



An Australian Government Initiative



Manufacturing Network Fact Sheet

What is Enterprise Connect?

Enterprise Connect is a \$251 million Australian Government initiative designed to boost productivity, improve innovation and increase the competitiveness of Australian small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Benefit to SME's?

Enterprise Connect recognises that one of the biggest challenges facing SMEs is having the time and know-how to implement innovative changes in their business.

Through a national network of Enterprise Connect Manufacturing Centres, highly skilled Business Advisers deliver integrated, practical services that help SMEs improve productivity, build internal capacity and capitalise on their growth potential.

What services are available?

A Business Review

Eligible SMEs will be matched with an experienced Business Adviser who works with the firm to:

- understand the firm's strategy and business operations
- identify strengths and opportunities, including benchmarking against best practice
- assess potential areas for growth and improvement
- help firms access world-class business tools, processes and technology

This is provided at NO FINANCIAL cost to the firm.

How long does the business review take?

Firms should allow the equivalent of four to five days to complete the Business Review. The Business Advisers work around the firm's commitments.

Tailored Advisory Services

It's one thing to know what you need to do; it's another to make it happen. Enterprise Connect encourages SMEs to implement the findings of the Business Review by providing financial support to deliver on the recommended change projects.

Enterprise Connect contributes half the cost of approved projects, up to a maximum of \$20,000.

Typical projects may involve business strategy planning, supply chain management, human resource issues, lean manufacturing, product development, export strategy or business and quality management systems.

Who is eligible for the business review?

Enterprise Connect aims to help established SMEs that:

- have an Australian Company number (ACN)
- have turned over more than \$1.5 million and under \$100 million in the previous financial year
- are solvent
- are involved in manufacturing or are part of a manufacturing supply chain
- have been trading for the last three years (i.e. have filed Business Activity Statements for the last three consecutive years)
- have not received similar assistance from other Government (Australian, State or Territory) programs within the last three years.

Who are the business advisers?

The Business Advisers come from a variety of business backgrounds, with each having had significant private-sector management experience at a senior level. The Business Advisers have access to a vast array of industry contacts, tools and resources, which they draw on to deliver high-quality advice to the SMEs they work with.

How do firms apply?

The application process is simple and quick. visit www.enterpriseconnect.gov.au or phone Vlado Baban, the Geelong area business adviser, on 0418-120-373.