



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR NICK SHERRY

Senator for Tasmania
Minister for Small Business
Minister Assisting on Deregulation and
Public Sector Superannuation
Minister Assisting on Tourism

GEOFF LYONS MP

Member for Bass

ONE-ON-ONE HELP FOR NORTH EAST SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses affected by the recent natural disasters in North East Tasmania can now access tailored, free or low-cost one-on-one mentoring with specialist consultants.

Tasmania's Community Potential Foundation (CPF) is one of 25 not-for-profit business advisory organisations to receive Australian Government funding totalling \$2.5 million under the Small Business Advisory Services program Natural Disaster Assistance (SBAS NDA) initiative.

Small Business Minister and Labor senator for Tasmania, Nick Sherry and Member for Bass, Geoff Lyons MP, today launched the \$100,000 North East Tasmania SBAS NDA project. It will provide services for small businesses in the Scottsdale, Branxholm, Winnaleah, Ledgerwood, Ringarooma, Gladstone, Bridport and Derby regions.

"This project will help those small businesses still affected by the recent natural disasters, advising on how to best meet the challenges to their businesses," Senator Sherry said.

"The project will provide on-the-ground advisory services delivering high-quality information and referral services by specialist industry professionals."

Mr Lyons said small businesses in the North East have been under stress after the floods.

"I am pleased that the Federal Government has been able to support the people of the North East during this difficult time," Mr Lyons said.

"This service will focus on improving the knowledge and business skills of small business operators with specific, tailored and in-depth advice."

The CPF project has a small business consultant, supported by nine more consultants within the Hobart, Launceston and Devonport Business Enterprise Centres.

CPF has also been partly funded since 2008 grants totalling \$2 million, under the \$48.25 million Australian Government's Small Business Advisory Service program. To date, CPF has provided more than 43,700 business information and advice services to 6,400 businesses through the Devonport, Launceston and Hobart BECs.

For more information about the SBAS NDA and SBAS BEC initiatives, or the Small Business Support Line, visit www.ausindustry.gov.au, call the Hotline 13 28 46.

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