



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR THE HON NICK SHERRY

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

BETTER ADVICE SERVICE FOR BUNBURY SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses in Bunbury now have access to enhanced advisory services with the opening of the new office for the Small Business Centre Bunbury-Wellington.

Small Business Minister, Senator Nick Sherry, has today opened the bigger premises for the centre, which provides free services to new and existing businesses in the Bunbury, Capel, Collie, Dardanup, Donnybrook-Balingup and Harvey shires.

“The demand for the BEC’s service since it started at its old address had reached the stage where there was no capacity to expand,” Senator Sherry said.

“Through Australian Government funding, the centre has been able to expand to deliver more services on a full-time basis for Bunbury businesses.

“I congratulate the centre staff on their success in delivering results for the diverse business interests represented in Bunbury and in the surrounding shires.”

The Small Business Centre Bunbury-Wellington is a recipient of a \$1 million grant over four years through the Australian Government's BEC program.

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.

“Our funding has helped each BEC expand its core activities, such as mentoring for new businesses, guidance on loans and banking, development of marketing plans and providing valuable networking opportunities,” Senator Sherry said. .

“The advisory service is one in a range of programs the Gillard Government has in place to help small businesses because they are the backbone of our economy.

“Other assistance measures include the Small Business Support Line and the Small Business Online program,” Senator Sherry 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.ausindustry.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.

“It’s easy to use - just enter the type of advice you’re after and your location and Advisor Finder will find the advisory services nearest to you.”

For information on the Small Business Support Line call 1800 777 275 or visit www.business.gov.au

BUNBURY

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