

MEDIA RELEASE

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Senator Stephens Supports Golden Gurus program in W.A.

New South Wales Senator, the Honourable Ursula Stephens visited the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre (Belmont BEC) today (14/4/2010) to congratulate the team on the implementation of the Golden Gurus program in W.A.

Golden Gurus is a national program aimed at providing mature age Australians (aged 50 years and over) with a range of opportunities to support community organisations and small businesses. There will be many opportunities for mature age citizens to take on a skilled volunteering role. This role could involve helping a community organisation to grow or helping a community organisation deliver support to others (for example, by transferring skills and experience to people with disability, young people, Indigenous Australians or people experiencing challenges in life).

Senator Stephens, who heads up program in Australia said, "Golden Gurus forms part of the Australian Government's social inclusion agenda. The program aims to harness the skills and experience of Australians aged 50 years and over to help meet future skill needs, address current skill shortages and respond to the challenges of an ageing workforce."

Senator Stephens met with Belmont BEC Guru John Knox, who is the first Golden Guru in WA and is linked with the Belmont BEC. John has 40yrs background in business in tyres and distribution.

Belmont BEC Chair Tim Hammond also outlined to Senator Stephens during the visit that the BEC would like to create a virtual Golden Guru network so that Gurus around Australia who would like to pass on their experience to an emerging business can do so by linking with Belmont BEC, and then connect with firms online.

For the Golden Gurus program, Belmont BEC offer free and low cost assistance and support to new and existing businesses through:

- ❖ Free practical business assistance
- ❖ referral to specialist advisers (accountants, lawyers etc)
- ❖ business workshops
- ❖ business information
- ❖ problem solving

CEO of Belmont BEC, Carol Hanlon said, "We are calling for additional interested business people that are over 50 and have a few hours to spare each month to help guide a small business to grow and develop through the Golden Gurus program."

If you are a small business looking for support, or you'd like to become a Golden Guru with the Belmont BEC, please contact Carol Hanlon, CEO on info@belmontbec.com

For more information on the Golden Gurus program:
www.deewr.gov.au/GoldenGurus

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About Belmont BEC:

Since its inception, the Belmont BEC has established an extensive range of community projects and programs. These include the Textile Clothing Footwear Resource Centre Inc. (TCFWA), Belmont Small Business Awards, WA Racing Industry Development Project, Designedge Innovation Festival, Multicultural Business Support Services, Designedge Fashion Incubator, Belmont Clothes Library, and Business Workshops for Youth. Other centre activities include the establishment of a range of specialist business workshops, many with a focus on creative industry business development programs with indigenous and culturally diverse groups.