



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **SENATOR THE HON NICK SHERRY**

Minister for Small Business  
Minister Assisting on Deregulation and Public Sector Superannuation  
Minister Assisting on Tourism

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### **FLOOD RECOVERY HELP FOR SUNRAYSIA SMALL BUSINESSES**

Sunraysia small businesses affected by the floods crisis are being urged to use a wide range of Australian Government support services and find out about the assistance available to help them get back on their feet.

Minister for Small Business, Senator Nick Sherry, who is visiting Mildura, says all business operators who have been hit hard should contact the Australian Government's business advisory services about assistance, such as grants and low-interest loans.

"The Australian Government is offering immediate financial help and ongoing advice and counselling," Senator Sherry said.

"More than 60 small businesses have registered for assistance with the Flood Recovery Centre in Mildura, but all small businesses should make themselves familiar with what the Government has put in place to assist in the flood recovery."

Senator Sherry was in Mildura to meet the Sunraysia Rural Counselling Service staff and get an overview of the extent of the effects on small businesses in the area. He also visited the Flood Recovery Centre.

"There is a tendency sometimes to be a little reluctant to ask for help," Senator Sherry said.

"The Small Business Support Line is there to provide expert advice. Its agents are highly trained and have small business backgrounds. I encourage small businesses in this region to call the Support Line if they need information to help them during these stressful days."

As part of the disaster recovery assistance, the Australian and Victorian Governments have partnered to provide grants of up to \$25,000 and concessional loans of up to \$200,000 to small businesses and primary producers in the Sunraysia region.

"The \$25,000 recovery grants don't have to be repaid and are also not liable to tax," Senator Sherry said.

"The Australian Government is also providing relief from the tax formalities businesses have to deal with in normal circumstances.

"The Tax Office has again extended the deferral dates for monthly activity statements and quarterly activity statements that were due this month, to March 21 and 28 respectively.

“Business does go on and those lucky enough not to be affected should be aware of other ongoing support in the Sunraysia region.

“The Sunraysia Rural Counselling Service is providing the Small Business Online program - to equip small businesses make better use of the Internet in their operations.

“Sunraysia’s Getting Your Small Business Online project has assisted more than 220 small businesses to date.

“So, call the support line. They are here for you and will know where you can find the appropriate assistance for you,” Senator Sherry said.

For information on the Small Business Support Line call 1800 777 275 or email [sbsl@innovation.gov.au](mailto:sbsl@innovation.gov.au) or visit [www.usindustry.gov.au](http://www.usindustry.gov.au) for details of the other small business assistance measures.

MILDURA

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**Media Contact:** Joe Scavo 0413 800 757