

Supporting Flinders Small Business

The Commonwealth and I are committed to assisting small business and as a small business operator you may be eligible for a significant range of Commonwealth assistance programs, including business advisory and referral services.

You may also be able to benefit from a range of Commonwealth tax concessions, export finance and insurance services, workplace services and job network services.

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.

Grantslink 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.

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.

Small Business Assistance 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 1 300 302 502 if you have any concerns or enquiries about trade practices and fair trading matters affecting your business.

I understand how time consuming the 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...

"Starting a new rural business from scratch can be daunting but with Greg's help we are getting there. Passionate and energetic, Greg introduced us to Federal Ministers and provided us with assistance in applying for grants."

Peter Doyle of Peter Doyle Consultancy.

"Greg has worked cooperatively with local council to create new opportunities for local business and boost the local economy. He is working hard to improve educational facilities, helped attract the Sub to Hastings and has delivered on better roads and infrastructure."

Cr David Renouf, Mayor of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

Supporting Flinders Small Business

Manufacturer comes to the Peninsula thanks to Commonwealth Grant

Federal Member for Flinders Greg Hunt MP was delighted to announce that a new manufacturer, Cartar Industries, had been attracted to the Peninsula thanks to assistance from a Federal Government's small business program.

The recipient of a Commonwealth Government COMET grant, Cartar industries has invented a unique mobile hoist that can be maneuvered whilst still carrying its load.

A world first with great export potential, Cartar Industries nevertheless faced great difficulty in raising capital.

"I realised straight away that Bill and his team had come up with a great new idea and I was not going to let that idea be lost to an overseas company. As a nation we have already lost far too many great inventions to overseas companies and that includes the Airplane Black Box," said Mr Hunt

"But thanks to a Commonwealth COMET grant, it looks like Cartar industries will have a bright future. The grant was vital to helping the company secure its Patent in the US and in helping it to fill its export orders."

"This is a great new export industry for the Peninsula and over time it will generate many new local jobs for our community."

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 June 2002, there were more than 362,100 New Apprentices in training across Australia. 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



Greg Hunt with Bill Carter, inventor and manufacturer of the free standing portable hoist which is to be built in Dromana and exported all over the world.

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



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Greg Hunt MP
Federal Member for Flinders

A Local Who Listens



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.

Understanding that small business is the driving force behind our local economy, it has been my great pleasure to meet with, listen to and help a great number of small business operators throughout the local community.

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.

You can be assured that both the Howard Government and myself remain committed to assisting small business to get on with the job. While we've come a long way from soaring interest rates, record bankruptcies, and rampant red tape and regulation - there's still more to be done.

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.

Greg Hunt MP
Federal Member for Flinders

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

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The Howard Government - ensuring Australia's economy remains strong

Despite challenging international events, Australia's economy remains strong under the Howard Government.

The economies of Germany, France and Japan are still lagging and Australia is experiencing one of the worst droughts on record which has impacted severely on agricultural production and exports.

"However, the responsible policies of the Coalition Government have helped

Australia remain one of the strongest growing economies of the Industrialised world," Mr Hunt said.

The Australian economy grew by 3.7% in 2002. Business investment was strong at 12.2% in 2002 and around 250,000 new jobs were created.

"This would not be possible without the hard work of our small businesses," Greg Hunt said.



Greg delivering his maiden speech in Federal Parliament in February 2002.

Quotes...

"Greg has a genuine passion, understanding and interest in small business. He has worked hard to help our company grow and expand. Having provided us with lots of practical advice and assistance I strongly recommend him to you."

Bill Carter, Owner and operator of Carter Industries in Rosebud.

Find out more about the 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.

In last year's budget, the Howard Government provided an extra \$1.6 million over four years to double the minimum grant under the Export Market Development Grant Scheme from \$2,500 to \$5,000 to help more small businesses break into the export market.

This vital assistance is helping local businesses in Flinders to export their products. Last year alone, local businesses received over \$300,000 in Export Market Development Grants.

Local recipients included, the Victorian Wine Alliance, Stone Grill International, the Phillip Island Nature Park, Delicia Pty Ltd vegetable growers and Andrew and Michael Outrata T/A Southern Buying Group.

If you are interested in finding out more information about Export Market Development Grants, please visit www.austrade.gov.au or contact Greg's office on (03) 5979 3188

Unemployment Falls

A strong economy means more jobs for Australians.

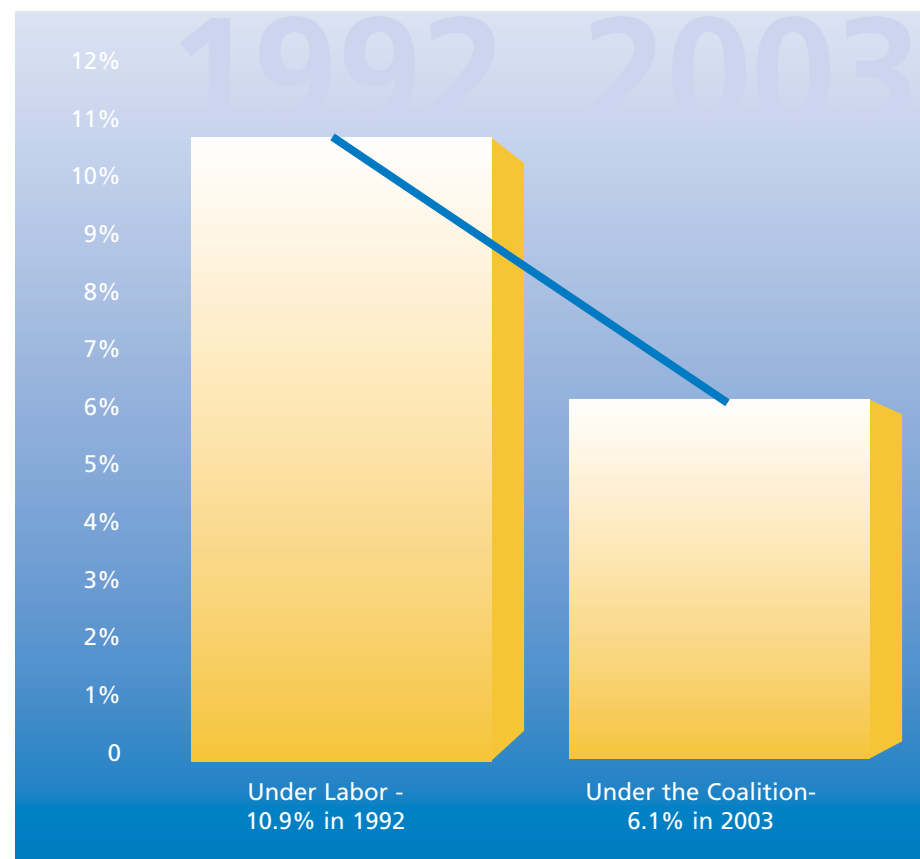
And working to create jobs is one of the most important things a government can do. In less than seven years, the Howard Government has created more than one million new jobs*.

This has been achieved by working with small business, boosting apprenticeships and governing in Australia's long-term national interest. And while there's still more to be done, it's encouraging to see what we have achieved together.

The Labour force figures for January 2003 show the number of jobs rose by 111,000. Most of those jobs (around 72,000) are full time positions.

The Howard Government's responsible economic management has helped reduce unemployment.

Nationally unemployment has fallen to 6.1% - the lowest figure since labour's peak of 10.9%.



* Australian Bureau of Statistics

Do you need tax advice? ATO ADVISORY VISITS

Local businesses are reminded of the ATO small business advisory service, which can assist small businesses with many of their questions on recent tax reform issues. The ATO provides three types of advisory visits:

New Business Service

Visits are specifically designed for newly established businesses. Information is provided in the following areas:

- GST
- FBT
- CGT
- Superannuation Guarantee
- Wine Equalisations Tax
- Luxury Car Tax
- Non Commercial Activities
- Alienation of Income

Simplified Tax System

This visit gives advice to businesses as to whether to elect the simplified tax system or not. This includes:

- Eligibility criteria
- The key features of the Simplified Tax System
- Entry and exit rules
- How to reduce book keeping

The GST Field Visit

This service is principally designed to assist small businesses with their GST and other tax reform obligations including-

- ABN registration
- Input tax credits
- BAS- help with completing and lodging
- Record keeping including E-Record
- PAYG

Local Flinders Small Businesses who would like more information on these visits should call the ATO Call Centre on **13 28 66**. Operating hours are 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.



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 when I am in Canberra. I appreciate your feedback and am happy to hear from you at any time.

Please number the most important issue to you:

- Working to keep interest rates at 30 year lows by responsible economic management
- Continuing to provide more apprenticeships for young Australians
- Continuing to pay back the \$96 billion debt left behind by Labor
- Changing unfair dismissal laws to give employers flexibility over their own business
- 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 do your job for a day.

Would you like more information on the Flinders Small Business Visit initiative?

- 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)
- Labor Liberal National
- Green Democrat Independent
- One Nation
- An uncommitted/swinger voter (which do you generally prefer)
- Labor Liberal 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 Greg Hunt MP on (03) 5979 3034 or mail to: Greg Hunt MP, PO Box 279, Hastings Vic. 3915