



# MEDIA RELEASE

**SENATOR NICK SHERRY**

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

**MELISSA PARKE MP**

Member for Fremantle

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## HELP AT HAND FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN FREMANTLE

Small Business Minister, Senator Nick Sherry, on a visit to Fremantle, has urged local businesses to take advantage of the Australian Government's many support services to help them operate better in the modern environment.

Senator Sherry and Member for Fremantle, Melissa Parke MP, today visited one of those support services – Business Foundations Inc, the Fremantle Business Enterprise Centre which services local small businesses.

"I congratulate the centre staff and CEO Phil Kemp on their success in providing more than 3000 services to Fremantle small businesses over the past three years," Senator Sherry said.

"Through Australian Government funding, the Fremantle BEC has been able to mentor new businesses, provide guidance on loans and banking, develop customer marketing plans and facilitate valuable networking opportunities."

The Australian Government has provided \$42 million to 36 BECs around the country for the delivery of small business advisory services.

These BECs have provided more than 180,000 advisory services to small businesses - 48,000, or more than a quarter of them, to WA small businesses.

"The advisory service is one in a range of programs the Gillard Government has in place to help small businesses - we value their contribution to the local community and to the national economy," Ms Parke said.

"Local small businesses are the backbone of Australia's economy and it's important they have the services of such centres as the Fremantle BEC to assist them to grow and prosper.

"I congratulate the CEO, Phil Kemp, for his unstinting commitment to fostering new enterprise in Fremantle.

"Other Australian Government assistance measures include the Small Business Support Line and the Small Business Online program," Ms Parke said.

The SBSL was set up to provide information and referral services. It has already taken more than 2200 calls from WA since it started last year.

The SBO program equips businesses to take advantage of the internet in operating their business. To find a Small Business Online provider in your area, visit the [SBO providers list](#) at [www.usindustry.gov.au](http://www.usindustry.gov.au).

“I’ve also just launched the web-based service Advisor Finder - a Google mapping tool that puts small businesses in touch with their nearest government funded advisor Australia-wide,” Senator Sherry said.

“Businesses just type in a post code and Advisor Finder will locate the advisory services close to them.”

For information on the Small Business Support Line call 1800 777 275 or visit [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au)

FREMANTLE

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