

Flinders Small Business Report 2007



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Greg Hunt^{MP}

Federal Member for Flinders
Committed to Small Business



Securing the future for small business

In these uncertain times, it is reassuring that 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.

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. As such, working to assist small businesses is extremely important to me and if I can assist your business by writing a letter of support for your grant application, by contacting the relevant agencies to help sort out problems that you're experiencing or by keeping you informed of small business grants and issues, please let me know and I will not hesitate to assist.

For your information, I have enclosed information about Federal Government Grants and services available for Small Businesses, which I hope might be of assistance to you. If you have any questions about any of the grants listed, please do not hesitate to contact the number listed or my office and we will be happy to assist.

In addition, I have enclosed information about the Federal Government's Drought Assistance Program. I understand the effects of the drought for Small Businesses and Farmers in the Electorate of Flinders, and as such, I am delighted that the Federal Government has been able to help Small Businesses through this program.

As always, if there's anything that I can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me at anytime on (03) 5979 3188.

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 |
- | cutting red-tape for small business |

Supporting Flinders Small Business



With local 3rd year Apprentice, Glenn Ryan, at a visit to Portsea Passenger Service

Greg congratulates Flinders Small Businesses training our young Australians through the Apprenticeships Initiative

I am delighted that Small Businesses in the Electorate of Flinders are continuing to support Young Australians by participating in the Federal Government's Australian Apprenticeships Initiative.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge **Portsea Passenger Service**, whom I recently visited, for their support in providing training and professional development for our young people.

For more information on how your business can participate in the Australian Apprenticeships Initiative, please visit: www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au, or call the Information Line on 13 38 73.

Flinders Small Businesses receive \$541,178 in Export Market Development Grants

Local Businesses who have been supported by the Federal Government's Export Market Development Grants are:

- ✓ A Maze 'n' Thing Pty Ltd, Phillip Island
- ✓ Broadgun Software Pty Ltd, Cape Woolamai
- ✓ Delica Australia Pty Ltd, Koo Wee Rup
- ✓ Delica Pty Ltd, Koo Wee Rup
- ✓ G & D Gjergja, Red Hill South
- ✓ Initial Impact Pty Ltd, Balnarring
- ✓ Linsiedel Estates Pty Ltd, Monomeith
- ✓ Mobius Software Pty Ltd, Merricks North
- ✓ Obetz Holdings Pty Ltd, Main Ridge
- ✓ Phillip Island Nature Park, Ventnor
- ✓ Roaring Forties Pty Ltd, Dromana
- ✓ Saachi Pty Ltd, Moorooduc
- ✓ Sealite Pty Ltd, Somerville
- ✓ Sunbather Pty Ltd, Hastings
- ✓ Wastecycle Pty Ltd, Moorooduc

National Employer Award for Pearcedale Business



With Daniel, Geoff Howell, Evan, and Michael Carlstrom

Greg presented Pearcedale resident Geoff Howell with a framed Certificate of Recognition when his business, Bright and Clear, was nominated as an "Excellent Employer" in the Prime Minister's Employer of the Year Awards.

Greg congratulated Geoff for his outstanding leadership and innovation.

Supporting Flinders Small Business

I have summarised a number of Small Business assistance programs below. If you would like a more comprehensive list of programs or assistance in making an application, then please do not hesitate to contact my office at anytime.

Australian Taxation Information Line

Local businesses are reminded of the ATO Small Business Advisory service, which aims to assist Small Businesses with many of their questions on tax issues. The ATO provides three types of advisory services: the New Business Service, Simplified Tax System, and the GST Field Visit. For more information, please contact the ATO Call Centre on 13 28 66.

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 AusIndustry on 13 28 46 or through their website at www.ausindustry.gov.au.

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.

Fair Trading

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

Please contact the ACCC on 1300 302 502 if you have any concerns or enquiries about trade practices and fair trading matters affecting your business.

Grantslink

If you have an exciting new business idea or if 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 or for those without internet access, operators are available to provide you with assistance on 1800 026 222.

Small Business Entrepreneurship Program

The Small Business Entrepreneurship Program is a highly competitive merit-based grant program that aims to assist in fostering entrepreneurship in Small Business. For more information about this initiative, please visit www.ausindustry.gov.au.

Small Business Website

www.business.gov.au offers you a simple and convenient access point to Government information, transactions and services that your Small Business may need. It's a whole-of-government service providing essential information on planning, starting and running your business.

Quotes...

"As soon as we contacted Greg, he got on the phone and helped us sort out the problem. Greg understood our concerns and needs and was willing to help us in whatever way that he could. This ended with a fantastic result for our business - we were able to open for Easter."

Paul Mannix
Manager
Rhyll Fishing Park

I understand how time consuming running a Small Business can be. As such, I am more than happy to come down to your premises if you need advice or assistance. Please feel free to contact my office on 5979 3188 to arrange a time.

Howard Government shows strong Small Business in **FLINDERS** through Initiatives in 2006 & 2007

I am delighted to inform Small Businesses in the Electorate of Flinders of some of the new initiatives that have been introduced by the Howard Government **to reduce red tape and to make running a business easier:**

✓ **Assisting Drought Affected Businesses**

It's not just farmers that are doing it tough during the prolonged drought – but also the businesses that rely on those farmers for trade. That's why the Howard Government has extended the Exceptional Circumstances (EC) drought relief to the thousands of small businesses in EC declared areas that derive 70% or more of their total income directly from agriculture. The Small Business Drought Assistance will provide income support and interest rates subsidies up until at least March 2008. Small business operators should contact the National Drought Assistance Hotline on 13 23 16 for eligibility criteria. Information can also be found at www.daff.gov.au.

\$48,000 Community Water Grant for Dairy Farm Water Saving Project



With local Farmers Jon Hauser, Bass Coast Landcare Representative, Nick Dudley, and Andy Thomas.

Greg recently visited Candowie Lance Creek and spoke with local Farmers about the progress of their \$48,000 Federal Government Community Water Grant.

Local Farmers supporting this project will save over 186,000 litres of water each year by recycling effluent from six dairy farms around Candowie Lake.

✓ **Tax Concessions**

The Howard Government has moved to ensure small businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$2 million will **be able to access a greater range of tax concessions**. This will simplify small business eligibility for concessions in areas like GST, Capital Gains Tax and PAYG. More information is available at: www.treasurer.gov.au.

✓ **Depreciation: providing incentives for Business to invest**

The Howard Government's Budget decision to increase the diminishing value rate for depreciation from 150% to 200% for eligible assets, means that businesses **can now write off the cost of new plant and equipment more rapidly**; making it easier for businesses to invest.

✓ **Fringe Benefits**

From 1 April 2007, the minor fringe benefits exemption threshold will increase from \$100 to \$300 and the fringe benefits reporting exclusion threshold will increase from \$1000 to \$2000. The Government will also be excluding pooled motor vehicles (that is, vehicles used by more than one employee) from FBT reporting.

✓ **Helping Small Business with OHS**

Small businesses can access free training and advice through the Government's Small Business Occupational Health and Safety Advisers Programme. For more information visit www.smallbusinessohs.com.au or phone 1300 554 764.

✓ **Preventing Crime on Small Business**

Too often small businesses are affected by crimes like theft, vandalism, fraud and e-crime. The Howard Government's National Community Crime Prevention Program has produced several kits that provide practical information about what **you can do to reduce the risk of your business and your staff becoming victims of crime**. For copies of the kits, please contact my office on (03) 5979 3188.

Supporting New Businesses in Flinders



New to Business? Check out the Federal Government's 'How To' Guide

The 'New to Business Checklist' brings together a range of information from all levels of government making it easier to access guidance and support if you are thinking of starting a new business or have an established business.

The Checklist, along with a series of other 'How To' guides and business tools can be downloaded or printed from www.business.gov.au

*With Brad and Jo Wilcox, supporting a new local business in Flinders, Pizazz Galleteria, **Dromana**, at their launch in December 2006.*

✓ Providing Skills for the Future

The Howard Government's recently announced Skills for the Future package provides **vouchers of up to \$500 to traditional trade apprentices or people newly qualified in a traditional trade as a contribution towards costs of undertaking accredited small business skills training.** Business Skills Vouchers will be available from 1 January 2007. More information can be found at: www.australia.gov.au/skillsforthefuture

✓ Supporting IT Training for Small Business

With businesses increasingly utilising technology, the Howard Government is providing up to \$8 million to service providers to develop **IT skills training packages tailored specifically for small businesses.** Information on the Building Entrepreneurship in Small Business (BESB) program is available at www.ausindustry.gov.au

Quotes...

"Greg is always diligent in ensuring that he understands the issues that Small Businesses face; I know this through the time that he has taken to listen to the concerns and needs of my small business and the assistance he has subsequently given to us. If there is something that we have needed assistance with, Greg has been willing to take it up for us."

Mark Salmon
Gripon Car Care
Hastings

✓ WorkChoices

The Howard Government's WorkChoices system has exempted small businesses from Labor's unfair dismissal laws and **given businesses the flexibility and choice they need to get on with business.** Information about making and lodging Australian Workplace Agreements is available at www.oea.gov.au or phone 1300 366 632.

✓ Super Benefits for Small Business

Self employed Australians will be able to contribute up to \$1 million over their lifetime to their superannuation, from the sale of small business assets which have been held for 15 years. From 1 July 2007, self employed people will be able to claim the same deductions as employers making contributions on behalf of their employees and will get access to the Government's co-contribution scheme which delivers up to \$1,500 into the super accounts of low and middle income earners as an incentive to save for their retirement. For more information go to www.simplersuper.treasury.gov.au



Greg Hunt^{MP}

Federal Member for Flinders



SMALL BUSINESS SURVEY

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

I receive a lot of feedback and suggestions through meetings, community functions and phone calls, and your input does make a difference!

By knowing your views, I can take up these issues on your behalf. I appreciate your feedback and I am happy to hear from you at anytime.

Please number the most important issue to you:

☐ Working to keep interest rates dramatically below the average through responsible economic management

☐ Working to keep unemployment at an all time low

☐ Working in our local community to reduce crime, especially graffiti and property damage

☐ Other (please specify)

In order to keep in touch with the day-to-day issues affecting Flinders Small Businesses, I have initiated a Flinders Small Business Visit where I come and visit your business to discuss issues of concern to you.

Would you like me to visit your Small Business?

☐

YES

☐

NO

Would you like your business to receive the regular Flinders Small Business Update via fax?

☐

YES

☐

NO

OPTIONAL (Please tick your choice)

Generally, do you consider yourself:

☐

A committed party voter
(please specify party)

☐

Liberal

☐

Labor

☐

National

☐

Green

☐

Democrat

☐

Independent

☐

One Nation

☐

An uncommitted/swinging voter
(which do you generally prefer)

☐

Liberal

☐

Labor

☐

National

☐

Green

☐

Democrat

☐

Independent

☐

One Nation

So I can keep in regular contact and promote your small business in our Flinders Community, I encourage you to complete your details below:

Owner/Manager: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

**Simply fax back to the Hon Greg Hunt MP on (03) 5979 3034
or post to PO Box 274, Hastings Vic. 3915**