



GREG HUNT MP

MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

MINISTER FOR HEALTH
MINISTER FOR SPORT



SMALL BUSINESS REPORT

2017



At Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs in Clyde



Helping small businesses grow



The right choices to grow small businesses

A strong small business sector means more jobs for Australians and more opportunities to build vibrant local communities across the country.

The Turnbull Government is extending tax cuts for small and medium-sized businesses with a turnover of less than \$25 million per annum this year.

Incorporated small businesses with a turnover less than \$10 million will have their tax rate cut to 27.5 per cent in 2016-17, the lowest level in 50 years.

The Turnbull Government will further commit to reducing red tape by providing up to \$300 million to States and Territories that remove regulatory barriers.

David Hilet from Galaxy Print and Design in Hastings is one of the 3.2 million small businesses across Australia benefitting from these tax cuts.

Together, these businesses employ more than 5.6 million people.

Extension of the instant asset write-off

The 2017 Budget extends the \$20,000 instant asset write-off for a further 12 months to 30 June 2018. The turnover threshold will also be lifted to \$10 million.

This measure will improve cash flow for small businesses, helping them to reinvest in their business and replace or upgrade assets.

Improved cash flow will give businesses the flexibility to hire more employees and pay staff more.

◀ With David Hilet at Galaxy Print and Design in Hastings

Innovation the key to next generation manufacturing



\$1 million for Somerville-based manufacturer

Somerville-based manufacturing company Sealite has received a \$1 million grant through the Turnbull Government's \$90 million Next Generation Manufacturing Investment Programme.

Sealite will put the grant towards a \$10.5 million project to establish a new Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Centre for specialist marine navigation aids and aviation ground lighting systems.

The Next Generation Manufacturing Investment Programme will deliver strong economic benefits to South Australia and Victoria by encouraging investment in technologically innovative, advanced manufacturing processes and creating more than 500 jobs between the two states.

This is a great opportunity for Sealite to invest in its future by boosting its advanced manufacturing capability, which in turn creates jobs and increases its ability to compete on the global stage.

The Next Generation Manufacturing Investment Programme is a key part of the Australian Government's \$155 million Growth Fund to assist employees, businesses and regions affected by the closure of Australia's car manufacturing industry.

◀ *Innovation at work at Sealite's headquarters in Somerville with father and son business owners Jeff and Chris Procter*

Business development pays off



Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs

Clyde-based business Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs has gone from strength to strength since opening nine years ago.

The horticulture company uses the latest technology to grow herbs more sustainably while providing nutritious edible plants for home cooks, professional chefs and health-conscious consumers.

Since it was established in 2008, the business has gone from producing 2,000 bunches of herbs with two employees to current peak productions of 180,000 units per week with more than 50 employees from the local area.

Founding partner Jan Vydra is passionate about innovation in the agricultural industry and was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship in 2016, which allowed him to travel the world meeting farmers and industry experts in the agricultural sector.

Jan's study topic, 'more food, less earth', examined the great challenge humanity faces in ensuring enough food is produced to sustain a ballooning global population over the next five years.

Fresh Leaf Herbs' innovative growing practices are impressive and their ideas for diversifying and growing the business won them a 2016 Casey Cardinia Business of the Year award.

◀ *With Jan Vydra at Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs
- 2016 Casey Cardinia Business of the Year*

Supporting employers who hire jobseekers



New support for youth jobs

New Federal Government incentives are available to help local young people find employment.

The changes will provide incentive payments of \$1,000 to local businesses to encourage them to take on more young people.

Job seekers participating in the scheme will receive a \$200 fortnightly payment on top of their income support payments when carrying out a voluntary internship.

These changes are a key component of the Turnbull Government's Youth Jobs (Prepare, Trial, Hire) PaTH Program, which will help job seekers under 25 years.

The Program will help 120,000 vulnerable young Australians over four years through pre-employment training, internships and wage subsidies for employers.

Financial incentives of up to \$10,000 are available to employers who employ eligible young job seekers.

This will help our local economy and create more jobs.

For more information visit www.jobsearch.gov.au/path

◀ On a truffle hunt with Jenny McAuley at Red Hill Truffles

Providing employment for people with mental illnesses



▲ With Lanie Muir, founder of **Bass Coast Cleaning and Property Management**

Koo Wee Rup-based business Bass Coast Cleaning and Property Management is providing hope, support and employment for people with mental health challenges.

Founded by Lanie Muir, the business employs people suffering from a range of mental health issues.

By assisting these people into employment it provides a sense of hope for their future by reducing some of the usual barriers they may come up against.

This is a terrific example of a business with a strong social conscience that is leading the way in providing opportunities for people who might otherwise struggle to gain employment.

The business recently received a 3AW Momentum Energy Small Business Success Award, which is a well-deserved recognition for Lanie and her team.

Small Business Survey

As your Federal Member, I am committed to ensuring a better deal for local businesses.

Through lower taxes, simpler paperwork, assistance to purchase new equipment and access to new markets through trade agreements we are helping small businesses to grow and create more jobs.

I am keen to keep in touch with the day-to-day issues affecting small businesses. I would be happy to visit your business, learn more about the products and services you deliver and discuss any issues of concern with you.

The nbn rollout is gathering pace across the Flinders electorate with 62,601 homes and businesses ready for service and a further 54,439 homes and businesses under construction.

The nbn rollout is on-track for every town in the electorate to be ready-for-service or under construction by September 2018.

I appreciate your feedback and invite you to complete the short survey at the back of this newsletter and return it to my office.

Kind regards



Small Business Survey

Would you like me to visit your small business?

☐

Yes

☐

No

THE ISSUES

Please number the four issues that concern you most:

☐

Cost of electricity and utilities

☐

Cost and availability of finance

☐

Difficulty in doing business with governments

☐

Too much paperwork and red tape for small business

☐

Union interference in the workplace

☐

Unfair trade practice of big business

☐

Access to government programs and support

☐

Impact of labour costs on your business

In your view, what is the most important action the Coalition Government could take to help small businesses?

What is the one piece of government red tape that you think should be removed?

I'd appreciate you taking a moment to complete this survey and help me learn more about how we can best assist your business.

ABOUT POLITICS *(optional)*

Please select one of the following:

I **ALWAYS** support the following party

☐

Liberals

☐

Labor

☐

Greens

☐

Independent/Other

OR I **USUALLY** support the following party

☐

Liberals

☐

Labor

☐

Greens

☐

Independent/Other

OR ☐ I don't support any political party

Would you like to receive regular updates on what is happening in Flinders via email?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Please complete the following details so I can stay in touch and keep you updated:

Business Name

Title

Name

Address

Business Ph.

Mobile Ph.

Email

Please return
completed survey to

Email: greg.hunt.mp@aph.gov.au

Fax: (03) 5979 3034

Post: PO Box 274, Hastings VIC 3915