



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR THE HON NICK SHERRY

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

BECs HIT MILESTONE OF HELPING 100,000 SMALL BUSINESSES

Small Business Minister, Senator Nick Sherry, has announced today that the nation's 37 Australian Government funded Business Enterprise Centres (BECs) have passed the milestone of helping 100,000 small businesses during the past three years.

"These advisory centres are proving a valuable asset for Australia's vibrant and diverse small business community," Senator Sherry said during the launch of an Australian Government BEC project in Launceston.

"More than 100,000 small businesses have taken the opportunity to seek the free or low-cost expert advice provided by the BECs during the past three years.

"The Australian Government is ensuring small business people have the advice they need to run and grow a successful business.

"Our BECs are providing assistance in areas such as business and marketing planning, leasing guidance, legal and accounting, loans and banking advice, government regulations and mentoring.

"The dedicated professionals in these BECs are experienced in small business matters and understand the needs of small business in their local area because they are part of the community themselves.

"As someone who lives in regional Tasmania, I recognise the important role they play in the economic life of local communities," Senator Sherry said.

The BECs began operating in July 2008, funded for four years under the Australian Government's \$48.25 million Small Business Advisory Services program.

The Government in this year's Budget also provided \$7.1 million of new funding for the Small Business Support Line to continue its popular services for the next four years.

A list of the 37 BECs can be found on the Small Business Advisory Services page at ausindustry.gov.au

For more information about the SBAS BEC initiative or the Small Business Support Line, visit www.ausindustry.gov.au, call the Hotline 13 28 46, or email hotline@ausindustry.gov.au

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