
New on-line tool to help Tassie businesses

Business owners or people keen on starting their own business are being encouraged to take advantage of the support offered through the new Enterprise Centres Tasmania website, which was officially launched this morning.

There are eight Enterprise Centres operating around Tasmania, delivering free, practical assistance to small businesses.

Speaking at this morning's launch, the Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business, Rebecca White, said the new website was another way to take advantage of the support that's on offer to small businesses.

"The Enterprise Centre program is a key initiative of the Tasmanian Government's support to Tasmanian small business," Ms White said.

"In the nine months to March this year, Tasmania's Enterprise Centres have helped more than 2,500 clients, resulting in 610 new jobs and \$8.2 million in business investment.

"This website will make it easier for businesses around the State to find their nearest Enterprise Centre and access the range of valuable services that are on offer."

Ms White said assistance offered through Enterprise Centres includes one-on-one consultations to help with business research and planning, guidance on licences and permits and access to workshops and training.

"Enterprise Centre consultants can help businesses through the difficult periods, providing information such as staffing obligations and cash-flow management," she said.

Business owner Darrin Jacques praised the help he received from the Enterprise Centre when starting his business Metal and Aluminium Products.

Metal and Aluminium Products manufactures and sells rural and plumbing sheet metal products. The business currently holds a 75 per cent share of the sheet metal rural products market in Tasmania and is currently looking to supply potential markets on the mainland.

"Having someone objective you can talk to when getting into business helps you stay on track with your business and achieve your targets," Mr Jacques said.

"The consultant at the Enterprise Centre understood the challenges of operating a small business and created an encouraging and friendly environment where I could seek business assistance."

Ms White said the assistance provided to Darrin is an excellent example of how Enterprise Centres can promote the development of small business.

"Enterprise Centres Tasmania will help to ensure that small businesses, which make up 95 per cent of businesses in Tasmania, continue to prosper," she said.

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For more information on Enterprise Centres Tasmania visit www.enterprisecentres.tas.gov.au
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