



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR KIM CARR

Minister for Innovation, Industry,
Science and Research

SENATOR NICK SHERRY

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

\$3.3 MILLION FUNDING BOOST FOR SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES IN DISASTER AREAS

The Australian Government is providing a \$3.3 million funding boost to small business support groups to help them deliver additional services to assist Australia's disaster-affected small businesses.

Innovation Minister, Senator Kim Carr, and Small Business Minister, Senator Nick Sherry, launched the new funding round today under the Gillard Labor Government's Small Business Advisory Services (SBAS) program.

Not-for-profit organisations can receive grants of up to \$100,000, under existing guidelines.

"With these extra funds, the Government is supporting those in our community who are helping others," Senator Sherry said.

"I've recently visited flood-hit areas in Queensland and other parts of Australia and I have spoken with staff from Business Enterprise Centres and local organisations assisting in the recovery.

"They've been doing a magnificent job, working extraordinary hours, helping small businesses pick up the pieces and going way beyond what they would normally be expected to deliver.

"They deserve more support and the Gillard Government is delighted to have been able to secure this extra funding."

Senator Carr urged eligible experienced not-for-profit organisations delivering services in the disaster declared zones to apply for the grants. Organisations in other areas which are assisting small businesses that have been affected by a disaster can also apply.

Funded services can include business mentoring, assistance with business and marketing plans, preparing for and accessing business finance, accounting or legal services and programs to build the business skills and networks of small business.

"This new funding recognises the efforts of the thousands of individuals and organisations helping disaster affected businesses get back on their feet," Senator Carr said.

"Small businesses are part of the fabric of each community affected by these terrible events and the sooner we can help business recover, the sooner communities will get back on their feet."

Applications close on Friday 6 May 2011 at 5pm AEST.

Under the SBAS program, the Australian Government is providing \$42.5 million over four years to fund 37 Business Enterprise Centres across Australia – the latest in Cairns was launched by Minister Sherry just last month.

For more information about the SBAS program visit www.ausindustry.gov.au, call the Hotline 13 28 46, or email hotline@ausindustry.gov.au.

CANBERRA

6 April 2011

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