



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **SENATOR THE HON NICK SHERRY**

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

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### **SUPPORT LINE A REFERENCE POINT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

With the end of the financial year upon us and its usual requirements to meet, many time-poor small businesses will turn to the Australian Government's Small Business Support Line for quick, expert advice.

In the past 12 months, the Support Line has taken more than 18,000 calls from small businesses wanting help on matters ranging from registration and licensing to starting a business, legal, grants and assistance, and tax matters.

Small Business Minister, Senator Nick Sherry, today urged small businesses needing advice to make greater use of the free service.

"The 18,000-plus calls it took is a phenomenal figure in such a short time, a success in anyone's language - but we want more small businesses to tap into it," Senator Sherry said.

"The Government knows how important it is to provide small businesses with a service that means they don't have to take time away from work. That's why in the Budget this year we provided new funding of \$7.1 million to continue the Support Line for another four years.

"It is a particularly useful one-stop-shop in regional Australia which accounted for 21 per cent of calls."

The bulk of the calls – more than 35 per cent – related to registration and licensing. Government initiatives, grants and assistance accounted for more than 20 per cent and starting a business about 15 per cent.

"Whether the small business called about cash flow management, retail leasing, business diagnostic services, or personal stress and hardship counselling, the trained operators were able to help.

"A small business that is running smoothly has benefits for the economy and creates jobs in the community," Senator Sherry said.

CANBERRA

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