

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Minister for Small Business's Visit - A Win for Small Business suffering Natural Disasters

Small Business Minister, Senator the Hon Nick Sherry, officially launched the 'My business incubator ONLINE Natural Disaster Assistance Project' at the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre (Belmont BEC) on 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2011.

A grant of \$100,000 was offered to Belmont BEC under the Small Business Advisory Services – National Disaster Assistance (SBAS-NDA) program. Belmont BEC will provide the national assistance '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 will be provided free or low cost, by specialist business advisors in the creative industry, with assistance from specialist industry professionals.

The SBAS-NDA program was set up to provide support to small businesses directly or indirectly impacted by the natural disasters that have occurred in Australia since October 2010. Webinars will be offered to small businesses by the Belmont BEC in disciplines such as business planning, finance, marketing, ecommerce, HR, websites and social media. Legal and accounting support will also be available to those needing specialist advice.

The Belmont BEC is one of twenty-five not-for-profit business advisory organisations that have received Australian Government funding totalling \$2.5 million to assist small businesses affected by recent natural disasters across Australia. The Belmont BEC has a strong record of providing its services on a local, statewide and national basis. In past years, CEO Carol Hanlon was awarded as Best National BEC Manager in 2004 and 2008. The services provided by Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc are funded by the Australian Government

Small Business Minister, Senator the Hon Nick Sherry said, "Belmont BEC was chosen to provide advisory services under the Small Business Advisory Services – National Disaster Assistance program because it is in the unique position of being able to provide it's services online. No matter where small businesses are located, they will be able to access much needed help if they have been directly or indirectly affected by some of the tragic natural disasters that have occurred across Australia in the last 12 months. I encourage small businesses to contact the 'My business incubator' project."

Carol Hanlon, CEO of Belmont BEC said, "Belmont BEC is honoured to win \$100,000 of funding to help us provide business advisory services across Australia under our My Business Incubator project. In the last year we have serviced more than 1,500 small businesses and presented more than 50 different workshop and webinar topics regularly. Our programs are all low cost or no cost, and it's fantastic to be recognised as a BEC that can help small businesses online in a variety of ways across the nation."

More information about other organisations that were successful in obtaining SBAS-NDA funding grants is available at [www.ausindustry.gov.au](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au), via the Hotline 13 28 46, or by emailing [hotline@ausindustry.gov.au](mailto:hotline@ausindustry.gov.au).

To find out more about the business advisory services offered by Belmont BEC or to find out about the project, log onto [www.mybusinessincubator.com.au/register](http://www.mybusinessincubator.com.au/register) or [www.belmontbec.com](http://www.belmontbec.com)

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