



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR THE HON NICK SHERRY

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

NEW CABINS ATTRACT PREMIUM VISITORS TO SOUTHERN FORESTS

The Minister Assisting on Tourism, Senator Nick Sherry, has officially opened new accommodation at a local icon in the South West, made possible with funding of \$100,000 through the Australian Government's *TQUAL Grants*.

The project has provided new four-star cabins overlooking historic Fonty's Pool on Manjimup's premier tourist drive, Seven Day Road.

"The new four-star chalets will help Manjimup attract year-round holiday traffic," Senator Sherry said.

"It's important to offer higher-quality accommodation, as people will pay a premium to visit – especially given the recent interest in the area's farmed black truffles.

"We need to upgrade our accommodation, especially in regional areas, to boost our appeal as a tourism destination on a national basis.

"Tourism can help fill the gap from the decline of other industries, but nurturing tourism does more than create local jobs – it breathes new energy into communities.

"That renewal is clear to see here in Manjimup and I applaud the owners, elected representatives, family descendants and local people; in fact, all who helped bring Fonty's Pool back to life.

"In the past few years, thousands of summer campers, day-trippers, wedding guests and swimmers of all ages have put Fonty's Pool firmly back on the map.

"When quality destinations get busier, the wider community benefits – and that's why *TQUAL Grants* program is so important.

"The Australian Government has invested more than \$8 million to date through *TQUAL Grants*, including the \$100,000 for this particular project. We've bolstered that financial support across Australia by a further \$40 million.

"Our support will help tourism companies and consortiums make an even greater contribution to economic growth," Senator Sherry said.

Application forms for the next round of *TQUAL Grants* can be found at www.ret.gov.au/tqual.

MANJIMUP

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