### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards Launch for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Time!

The 23rd annual Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards will launch on Wednesday 20th April, 6pm-8pm at the City of Belmont Civic Centre.

This year the WA Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Small Business, Hon Sean L'Estrange MLA will provide an update on WA Small Business and officially launch the Awards with the City of Belmont Mayor Phil Marks welcoming guests to the Launch.

Carol Hanlon, CEO of the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc. and Founder of the Belmont Small Business Awards said, "The Belmont Business Enterprise Centre has been co-ordinating the local and state wide business awards since 1994 and it's a pleasure to be promoting small businesses that are having a go and achieving greatness in their preferred fields.

"I'm always encouraging small businesses to enter awards like this because there are so many beneficial reasons to enter beyond the title – especially for small businesses looking to build their profile and brand awareness.

"Entering awards offers an opportunity for small businesses to promote themselves and evaluate their business from a variety of perspectives.

"Establishing yourself as an award-winning organisation is a great way to motivate your staff, improve relationships with customers and suppliers and strengthen your position in the industry.

"The Awards are open to businesses both within the Belmont area, and statewide. I would like to thank all of our great sponsors, as we couldn't host the event without them," Carol Hanlon said.

The Awards launch will also include the launch of the 12<sup>th</sup> Designedge Innovation Festival 2016, and highlights will include a WA Designer Parade and the Spirit of the Streets Choir.

The Awards will open for small businesses across Western Australia from the 21<sup>st</sup> of April until 5pm Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

Businesses wishing to enter the awards can access Free Information Sessions on 'How to Prepare Award Submissions, Free Award Entry Kits and Submission Mentors. Contact Belmont BEC on <u>awards@belmontbec.com</u> or phone 9479 3777 or visit <u>www.belmontbec.com/awards</u>

The final "Night of Stars" event when the winners will be announced will be held 6pm October 26<sup>th</sup> in the Ballroom of the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Major sponsors of the 2016 awards include City of Belmont, Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc. (Belmont BEC) and Textile, Clothing, Footwear Resource Centre WA Inc. (TCFWA). 2016 Supporting Sponsors include Aaragon Construction Management, Australian Asian Association of WA, BEC Global, Belmont Forum, Belmont Rotary, Business News, Business & Professional Women WA, Hanssen Project Management, Infinite IT, Mustera Property Group, National Australia Bank, Perth Airport, Racebreed Australia, Southern Gazette, TCF Global, Telstra Business Centre Belmont, Watering Concepts, WA Treeworks, Westways Visual Communication and Worldwide Printing Solutions.



## 23<sup>rd</sup> Belmont & Western Australia Small Business Awards 2016 www.belmontbec.com/awards



12<sup>th</sup> designedge Innovation Festival 2016 now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year will run from 21st April through to 31<sup>st</sup> May with events, workshops, webinars, networking and forums being staged in Belmont, Western Australia and broadcasted nationally & globally ONLINE. Over 90 events will be presented during the festival bringing together small business owners, innovators, designers, creatives and community organisations. The 12<sup>th</sup> designedge Innovation Festival 2016 is supported by Belmont BEC, the Australian Government IP Australia, Department Industry, Innovation and Science, TCF WA, Infinite IT, BEC Global, TCF Australia, TCF Global, MY Business Incubator, BPW Business Incubator, BPW WA, Westways Visual Communication, sponsors, supporters and volunteers. www.belmontbec.com/2016innovation

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# About Belmont BEC & TCFWA

**Belmont BEC | BEC Global** is a non-profit community organisation established in 1994, and has provided training and mentoring support services to over 20,000+ individuals and small businesses in WA and across Australia to start or improve their small business. Belmont BEC is a specialist in online virtual business incubation, women in business support and has developed an extensive range of Innovative projects and programs to support small businesses. www.belmonbec.com www.bpwbusinessincubator.com

**TCFWA | TCF Australia | TCF Global** is a non-profit community organisation established in 1998 has assisted over 6,000+ designers and fashion industry small businesses with fashion business skill development, linkages in the global supply chain, International trade and industry networks. <u>www.tcfwa.com</u> <u>www.tcfaustralia.com</u> <u>www.tcfglobal.com</u>