



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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Rudd Government's \$1.4 million support for small business growth in the Penrith Valley

Federal Small Business Minister Dr Craig Emerson today congratulated the Penrith Valley Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) on 20 years of providing one-stop advisory services to small businesses in the Penrith area.

Speaking at the Penrith Valley BEC 20th anniversary luncheon, Dr Emerson said the Rudd Government's commitment of \$1.4 million to the BEC would further cement its reputation as a vital source of business advice in the Valley.

Dr Emerson joined Federal Member for Lindsay David Bradbury, State Member for Penrith Karyn Palazzuno and radio broadcaster Alan Jones AO for today's luncheon.

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

"With increasing workloads, small business operators haven't the time to go from place to place seeking legal, tax, accounting and marketing advice.

"This \$1.4 million in funding, over the next four years will ensure the continuation of essential small business advice to more than 13,000 small businesses in the Penrith area."

Dr Emerson said the Rudd Government is meeting its election commitment to provide \$42 million to 36 BECs across Australia over the next four years.

It is part of a small business strategy that also includes cutting red tape in 27 areas of business regulation.

"Apart from relieving the administrative red tape burden we are amending the law to prevent powerful businesses from misusing their market power against small businesses, providing tax relief for small business owners, easing skill shortages and implementing a national high-speed broadband network," Dr Emerson said.