



Advisory network boosted by funds

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RURAL EDITOR

HUNDREDS of small businesses are set to benefit from \$9.2 million in Federal Government funding to the South Australian Business Enterprise Centre network.

Since the funding was announced in the Federal Budget, it has enabled eight centres in SA to employ at least another 30 people, either full or part-time.

BEC Australia's SA board member Alan Amezdroz said the federal funding for the first time was one of the most important things to ever happen to the BEC network.

"It provides funds to enable us to do more to help more people," Mr Amezdroz said.

"It will all be spent employing people or on services and it means we can put double or triple the number of people out there to help people in existing or new businesses."

The funding is expected to

provide \$300,000 to six BECs and \$200,000 to two others annually, Mr Amezdroz, also general manager of the Inner Southern Business Enterprise Centre, said.

Mr Amezdroz said the BECs were at the front line of helping small businesses with each centre working with about 80-100 per businesses a year, a total of about 800-900 across the network.

"We've created quite a few millionaires with quite a few people still in business because of our help," he said.

"We've been on the ground and responsible for getting people involved and we're making some strong inroads to helping micro, small and home-based businesses."

Mr Amezdroz said the SA BECs were recognised for being the best in Australia with the Inner Southern BEC at Morphettville, the Northern Adelaide BEC and Port Adelaide BEC winning the past

three annual awards for best in Australia.

Federal Small Business Minister Dr Craig Emerson said the funding for eight one-stop small business advisory centres would help them expand their capacity to provide low-cost advice to local small businesses.

"It's vitally important in a tightening economy that business operators and small business debutants are spared the runaround on legal, tax, accounting and marketing advice," he said.

Adelaide Business Enterprise Centres and development centres to receive funding for the next four years are:

Eastside BEC, Inner Southern BEC, Inner West BEC, Southern Success BEC, Tea Tree Gully BEC, Northern Adelaide BEC, Salisbury Business and Export Centre, and North West Business Development Centre.

Dr Emerson launched the program at the Observatory Centre at Hackney last week.

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- BEC AUSTRALIA'S ALAN AMEZDROZ





Adelaide Advertiser
Tuesday 19/8/2008
Page: 39
Section: Business Journal
Region: Adelaide Circulation: 191,325
Type: Capital City Daily
Size: 422.49 sq.cms.
Published: MTWTF-

Brief: PARL-LIB
Page 2 of 2

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