



1 May 2009

The Honourable Troy Buswell, MLA
Treasurer and Minister for Commerce
21 Floor, Governor Stirling Tower
197 St Georges Tce
Perth WA 6000

Dear Minister,

Re: Funding Withdrawal for Belmont BEC

I refer to the advice presented by the SBDC Board that funding for the Belmont BEC for the 2009-2010 year will be withdrawn despite one year of its three year contract remaining.

It has been my privilege to have been the Patron of the Belmont BEC for the past 13 years. During this period I have observed the Centre develop from an efficient and effective Business Enterprise Centre to an organization which has evolved, through the initiative of Ms Hanlon and her Committee and support team, to provide a wide range of services not the least of which is the TCF programme.

The hands-on, personal approach the Belmont BEC has taken with those clients who would otherwise be intimidated by larger, less personal operations has ensured their confidence to continue in their endeavours with in many cases, remarkable success. The state-wide reach of this support is indicated by the range of clients which utilizes the workshops and programmes the Centre provides.

The Awards which Ms Hanlon, and the Belmont BEC have received are testimony to the strength of the model which this BEC presents.

With an appreciation of the difficulties presented currently by the economic downturn I firmly believe that the particular services provided by the Belmont BEC are essential in ensuring the success of many of the clients it assists. I do not think that these services can be replicated by a larger organization, however well intentioned.

I therefore respectfully request that you review this decision by the SBDC Board to withdraw the funding to the Belmont BEC.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Percy
Managing Director

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