



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR THE HON NICK SHERRY

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

ADVICE BODIES RECEIVE GRANTS TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES

Twenty-five not-for-profit business advisory organisations have received Australian Government funding totalling \$2.5 million to help small businesses affected by the recent natural disasters.

Small Business Minister, Senator Nick Sherry, today announced the \$100,000 grants under the Small Business Advisory Services – National Disaster Assistance program.

The organisations will support small businesses hit by the nationwide disasters since October last year, including the Queensland floods, Cyclone Yasi and the Victorian floods.

“The 25 organisations are spread across the country, with the great majority in regional areas,” Senator Sherry said.

“They will provide advice on business planning, finance, marketing, legal and accounting matters, government regulation and referrals.

“We wanted this additional funding in place so the affected small businesses could have access to the advisory services as soon possible.”

Senator Sherry said to ensure all disaster affected areas can get help, businesses which did not have access to an organisation in their area, can tap into the services provided by the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre in Perth.

“Their services are provided online, so any small business not in close proximity to government funded business advisory services can make use of their resources,” Senator Sherry said.

“The Belmont BEC has a strong record of providing its services on a national basis. In recent years, it was nominated for Best BEC in Australia and Best National BEC.

“Of course, this funding is additional to the extensive range of advisory services the Government has in place to assist small businesses.

“It's also in addition to the \$725,000 extension of the Australian Government's Enterprise Connect to Queensland tourism businesses, as part of the Queensland Tourism Industry Support Package.”

A list of the organisations successful in obtaining SBAS funding grants is attached. 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

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Name	Project	Grant (GST Ex)	Org State
Northern Rivers BEC (NORBEC)	The Northern Rivers BEC (NORBEC) will provide one on one mentoring and workshops to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. The NORBEC will provide workshop packages with assistance including cash flow management, short term cost effective marketing strategies and boosting business through online resources. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	NSW
The Australian Industry Group	The Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) will provide one on one mentoring, business planning and marketing advice to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. The Ai Group will provide services including business health checks, cash flow forecasting, market and strategic development assistance. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	NSW
Wagga Wagga Business Enterprise Centre Ltd	The Wagga Wagga Business Enterprise Centre (WWBEC) will provide one on one mentoring and workshops to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. The WWBEC will provide services including business planning, marketing, accounting and cash flow management. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	NSW
BEC Redland Brisbane Bayside Ltd	The BEC Redland Brisbane Bayside Limited will provide one on one mentoring and specialist workshops to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. Services to be offered will include action and viability planning for recovery, business plan assistance, strategies and assessments of financial management and marketing analysis and strategies. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD

Bundaberg Enterprise Centre Assoc Inc	The Bundaberg Enterprise Centre (BEC) will provide one on one mentoring to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. The BEC will provide services including business planning and marketing advice, budget and cash flow advice, assistance with loans and banking products and legal and accounting services. All services are provided free or low cost, by a Small Business Advisor (SBA) as well as assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD
Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation (BIEDO)	The Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation (BIEDO) will provide one on one mentoring to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. BIEDO will provide services including resilience building strategies, re-building/re-connecting strategies and re-invention/re-direction planning through exploring diversification, innovation or market opportunities. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD
Business Enterprise Centre Ipswich Region Inc	The Business Enterprise Centre Ipswich Region Inc (BECIR) will provide one on one mentoring and workshops to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. The BECIR will provide services including business, short term cash flow assistance, short term cost effective marketing strategies, retail strategies and reducing ongoing expenses. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD
Career Employment Australia t/a BEC Brisbane Metro	Career Employment Australia Incorporated (CEAI) will provide one on one mentoring and specialist workshops to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. CEAI will provide resilience workshops that will improve the capacity to recover from the effects on small businesses through natural disaster and find new ways to gain access to increased business opportunities. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD

Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited	Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited will provide one on one mentoring, workshops and networking events to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. Small businesses can access advice in areas including business planning, staff attraction and retention, human resource management, marketing, sustainability and time management. All services are provided free or low cost, with assistance available from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD
Gulf Savannah Development Inc	Gulf Savannah Development Inc will provide small business advisory services, specialised training and tailored information to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. Services will include legal and accounting support to help with business recovery. All services are provided free or low cost, with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD
Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Tourism Inc.	The Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce Industry & Tourism Inc will provide one on one mentoring and planning advice to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disasters since October 2010. The Hinchinbrook Chamber will develop a small business road map to build skills for small businesses to remain sustainable, build resilience, remain competitive and maximise the growth potential of the district. All services are provided free or low cost, by small business consultants with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD
Rural Solutions Queensland Inc	Rural Solutions Queensland Inc (RSQ) will provide a one on one mentoring program to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. RSQ will assess the opportunities and vulnerabilities of small businesses, develop plans to address areas of weakness, provide services including cash flow forecasting and management to maximise efficiency and new opportunities for small businesses. All services are provided free or low cost, with assistance available from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD

Somerset Regional Business Alliance Inc	Somerset Region Business Alliance (SRBA) Inc will provide one on one mentoring and specialist workshops to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. SRBA will provide specialise workshops including cash flow assistance, effective marketing strategies, retail merchandising and legal and accounting services. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD
The Rockhampton Enterprise Centre	The Rockhampton Enterprise Centre Inc (RECI) will provide one on one mentoring and workshops to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. The RECI will provide services including business planning advice, marketing plans and dealing with business stress. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD
Thuringowa Enterprise Centre	Thuringowa Enterprise Centre Inc (TEC) will provide one on one mentoring to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. The TEC will provide services including business advice, business diagnostics, financial analysis and preparation of financial forecasts and business plans. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD
Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce & Industry	The Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce Incorporated will provide one on one support to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. The Toowoomba Chamber will provide services including business planning and review of financial aspects of small businesses. All services are provided free or low cost, by a Small Business Advisor (SBA) as well as assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD

Whitsunday Development Corporation	The Whitsunday Development Corporation will provide one on one mentoring to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. A range of services will be offered including business planning, operational reviews, financial analysis and marketing strategies. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor, with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	QLD
Community Potential Foundation Limited	Community Potential Foundation Limited will provide one on one mentoring to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. The Community Potential Foundation will provide services including business recovery planning and mentoring advice on marketing, business planning and financial issues. All services are provided free or low cost, by a small business consultant with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	TAS
Ballarat Business Centre Inc Trading as Eureka BEC	The Ballarat Business Centre Inc will provide specialist advice and workshops to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. A range of services will be provided free or low cost by a small business consultant, with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	VIC
Continuing Education Bendigo Limited	Continuing Education Bendigo (CEB) will provide one on one mentoring and training workshops to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. CEB will provide mentoring services including business and marketing planning and self sustainable accounting skills. Workshops will cover topics including writing business and marketing plans, eBusiness and eMarketing. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	VIC
Murray Dairy Inc	Murray Dairy Inc will provide one on one mentoring and group facilitated learning and discussion groups to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. Services to be provided will include business planning, loans and banking products as well as business re-establishment and management. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	VIC

North Central Rural Financial Counselling Service (Vic) Inc	North Central Rural Financial Counselling Service (VIC) Inc (NCRFCS) will provide one on one mentoring to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. NCRFCS will provide services including business planning, planning for the future and viability assessments for small business. All services are provided free or low cost, by a small business specialist with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	VIC
Small Business Mentor Service Inc	Small Business Mentoring Service (SBMS) Incorporated will provide hands on workshops followed by intensive one on one mentoring to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disaster since October 2010. SBMS will provide services including re-establishing and improving financial management, structure, staff development, disaster recovery planning, process mapping and business planning healthchecks. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	VIC
Sunraysia Rural Counselling Service Inc	Sunraysia Rural Counselling Service Inc (SRCS) will provide one on one mentoring and 'Small Business Health Checks' to small businesses directly and indirectly affected by natural disasters since October 2010. SRCS will provide services including business and marketing planning, financial statement analysis and business viability analysis. All services are provided free or low cost, by a business advisor with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	VIC
Belmont BEC	The Belmont BEC will provide online assistance to small businesses directly or indirectly affected by natural disasters since October 2010. Assistance will be provided 'virtually' through 'My Business Incubator' which will deliver support via one on one telephone assistance, email, mentoring through web meetings and group training webinars. All services are provided free or low cost, by specialist business advisors in the creative industry, with assistance from specialist industry professionals.	\$100,000	WA