

FOR MEDIA

CRAIG EMERSON

Member for Rankin

08 September 2011

Capital grants available for Australian Disability Enterprises

Member for Rankin, Craig Emerson is encouraging local businesses (Australian Disability Enterprises) who employ workers with a disability to apply for funding to undertake capital improvements.

"Australian Disability Enterprises play an important role in our local communities, delivering employment and training opportunities to local people with disability who otherwise may not have had that opportunity," Mr Emerson said.

"Australian Disability Enterprises can now apply for up to \$20,000 for capital improvements that enhance their business viability. I encourage all eligible organisations to apply to the *Capital Fund*."

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas, announced the opening of the *Capital Fund for Australian Disability Enterprises* this week at the National Disability Services' Employment Forum in Sydney.

"Australian Disability Enterprises give people with disability the chance to participate in work, to experience the sense of fulfilment and satisfaction that employment offers including meeting new friends, and to become more financially independent," Senator McLucas said.

"The *Capital Fund* is an incentive for these organisations to deliver further innovation in employment outcomes and encourage broader skill development and career options for people with disability."

Australian Disability Enterprises are businesses, partly funded by the Australian Government, that employ around 20,000 people with moderate to severe disability across Australia.

They provide products and services across a wide range of industries, including design, printing and packaging, manufacturing, laundry and landscaping.

The Australian Government is working with an Advisory Group of disability sector representatives and employers to develop a ten year vision for supported employment in Australia, which will be released later this year.

Applications must be submitted by 7 October 2011.

Contact: Teresa Lane 0421 9417 365 Office 3299 5910

For more information on the *Capital Fund for Australian Disability Enterprises*, including application forms, visit the website of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, www.fahcsia.gov.au

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