

Supporting Flinders Small Business

I have summarised a number of small businesses assistance programs below and if you would like a more comprehensive list of programs or assistance in making an application, then please feel free to contact my office at anytime.

Grantslink

If you have a great new business idea or you run a successful business but are having a hard time getting the necessary capital to expand, then Grantslink may be able to help you.

Grantslink offers you direct links to information on Commonwealth Government grant programs and guidelines as well as advice on finding the best source of funding and on writing application forms.

Grantlinks can be reached on the web at www.grantslink.gov.au. For those without internet access, operators are available to provide you with assistance on 1800 026 222.

Small Business Advisory Services

If you are planning on establishing a small business and want free information, advice and referral services, you should contact the Government Small Business Advisory Service on 13 22 15.

www.smallbusiness.gov.au

smallbusiness.gov.au gives you general information on starting and operating a small or home-based business.

Business Entry Point

For information about running a business visit, www.business.gov.au.

Comet

The COMET, Commercialising Emerging Technologies Program provides assistance to small businesses and individuals to commercialise innovative products, processes and services.

Information can be obtained from Aus Industry on 13 28 46 or through their website at www.ausindustry.gov.au.

Small Business Assistance Program

This program provides funding for skills development projects promoting an enterprise culture in the small business sector. This also involves the Small Business Answers program, which provides financial grants to organisations to deliver advisory services to small businesses.

Further information can be obtained through Ausindustry on 13 28 46 or through their website at www.ausindustry.gov.au.

Fair Trading

Designed to help alleviate concerns or difficulties with fair trading matters, the ACCC has established a dedicated Small Business Unit.

The ACCC can be reached on 1300 302 502 if you have any concerns or enquiries about trade practices and fair trading matters affecting your business.

Export Market Development Grants

The Export Market Development Grants scheme is a Commonwealth initiative that gives local Small Businesses the assistance they need to turn a successful local business into a successful export business.

If you are interested in finding out more information about export Market Development Grants, Please visit www.austrade.gov.au or contact my office.

I understand how time consuming running a small business can be, so I am more than happy to come down to your premises if you need assistance. Please feel contact my office on 5979 3188 to arrange a time.

Quotes...

Greg's enthusiasm, hard work and energy have greatly helped the Western Port Business Centre to go from strength to strength. Significantly, Greg was instrumental in attracting \$100,000 of additional funding from the Commonwealth to help the Business Centre to expand. This will greatly assist in creating new local jobs and building a more prosperous and vibrant community for everyone.

Peter Lees
Manager
Western Port Business Centre

Supporting Flinders Small Business

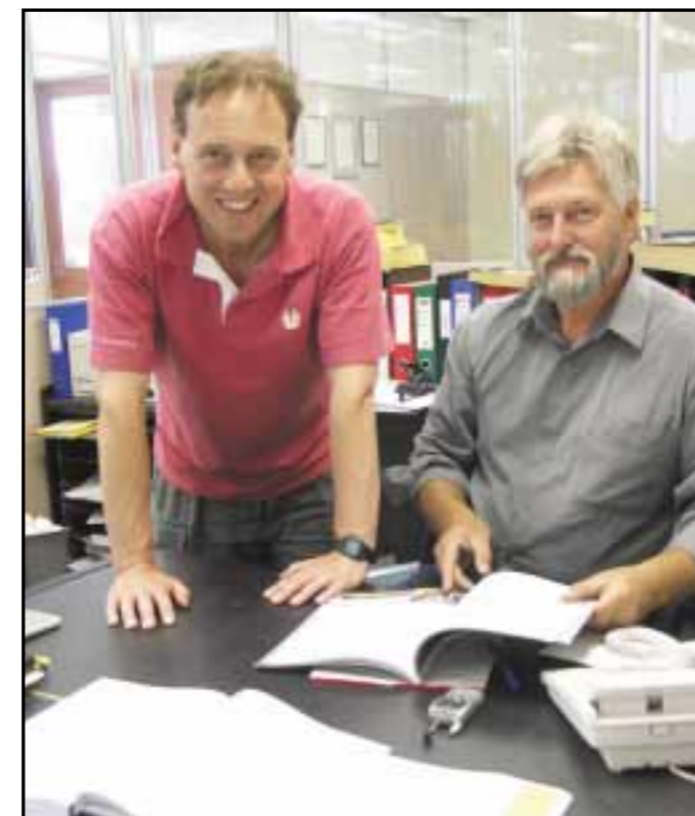
Small Businesses Incubator Grant helps local Businesses go from strength to strength

Greg Hunt MP, Federal Member for Flinders, was delighted to announce that the Western Port Business Centre in Hastings has received \$100,000 in additional funding under the Federal Government's Small Business Incubator Program to purchase and install up to six portable buildings to expand their operations.

The Business Centre which opened in August 2000, with \$453,153 in funding from the Federal Government and with the support of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, now hosts over 46 people at the Centre at Pound Road, Hastings. It is also fully occupied at present with 19 tenant businesses operating out of the premises.

Peter Lees, Manager of the Centre advised that since receiving the grant the Business has gone from strength to strength and they have even been able to expand into additional premises and further assist the local community.

Anyone considering opening a Small Business should contact Peter Lees at Western Port Business Centre on 5971 9301 or my Office on 5979 3188 to find out further information.



Greg Hunt with Peter Lees, Manager of the Western Port Business Centre.

Try the New Apprenticeships Program!

Greg Hunt encourages local small business operators to find out more about how their business can benefit from the New Apprenticeship program.

Apprentices provide real benefits for your business and contribute to your bottom line with practical skills and knowledge acquired through their training.

In 2004, there were 2,980 New Apprenticeships in training in Flinders and nationally there were 106,200 commencements and 133,000 completions. They offer new opportunities in more industries than ever before, as well as new support service arrangements and flexible training.

Information on New Apprenticeships is available at: www.newapprenticeships.gov.au or by calling 1800 639 629.

SMALL BUSINESS FACTS

Size of the Sector:

Almost 1.2 million (1 162 000) small businesses.

Contribution to GDP:

Roughly 30 per cent of Australia's Gross Domestic Product is generated by the small business sector.

Employment:

Small businesses employ well over 3 million people, accounting for almost half of private sector, non- agricultural employment.

Growth:

The number of small businesses has grown by an average annual rate of 11% since November 1999.

Home operators:

Around 67% of all small businesses are operated from home.

Regional impact:

Approximately 34 per cent of small businesses operate in regional Australia.

Sources: ABS Catalogues 1321.0, 8127.0, 8141.0

Flinders Small Business Report 2005



Shop 4, 184 Salmon Street (PO Box 274),
Hastings Vic 3915
Phone: (03) 5979 3188 Fax: (03) 5979 3034
Email: Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au
Website: www.greghunt.org

Greg Hunt MP

Federal Member for Flinders

Committed to Small Business



Securing the future for small business

Our economy continues to grow and strengthen - with more jobs created and unemployment low. That's good news for local families and for small business.

I am delighted to have been able to work with small business operators, whether by helping local business access capital through Commonwealth grants or by assisting local tourist operators to obtain public liability insurance.

Having met with Small Business operators in towns from Rosebud to Somerville to Koo Wee Rup and Cowes, I understand the real challenges facing local businesses.

In particular, I am delighted to have hosted both the Treasurer and the Minister for Small Business in visiting the electorate and local businesses.

In addition, commencing the 1 July 2005, the Coalition will be able to further assist Small Business by enacting legislation that will reduce the administrative and economic burden faced by Small Businesses. In particular, the Federal Government is committed to removing the burden of Unfair Dismissal Laws for Small Businesses with less than 20 employees.

As always, if there's anything I can help you with, please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Best wishes for a successful and profitable year.

Hon Greg Hunt MP
Federal Member for Flinders

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The Howard Government is helping small businesses by...

- | ensuring low business interest rates
- | developing a positive plan for the future | creating more apprenticeships
- | creating more work for the dole places | increasing export grants
- | working to pay back the massive debt Labor left behind