

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2009-10  
10 February 2010

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Enterprise Connect

**REFERENCE:** Written Question- Senator Eggleston

**QUESTION No.:** AI-37

Explain the role and functions of Enterprise Connect?

**ANSWER**

Enterprise Connect was launched on 21 May 2008 by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator the Hon Kim Carr, and forms a central plank in the Government's Innovation Future for Australian Industry policy platform. Enterprise Connect directly services small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through its national network of skilled and experienced Business Advisers, providing access to the best advice, technology and research. Enterprise Connect aims to help SMEs acquire the knowledge, tools and expertise to improve productivity, increase competitiveness and fully capitalise on their growth potential.

Enterprise Connect services are delivered nationally to eligible SMEs through a network of Manufacturing and Innovation Centres. The six Manufacturing Centres are established as hubs of expertise and are located in the following areas:

- Mawson Lakes in South Australia
- Dandenong in Victoria
- Burnie in Tasmania
- North Ryde in New South Wales
- Bentley in Western Australia
- Eight Mile Plains in Queensland

The six Innovation Centres represent areas of strategic importance to Australia's economic future and are located in the following areas:

- Innovative Regions Centre in Geelong, Victoria
- Remote Enterprise Centre in Alice Springs, Northern Territory
- Creative Industries Innovation Centre in Sydney, New South Wales
- Clean Energy Innovation Centre in Newcastle, New South Wales
- Mining Technology Innovation Centre in Mackay, Queensland
- Defence Industry Innovation Centre in Dandenong, Victoria

Eligible SMEs are able to request a comprehensive, confidential and independent Business Review at no cost to the firm. This Review is conducted by one of our highly skilled Business Advisers from around Australia. These firms are then entitled to apply for matching Tailored Advisory

Service Grant of up to \$20,000 to implement recommendations from their Business Review. Eligible SMEs can access the full range of services in metropolitan, regional or remote areas of Australia.

The Researchers in Business element supports the placement of researchers from universities or public research agencies into businesses to develop and implement new commercial ideas. Technology and Knowledge Connect is a referral service which aims to connect firms with domestic and international sources of expertise, technology and technical advice. The Workshops, Industry Intelligence and Networking element provides businesses with access to events and networking opportunities relevant to their sector.

Information on Enterprise Connect is publicly available at:  
<http://www.enterpriseconnect.gov.au/Pages/AlternateHome.aspx>