



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **THE DESIGNEDGE INNOVATION FESTIVAL 2024 proudly supports the 31st annual Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards!**

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards was officially launched at Empire Bar in Lathlain on June 26, 2024. Organised by the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc. (Belmont BEC), it is now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year of opportunities, training, mentoring and assisting WA small businesses. The event is supported by major sponsors the City of Belmont, Belmont BEC and the Textile Clothing Footwear Resource Centre of WA (TCFWA). The 20<sup>th</sup> designedge Innovation Festival was also officially launched by Member for Belmont Cassie Rowe MLA, which celebrates over 130 events from July to September.

With a welcome offered by Mayor Robert Rossi, City of Belmont, VIP's attending included Consul General Ms Thanh Ha Nguyen and Consul Ms Thao Vu Thi Ngoc, Consulate General of Viet Nam; Hon Consul Slovakia Mr Paul Faix; Member for Belmont, Cassie Rowe MLA; City of Belmont Deputy Mayor Cr Deborah Sessions, Cr Bernie Ryan, Cr Jenny Davis; Patron Belmont BEC Louise Percy, Chair Belmont BEC Jules Lewin; Chair TCFWA Irving Lane; WA President BPW WA Kate Waters; BPW Belmont President Deggi Altangerel; Australia Philippines Business Council, Jenny Rose Ryall. Our award category sponsors attending included: Matthew Kershaw APM; Renee Ciccarone, Downs Accounting; Nathan Cheung, Flintel; Kelly Keane, Indigenous Business Australia; George Zborowski, Mustera Property Group; Andrew Clark, Perth Now; Nick Shmakov, Res-Q; Ian Harrington, Storage King Perth Airport; Kelly Crosley, Transitainer; Neil Cranny, Westways Visual Communication. Entertainment for the evening was provided by Kaylene Taylor.

**In 2024, designedge Innovation Festival are proud to sponsor the Innovation & Creativity Award - Recognising business innovation, creativity and/or new products or services developed.**

The designedge Innovation Festival, established by Belmont BEC & TCFWA, is now proudly celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year. It is an annual Festival that includes workshops, webinars, events, forums, and networking that are staged in Belmont, Perth Western Australia, nationally and globally online. In 2024, the festival will showcase more than 130 events covering a diverse range of topics including exporting, cyber security, global business, entrepreneurship, innovation, design, industry associations, and networking events specifically for women in business.

Small businesses form a significant 97.2% of all businesses in Western Australia, totalling 223,524 businesses that collectively contribute over \$54 billion annually to the economy. In fact, small businesses are not only important for their local communities, but have a big impact at all the state, national and international levels. (source: [smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/about/small-business-landscape/](https://smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/about/small-business-landscape/))

Carol Hanlon, Founding CEO of the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc., and the founder of the Belmont & WA Small Business Awards said, "The Awards provide an excellent platform for small businesses to showcase themselves, attract new business opportunities, acquire media coverage, and foster enthusiasm and loyalty among their staff."

The Awards provide recognition and encouragement for small business achievements and are open for small businesses, individuals and organisations in Belmont, Perth metropolitan area and across regional Western Australia.



Nominating small businesses can be located anywhere in Western Australia and potential entrants will be able to access a wide range of support in preparing their submission that includes Free Award Entry Submission Kits including Free Webinars, Workshops, and access to Award Mentors who can assist with tips in preparing award submissions to impress the judging panel.

Entries close on September 24<sup>th</sup> and winners will be announced at the 'Night of Stars' event that will take place in the Ballroom of the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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



**For further information please contact:**

Carol Hanlon  
CEO  
Belmont BEC  
P| 61 8 9479 3777 M| 61 417963231  
E| [carol.hanlon@belmontbec.com](mailto:carol.hanlon@belmontbec.com)

**Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc. (Belmont BEC)**  
PO Box 370, Cloverdale, WA 6985 Phone 61 8 9479 3777  
[www.belmontbec.com](http://www.belmontbec.com) [www.belmontbec.com/awards](http://www.belmontbec.com/awards)

## **31<sup>st</sup> Belmont & Western Australia Small Business Awards 2024**

### **Major Sponsors**

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**City of Belmont** is a vibrant, modern City located just six kilometres from the Perth CBD. The City's prime location between Perth Airport and Perth CBD has led to a strong local freight and logistics industry, and attracts new families, businesses, and visitors to the area. With a pro-business outlook, diverse local economy, and growing population, the City is a great place to live, work, and invest. [www.belmont.wa.gov.au](http://www.belmont.wa.gov.au)

**Belmont BEC** is a non-profit community organisation established in 1994, providing training, mentoring, networking, support services and opportunities to over 34,000+ individuals in Belmont, WA, Australia and beyond to start or improve their small business and is a specialist in virtual business incubation. Belmont BEC has originated a large range of well-known projects and programs for the benefit of its small business clients that have included the annual Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards, designedge Innovation FESTIVAL, TCF Resource Centre WA, Multicultural Business Support Services, WA Racing Industry Project, Belmont Clothes Library, BPW Business Incubator Online Projects for Women in Business, Count Me IN Disability Employer Awareness, MY Business Incubator Cyber Security Project and the BEC National Export Training & Mentoring Project.

[www.belmontbec.com](http://www.belmontbec.com) [www.belmontbec.com/awards](http://www.belmontbec.com/awards) [www.belmontbec.com/2024innovation](http://www.belmontbec.com/2024innovation)  
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**TCFWA | TCF Australia | TCF Global** is a non-profit industry association established in 1998, assisting over 7,000 designers, creatives, fashion, and textile. clothing footwear (TCF) related industry small business with fashion business skill development including TCF Australia Export Training & Mentoring Project, designedge Innovation festival, sustainable fashion and circular economy topics, MY Fashion Incubator migrant small business projects, TCF Access Asia project linkages and the global supply chain, international trade missions and industry networks.

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