



BPW NEWS UPDATE - OCTOBER, 2026



33rd Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards 2026

TABLE BOOKINGS OPEN - FINALISTS ANNOUNCED EARLY OCTOBER

Join us to celebrate small business success in Western Australia at the Awards Presentation night
Grand Ballroom, Perth Exhibition Convention Centre, November 4th, 6pm-8.30pm
 entertainment – fashion parade – savories – sparkling, wine, beer, juices

HURRY – BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW



Join Optus for a free online Cyber Security workshop this October

Cyber Security Month is this October and Optus is inviting small businesses to join a free, expert-facilitated 'Optus FutureFit: Cybersecurity' online workshop on **Thursday 15 October at 12-1pm**.

New research commissioned by Optus finds that one in three (35%) Australian small businesses admit to experiencing a cyberattack, while (60%) don't have a cyber plan in place. The workshop will cover how to identify common threats, support in reducing business risk with practical actions and building your cyber readiness - with a cyber plan built specifically for your business to take away. [Register](#).



CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

1001 Business Tips from 101™ Cyber Security IT Experts

FREE eBook for small business with tips from 101 global cyber security experts to assist small business owners and their staff to remain cybersafe. www.mybusinessincubator.com.au/1001

Hard Copy Books available at Belmont BEC @ \$25 [ORDER](#)



Australian Government
 Australian Signals Directorate

Securing customer personal data

Data breaches against Australian businesses and their customers are increasing in complexity, scale and impact. In a country that is increasingly conducting business online, businesses have a responsibility to keep the personal data they collect from customers secure from unauthorised access, unauthorised disclosure, corruption and loss. As such, businesses should take appropriate steps to secure any personal information or data they hold. [Actions](#).



Expanding your Sales into Global Markets

BEC NATIONAL EXPORT PROJECT

FREE WEBINARS - Thursday, 29th October, AWST (Perth Time)

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

- 1) Introduction to Exporting: 9.30-11.30am [BOOK](#)
- 2) Export Guide for Small Business: 12-2pm [BOOK](#)
- 3) Writing your Export Marketing Plan: 2.30-4.30pm [BOOK](#)

Can't make the date? [Request a Recording](#)

Register for [FREE ONLINE Export Mentor](#)

[BEC EXPORT FLYER](#) [EXPORT MEDIA RELEASE](#)



Small business shipping Australia: costs, rates, tips

Learn how small business shipping in Australia helps you save time, cut costs, and delight customers. You can use various delivery services to send products to customers. Most carriers offer a range of services to fit different needs and budgets, and it boils down to a few key choices. Check out the options [here](#).



Why Authenticity Is Becoming a Global Market Advantage

While the debate continues as to whether AI, robots and everything digital are good or bad, something else is happening beneath the surface. More people are choosing to reduce their digital exposure and are looking for things that feel real, crafted and shared. This shift is visible across products, services and community life, and it is happening in Australia and other parts of the world. [Learn more](#).



Welcome to BEC members - Ratna Tewari, Migration Hub; Sean Smith, Then Wot

BENEFITS OF BEC MEMBERSHIP - Members can access 30-60mins free advisory with an accountant; lawyer; HR specialist; or IP Attorney to discuss your issues. Members also receive free webinars during the designed innovation festival, free business sundowners, buying mission opportunities, access to mentoring at discounted rates, supply chain linkages. Bronze, Silver & Gold Levels available. Membership is tax deductible. [Join](#)

BEC invites its network to link with its Social Media pages

BEC FaceBook [Link](#)

BEC LinkedIn [Link](#)



Belmont BEC & BEC Global Business Advisors, Mentors

Discuss your business issues and concerns with your confidential advisor and develop your action plan for success. **By the Hour: Online or Phone Face - Phone** www.belmontbec.com/mentoring



BPW WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FORUM

Wed, 11th November 5-7pm, [BOOKINGS](#)

Great Speakers, Networking

VENUE: Firehouse Restaurant, 249-263 Grt Eastern Hwy, Belmont

FREE ENTRY: Door Prizes, Nibbles Provided, Happy Hour Drinks



2027 WA Women's Hall of Fame nominations - Now Open

The 2027 WA Women's Hall of Fame 'call for nominations' was officially launched on 17 September at Parliament House by the Honourable Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Creative Industries; Heritage; Industrial Relations; Aged Care Seniors; and Women. Since 2011, more than 300 women from diverse social and cultural backgrounds, sectors and industries, and regional and metropolitan communities across WA have been inducted for their contributions, achievements and commitment to improving the lives of fellow Western Australians. [Nominate](#).



Global Sourcing Expo, MCEC, Melbourne, November 17-19

The Global Sourcing Expo is a must-attend event for industry professionals associated with buying and global sourcing of apparel, textiles, home, and giftware products. This is an opportunity for buyers to learn about sourcing options for their business, and to network with different countries and suppliers. TCF Australia will also be delivering Free Export & Import Workshops during Global Sourcing Expo, Sydney. [Website](#).



TCF Australia FREE Import & Export Workshops, Global Sourcing

Expo. MCEC, Melbourne, Presenter Carol Hanlon, TCF Australia

18th November - Introduction to Importing & Exporting, 10.30-12 [BOOKINGS](#)

18th November - Import & Export Guide for Small Business, 1.30-3 [BOOKINGS](#)

19th November - Introduction to Importing & Exporting, 10.30-12 [BOOKINGS](#)

19th November - Import & Export Guide for Small Business, 1.30-3 [BOOKINGS](#)

Registration includes Access Pass to Global Sourcing Expo

Queries contact TCF Australia [Email](#)



Design Inspire, Hong Kong, November 18-21

The global stage for visionary design

Turn your creative concepts into commercial reality. Join an elite circle of global innovators, trend-setting brands and industry leaders at Hong Kong's premier international design show. [Details](#).



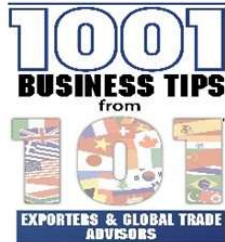
CAN YOU HELP? Freight Sponsorship or Freight Donations needed

TCF & BEC is calling for freight sponsorship or donations to get donated sewing machines, textiles, haberdashery to our global women's sewing project: **20ft container sewing goods to BPW Port Moresby, PNG** Contact [Carol Hanlon](#) if you can assist with freight support



Grants and assistance programs in Australia

Find grants, funding, and support programs from across government to help YOUR business grow and succeed! When searching for funding, keep in mind that you'll generally need to meet certain criteria to be eligible, and that, aside from funding assistance, many programs can help your business by building your skills and knowledge. [Do you qualify?](#)



Are you an exporter or global trade advisor?

1001 Business Tips from 101™ Exporters & Global Trade Advisor Experts

Would you like to be featured in our new eBook with your 10 tips for Exporters and Global Trade Advisors? Each expert will be allocated two pages. Participation includes additional promotional opportunities as an expert and you may also be invited as a presenter in future 1001 Business Tips Online Forums. Interested to share your expertise and gain exposure? **Contact [Carol Hanlon](#)**



The Cyber Sushi

In this issue - * "Scambling": Online gambling scams. * Outreach highlights.

* Behind the mask: The guide to new and trending scams

* 'Can non-government organisations refuse me service if I don't want to give them my identity credentials? [Here](#).



Another tip by Rostyslav Savchuk -from the now published -

'1001 Business Tips from 101™ Cyber Security Experts

Penetration Testing - Conduct pentests of the resource on a regular basis (at least once a year). Cyber security specialists simulate attacks to identify weak spots in security postures during a penetration test. As a result of the pentest, a findings report will be issued, and you will be able to patch the security holes, assure customers that their data is protected, and ensure compliance.



Small Business News

A word from the Ombudsman – Lynda McAlary-Smith.

The Australian Government has announced that the \$20,000 instant asset write-off is now permanent for eligible small businesses with turnover under \$10 million, providing greater certainty when planning future investments. The Australian Government has also passed legislation to reintroduce a 2-year loss carry-back measure for eligible companies, helping businesses manage risk and improve resilience during challenging periods. Also, information about changes to card surcharging taking effect from 1 October, etc ... [Newsletter](#).



How to write a winning business loan proposal

A business loan proposal is a formal document submitted to a lender that outlines your company's financial history, the specific purpose of the funding, and how you intend to repay the loan. It acts as a targeted pitch to prove your business is a reliable investment. Whether you need equipment finance, working capital, or invoice discounting, lenders need concrete proof that you can afford the loan. [Tips here](#).



Quote of the month

It takes more than capital to swing business.
You've got to have the A. I. D. degree to get by –
Advertising, Initiative, and Dynamics.

Isaac Asimov-1920-1992 - American writer and professor at Boston University. During his lifetime. He wrote or edited more than 500 books.



Cold calling scripts: 14 examples, templates, and tips

Cold calling scripts can help you get more leads and reach sales goals. Get tips for writing effective scripts and start crafting your own with these free templates that work. Level up your skills with our cold calling scripts, tips and templates, and give yourself the confidence to take the lead when you're live on the sales stage. With the proper moves, you can find your rhythm and take your cold calling skills to legendary status. [Tips](#).



Business
business.gov.au

Difference between a business and a hobby

Understand the key differences between a business or hobby. Learn how to manage payments for hobbies and businesses and find out where to go for more information. [Link](#).



Apply Zero Trust and AI at scale to manage risk

Modern security strategies require more than perimeter defences - they demand continuous verification, least-privilege access, and intelligent automation. This Forrester report, provided courtesy of Amazon Web Services, explores how organisations can implement Zero Trust architectures while incrementally adopting AI to enhance security operations, improve visibility, and scale securely in cloud environments. Access the report [here](#).

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BPW network - taking action for women's equality

BPW (Business & Professional Women) members advocate for issues that affect women around the world today. BPW operates in over 120 countries globally and has consultative status with United Nations Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC). If you wish to connect with like-minded women in Australia visit www.bpw.com.au or globally visit BPW International www.bpw-international.org or contact [Carol Hanlon](#).



Westpac names winners 2026 Female Founder Awards

These are the five winners of Westpac's inaugural Female Founder Awards, recognising female entrepreneurs across Australia who are building businesses with commercial success, innovation and community impact at their core. [Details](#).



How to promote yourself

If you're struggling to build a genuine network and community around your small business, it could be an issue with the way you are (or aren't) promoting yourself. Many business owners, especially women, struggle to put themselves out there - but when the small business world is built on referrals and word of mouth, you need to overcome that hurdle. Get started [here](#).



Small Business Information Network

Do you run a small business or advise small businesses? Keep up with all the latest news and events by joining the ACCC's Small Business Information Network. SBIN subscribers receive emails about new or updated resources, enforcement action, changes to Australia's competition and consumer laws, events, surveys and scams relevant to the small business sector. [Here](#).



Credit card surcharging – what you need to know

From 1 October 2026, businesses will no longer be able to apply surcharges to EFTPOS, Mastercard, Visa and American Express payments. Many small businesses are still preparing for these changes, and your support can help them better understand what they need to do before 1 October. [Learn more](#).



Friends and family financing guide for small businesses

Many small businesses and startups turn to family and friends to help fund their company. But that doesn't mean every founder saves up their own money, opens a line of credit, or seeks a bank loan. For some, it makes sense to ask friends and family for financial support. [Learn more](#).



A new way to resolve extreme conflict in family businesses

Conflict is inevitable in family enterprises, where personal, professional and ownership interests interact. While healthy disagreements can lead to innovation and growth, conflicts that spiral into negativity and hostility pose serious risks to both the business and family harmony. [Like this](#).



When is the best time to start a loyalty program?

Many businesses struggle to figure out when exactly is the best time to start a loyalty program. For new businesses, it's natural to focus on customer acquisition before worrying about retention. It's also common for marketers/business owners to think that a loyalty program will fail if they don't build up a respectable customer base first. Learn the facts [here](#).



Do I need public liability insurance in Australia? A guide

Public liability insurance protects your business if a member of the public is injured or their property is damaged as a result of your work. Think a customer slipping in your shop, a coffee spilled on a client's laptop, or a tradie cracking a customer's benchtop. It helps cover compensation and legal costs and funds your defence even if the allegation turns out to be unfounded. It doesn't cover your employees' injuries or your own property. [Information](#).



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Our special thanks to Storage King Perth Airport for their great support in sponsoring storage of textiles and sewing machines donated for our next community village sewing projects.



FOR HIRE - Training and Meeting Rooms at Belmont BEC

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Quick actions on your Windows PC

Press Windows key + U to access a wide range of accessibility tools.

To open File Explorer. Hold Windows key and E / to close; press Alt F4.

To close Windows – Windows key and X. Press U twice.

To adjust brightness and volume on your laptop – Windows key and R, then type MBLCTR and OK. Adjust as needed.



Websites that you may find useful

Too good to be true? Check a website before you trust it, [here](http://www.becenergy.com.au).

To remove the background of a photo – [website](http://www.becenergy.com.au).

To create designs, documents, images, etc. – [website](http://www.becenergy.com.au).

For a platform that helps businesses create ads – [website](http://www.becenergy.com.au).

This platform provides a fantastic variety of templates, brushes, and background options - [website](http://www.becenergy.com.au).

File Converter: Supports over 300 formats. Convert, Create, Share. [Website](http://www.becenergy.com.au).



Some Excel tips you may find useful

If you've ever found yourself drowning in the tedious task of manually typing in dates in Excel, this video is a gamechanger. Here's a powerful add-in that simplifies the process and saves you precious time. [Here](http://www.becenergy.com.au).

To see ALL the shortcuts in Excel – in the search bar at the top, type 'Keyboard shortcuts' / then 'Keyboard shortcuts in Excel'. There they all are!

To repeat an action in a cell, such as bold or highlight, just change the first cell, click on the next cell you want changed and press F4 – then repeat as needed.



Quick tips using Microsoft Word

For ALL the keyboard shortcuts, click on View, then Macros, View macros, type list commands, Run, then Current keyboard settings, OK; there they all are.

Type B, C and hold Alt and X for ¼ - Type B, D and hold Alt and X for ½

Type B, E and hold Alt X for ¾.

Hold Alt and type 128525 for 🍕

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- [Credit Management And Debt Collection](#)

- [How To Write A Tender Or Grant Submission](#)
- [Tips on Building a Successful Business](#)
- [Preparing For A Fashion Trade Show](#)
- [How To Start A Fashion Label](#)
- [Quality Control In The Fashion Industry](#)
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- [TESTEX – Textile Accreditation and Labelling](#)
- [Avoiding Manufacturing Pitfalls](#)
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- [Ethical Fashion and the Triple Bottom Line](#)
- [Italian Fashion Media](#)
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