

OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

Small Business Advisory Services (SBAS) program – NATURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Today, Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and Senator Nick Sherry, Minister for Small Business announced an SBAS Natural Disaster Assistance application round.

It will enable the successful applicants to expand and strengthen their capacity specifically to provide additional low-cost business advisory services to small businesses that have been directly and/or indirectly affected by the natural disasters that have occurred in Australia since October 2010.

What are the details of the program?

The Small Business Advisory Services program is a merit-based competitive grants program.

The SBAS objective is to maximise the growth potential, prosperity and sustainability of small businesses through enhanced access to information and advice on issues important to sustaining and/or growing small business.

The Natural Disaster Assistance application round will be open for Business Enterprise Centres (BECs) and other registered business organisations (RBOs) to provide additional support and advisory services to small businesses or small business owners to assist them in responding to the natural disasters in Australia since October 2010.

Funding is to supplement, not replace, existing funding arrangements from other sources.

Grants of up to a maximum of \$100,000 (ex GST) will be provided to successful applicants. Organisations in other areas which are assisting small businesses that have been affected by a disaster can also apply.

When is the closing date?

The closing date for applications is 6 May 2011, 5.00 pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time)

Further information?

For further information about the Small Business Advisory Services program, visit the AusIndustry website at www.ausindustry.gov.au Alternatively, contact the AusIndustry hotline on **13 28 46** or by email at hotline@ausindustry.gov.au.