

Cape York BEC

The main objective of the Cape York BEC is to build the capacity of all existing and new businesses across the region. CYSF has held a number of meetings across the region since 2011 that indicated to us the urgent need to establish the BEC in 2013. Unfortunately, we have not had the resources to date in order to promote these services, but this year, we will ensure that we obtain the necessary resources to build our own capacity to deliver these most important services to Cape York.

The core activities of the Cape York BEC are:

- **Mentoring Support:** Ongoing business mentoring for support can be extremely useful and is offered for start-up and established small and micro businesses. Mentoring may be available individually or in a group situation and may be face to face, via telephone or on line.
- **Business Information:** We can offer you current literature and publications on tax topics like GST, CGT & PAYG. Information is also available on other federal, state and local legislation that can impact your business.
- **Business Analysis:** Got an idea for a business but not sure if it will work? Your local BEC can assist you with business feasibility testing, business planning and advice on purchasing a new business. Alternatively, you may need a hand seeing just how successful your established business is or how to improve things through business planning including marketing and financial analysis of your business.
- **Business Referrals:** Your BEC has a network of local professionals that they can refer you to for specific assistance with your business such as accountants, solicitors, marketing consultants, insurers etc. Alternatively, if you are looking to grow your business, you might like to consider marketing your business through your local BEC as a point of contact.
- **Government Grants & Assistance Programs:** There are a variety of Government Grants, Programs and Initiatives that your business may be eligible for. Grants change so regularly so it is essential that you check the business.gov.au Grants & Assistance Finder tool and then discuss these with your BEC Business Advisor.
- **Business Networking:** BECs are all about supporting local business and one way they do this is by encouraging local businesses to meet each other and share experiences and network for more business, developing strategic alliances and establishing local community liaisons. Become a member and you can access any of the networking opportunities that are provided.

Since the establishment of the Cape York Alliance, it is even more important that the BEC is in a position to be fully operative especially with the Peninsula Development Road upgrade which is anticipated to be the catalyst to grow the economic development of the region. Now, with the Alliance connections, it is evident that there is a growing number of people and organisations seeking our services. There is much to do in the space of Indigenous Economic Development, hence,

the separate budget. CYSF has long advocated that it is not only big business, but also small micro enterprises that will start to drive a diverse economy for the Cape.

As such, it is imperative that we be in a position this financial year to deliver these very important services to grow the capacity of the people of Cape York.