, email, mentoring through web meetings and group training webinars. All services are provided free or low cost, by specialist business advisors and with assistance from industry professionals.

Webinars are 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 is also available to those needing specialist advice.

Carol Hanlon, CEO of Belmont BEC said, "By participating in the program, we are finding that the confidence of business owners who have sadly been affected by natural disasters is improving, and so are their business results, which is fantastic. Our services are offered online, so any business can access our project easily and this support will be available until May 2012"

More information about other organisations that were 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 or to find out about the project, log onto www.mybusinessincubator.com.au/register or www.belmontbec.com

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