



MEDIA RELEASE

DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation

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Small businesses to get internet savvy

Small businesses will soon have support to boost their internet presence with the launch of the Government's \$10 million *Small Business Online* program, Small Business Minister Dr Craig Emerson announced today.

Internet training service providers can now apply for grants of between \$50,000 and \$500,000 to deliver training and mentoring services to help small businesses become internet savvy.

"The National Broadband Network will provide enormous opportunities for small businesses operating online to reduce their costs and improve their marketing reach," Dr Emerson said.

"This program aims to help small businesses to enhance their web presence and develop their e-business potential."

Small Business Online will support organisations that have a track record in delivering IT training to small businesses.

Applicants can include industry associations, professional and business organisations, educational institutions and business enterprise centres.

Service providers will be selected through a competitive, merit-based application process.

The program will deliver services to small businesses until June 2011.

Applicants must complete an application form available from the AusIndustry hotline on **13 28 46**. Applications close **5pm (AEST) on 25 September 2009**.

More information on the *Small Business Online* program can be found at www.ausindustry.gov.au

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