



# MEDIA RELEASE

## SENATOR THE HON NICK SHERRY

Minister for Small Business  
Minister Assisting on Deregulation  
Minister Assisting on Tourism

## SENATOR THE HON LOUISE PRATT

Senator for Western Australia

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### TOURISM FUNDING TO EXPAND GINGIN OBSERVATORY

The Minister Assisting on Tourism, Senator Nick Sherry and Senator for Western Australia, Louise Pratt, have unveiled plans for an extension to the popular Gingin Observatory, north of Perth.

An Australian Government grant of \$62,500 through the TQUAL Grants program contributed to the \$137,600 concept design project to develop professional plans for future renovations at the observatory.

Senator Pratt unveiled the plans at a ceremony in Gingin today - they include an extension to the existing observatory to house a reception, additional exhibition space, a gift shop and a theatre upgrade to allow 3D stereoscopic astronomy presentations.

“With these planned extensions, the Gingin Observatory will be able to offer visitors a range of exciting new experiences, sure to attract more visitors through Gingin and the surrounding area,” Senator Pratt said.

“The Gingin Observatory is an important economic asset for the local community and the Australian Government is proud to invest in its future.”

Senator Sherry welcomed the launch saying it is essential the tourism industry continues to innovate and develop attractions which capture visitors’ imaginations and encourage them to travel throughout Australia.

“Tourism is competing with sectors such as retail and constantly needs to provide a quality experience that is value for money,” Senator Sherry said.

“Quality attractions like the Gingin Observatory are important to the industry’s success.

“The Australian Government is assisting businesses and communities to upgrade and develop their attractions by providing competitive funding through *TQUAL Grants*.”

Since 2009, *TQUAL Grants* has provided over \$8 million towards 70 innovative tourism projects throughout Australia.

At this year’s election, the Australian Government committed a further \$40 million to extend the highly successful program for another four years.

GINGIN

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