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BRITE Project series: Overview of selected Commonwealth Government business assistance programs: Part II

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National Australian Technology Showcase

ATS is a national and international campaign designed to promote leading-edge Australian technology and the skills of the companies that produce them. The ATS presents member technologies professionally to likely business partners and markets around the world, securing benefits for member companies and, more broadly, for industry in Australia.



The showcase reaches across a wide range of industry sectors such as agriculture, building and construction, environmental management, information and communications technology, manufacturing, medical and biotechnology, and transport.

The ATS is targeted at small and medium-sized businesses with innovative, cutting-edge technologies. It aims to encourage exports and increase employment, by promoting member technologies into domestic and international markets.

ATS website: [ATS](#)

Regulation Reduction Incentive Fund

The RRIF aims to foster the growth potential and sustainability of small business, particularly home-based businesses, by streamlining regulatory and compliance requirements for business at the local government level.

The Australian Government established the \$50 million RRIF to provide local government authorities with incentives to press ahead with regulatory and compliance reforms that will benefit small business – for example, through a reduction in the impact of regulation and associated compliance costs.

This component of the RRIF is a competitive merit-based grants program targeted at local government authorities throughout Australia. Successful projects funded under the program have demonstrated sustainable reform of local government regulatory regimes and compliance procedures, which will deliver measurable cost reductions to small and home-based businesses in their dealings with local government.

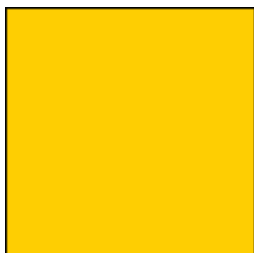
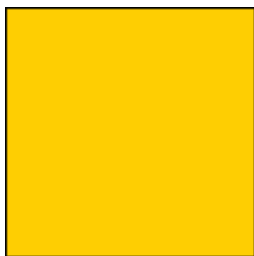
Link to AusIndustry RRIF information:
[RRIF](#)

Small Business Entrepreneurship Program

SBEP builds on the previous Australian Government initiative, the Small Business Assistance Program, encompassing the Small Business Enterprise Culture Program and Incubators Program, and introduces the Succession Planning initiative.

The program is a highly competitive merit-based grant program that aims to assist in fostering entrepreneurship, including the growth potential and/or sustainability of small businesses by supporting initiatives comprising:

- General skills development and mentoring services for small business owners and/or managers;



- Mentoring and skills development services for succession planning to help small business owners maximise the value and marketability of their businesses and to provide strategies to exit the business, while ensuring business continuity; and
- Incubation services provided through small business incubators. SBEP involves business skills development, themed "Young Entrepreneurs" for under-35s; training and mentoring projects; incubators; and succession planning, themed "Business Continuity".

Link to AusIndustry SBEP information:
SBEP

Small Business Field Officers program

The SBFO program provides a referral and general advisory service to small businesses, particularly those in areas of unmet need, through a network of locally placed field officers. The service forms part of the Building Entrepreneurship in Small Business Program and is funded until June 2008.

The availability of this "one-stop" service allows local businesses immediate and direct access to the full range of government assistance programs, services and information, as well as advice on local small business issues such as regulatory requirements.

Owners and managers of small businesses can be informed about topics including business diversification, preparing for export, home-based business, e-commerce, taxation and finance.

The programs outlined here can all be accessed at [AusIndustry](#) via the Products or Useful Links sections.

These and other business assistance programs, including those provided by state governments, can be accessed at [IXC](#).

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