



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **DR CRAIG EMERSON**

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy  
Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation

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Tuesday 5 May 2009

### **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE VICTORIAN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS**

The Rudd Government is extending its support for small businesses in the Central Highlands region of Victoria with an additional investment in small business advisory services in the region, Small Business Minister Dr Craig Emerson said today.

The Rudd Government is providing \$100,000 in funding during 2009 to BRACE Education, Training and Employment to assist it support small businesses dealing with the economic consequences of the global recession. This investment is in addition to its commitment of \$1.2 million over four years to Eureka Business Enterprise Centre. Both have offices in Ballarat.

These centres are among 90 small business advisory service centres located throughout suburban, rural and regional Australia.

While on a visit to the Central Highlands today with Member for Ballarat Catherine King, Dr Emerson said the centres will use their funding to provide mentoring, business planning advice, advice on government regulatory compliance with all tiers of government and support to deal with the economic consequences of the global recession.

They operate as one-stop shops for local small businesses, old or new, which are seeking advice on matters such as legal, tax, accounting and marketing expenses.

"Small businesses have told us that what they really want is a one-stop shop for business advice," Dr Emerson said.

"This funding will help small businesses get the advice they need from a central location.

"They link the small business operators with the best small business advice available."

Dr Emerson said that the services were already having an effect on the region.

More than 90 new businesses have been established in the region with the assistance of Eureka Business Enterprise Centre, with the potential to create more than 100 jobs. This service will be complemented by the additional funds provided to BRACE Education, Training and Employment.

The small business advisory services are one part of the Rudd Government's support for the small business community which includes an additional 30 per cent tax deduction on investments in new assets like plant and equipment, pay-as-you-go tax relief to boost cash flows in 2009-10 and a stimulus package that provides work opportunities for small businesses and tradespeople.

"Small businesses across the country are the backbone of our economy, providing jobs for millions of Australian families," Dr Emerson said

"That's why the Rudd Government is determined to do everything we can to help small businesses in the face of the global recession which is hitting the Australian economy."

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