**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Designedge Fashion Incubator supports the 24th Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards!**

The Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards provide recognition and encouragement for small business achievements and will be open for small businesses, individuals and organisations in Belmont and from across Western Australia from the 27th of April until 5pm, 26th of September, 2017.

designedge Fashion Incubator will support the Karl Farrell Inspiration Award. The Award highlights the challenges you have overcome in your business life. Entrants can be from anywhere in Western Australia.

Carol Hanlon, Founder of designedge Fashion Incubator said, “The online incubator and associated projects that it supports through TCFWA, TCF Australia and TCF Global not only provided local fashion designers a chance to show and sell their work, but has provided the opportunity for fashion designers to access business information, mentoring and small business skills workshops so they can grow their businesses in Australia and internationally.

“Karl Farrell was an inspirational Chairman of TCFWA and this special award honours his memory.” Carol said.

designedge also runs the designedge Innovation Festival annually in conjunction with the Belmont BEC & TCFWA. The Festival incorporates over 95 events, forums, webinars and workshops, and will be staged over a 6 week period. The activities will be staged in Belmont Western Australia, however broadcasted nationally & globally ONLINE bringing together small business owners, innovators, designers, creatives and community organisations.

The Small Business Awards are co-ordinated by the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc. (Belmont BEC) which is a not-for-profit community based organisation that was established, in 1994, to assist in the growth and development of small business.

At the Awards launch on the 27th of April 2017, Mr Futol co-ordinated the fashion parade which included womens’ and menswear sourced from Europe for the FA Concept Store. Labels included Silverstar Designs, Concrete Ambition, FA Concept Store Designer Collective, Sad Jane, Jonté Designs, Lush Pearls, Elle et Lui Designer shoes. Music was provided by Stripes and models and makeup were supplied by Inspiring Design and Maeva’s Nails & Beauty.

Belmont BEC CEO and Founder of the Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards Carol Hanlon said “The Awards are open to small businesses both within the Belmont area and across the state with 26 categories available for entrants to consider. This is the 24th year we have held our Small Business Awards and it is exciting to see the awards grow each year to provide recognition to those striving for business excellence and acknowledging community achievements”

Potential entrants will be able to access a wide range of support in preparing their submission that includes Free Award Entry Kits, Workshops, Webinars and access to Award Mentors who can assist with tips in preparing award submissions to impress the judging panel.

Winners of this year’s 24th Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards 2017 ’will be announced at the ‘Night of Stars’ event that will take place in the Ballroom of the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre on Wednesday, October 25th, 6pm - 8.30pm.

For more information on how to enter the awards and other categories, please contact awards@belmontbec.com or phone: (08) 9479 3777 or visit [www.belmontbec.com/awards](http://www.belmontbec.com/awards)

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