



# **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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Thursday 23 April 2009

### **MORE THAN \$1 MILLION FOR SMALL BUSINESS ADVICE IN NORTHERN RIVERS REGION**

The Rudd Government is supporting small businesses in northern New South Wales through its investment of more than \$1 million in small business advisory services, Small Business Minister Dr Craig Emerson said today.

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

The Northern Rivers Business Enterprise Centre, located in Lismore, will receive \$1 million while the Clarence Business Enterprise Advisory Service located in Grafton will receive \$75,000.

Speaking from the Northern Rivers region today Dr Emerson said the centres will use their funding to provide mentoring, business planning advice and advice on government regulatory compliance with all tiers of government.

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 helping create more than 100 jobs since July 2008, conducting 757 face-to-face advisory sessions and having provided skills training sessions to more than 230 small business operators.

The small business advisory services are one part of 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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