



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR NICK SHERRY

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

BERNIE RIPOLL MP

Member for Oxley

SHAYNE NEUMANN MP

Member for Blair

PRAISE FOR WORK OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORS IN IPSWICH FLOOD RECOVERY

The work of specialist small business advisors in helping Ipswich businesses recover from the floods crisis has received praise from visiting Small Business Minister, Senator Nick Sherry.

Senator Sherry, Member for Oxley, Bernie Ripoll MP, and Member for Blair, Shayne Neumann MP, visited the Business Enterprise Centre Ipswich Region (BECIR) today, which is currently assisting many small business operators get back on their feet after the floods.

“Staff from the centre have been on the ground helping more than 300 businesses with government grant applications and other flood assistance initiatives,” Senator Sherry said.

“They’ve been running free business recovery workshops and providing help beyond the centre’s regular services and I congratulate Tony Axford and his dedicated team on their outstanding work.

“I urge all small business operators in the Ipswich region to take advantage of the wide range Australian Government support services and contact their local BEC – it is there to help,” Senator Sherry said.

BECIR has received a \$1.2 million Australian Government grant over four years to offer vital small business assistance such as mentoring for new businesses, guidance on loans and banking products, development of marketing plans and providing valuable networking opportunities.

“The centre has provided more than 3000 services to businesses in the Ipswich region,” Mr Ripoll said.

“With its local knowledge and expertise, it’s well placed to assist small business recover from the devastating effects of the floods.”

Mr Neumann said the Gillard Government recognises the important contribution small businesses make to national prosperity and supporting jobs and has a range of programs in place dedicated to providing expert advice.

“Small businesses are the backbone of the national economy – and important leaders in our local community,” Mr Neumann said.

“We need them to get back on their feet as soon as possible and those who haven’t asked for help should start by contacting Tony’s team here at the Ipswich BEC.”

The Australian Government has provided \$42.5 million to 37 BECs throughout Australia for the delivery of small business advisory services. BECs have to date provided more than 182,000 services to small business.

“Only yesterday I launched a new BEC, Advance Cairns, that will be crucial in assisting small businesses affected by Cyclone Yasi,” Senator Sherry said.

This network of advisory services is one of many small business assistance measures, such as the Small Business Support Line (SBSL) and the Small Business Online (SBO) program, set up to provide expert advice.

For information on the Small Business Support Line call 1800 777 275 or visit www.business.gov.au or www.ausindustry.gov.au for details of other small business assistance measures.

IPSWICH

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