

DANNA VALE MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUGHES

Media Release

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**Phone lines now open for free small business support**

Danna Vale MP has encouraged local small businesses in the Hughes Electorate to take advantage of the recently launched Small Business Support Line, a free service which aims to provide advice and information on a range of business issues during the global recession.

“Running a successful small business in the midst of an economic downturn can be very stressful and traumatic. Often people just don’t know where to turn,” Mrs Vale said.

Support line operators can provide information on issues including business planning, government support programs, human resource management, registration and licences and even stress and hardship counselling. Operators have been trained by ‘*beyondblue*’ to help callers who may be suffering from depression or personal issues associated with running a small business.

The support line also doubles as a port of call for people who wish to lodge complaints about problems with access to and cost of bank finance. These complaints will then be referred to the Australian Bankers Association for a timely response.

The small business support team may be contacted between 8am and 6pm weekdays on 1800 777 275. Email inquiries are also welcome at [sbsl@innovation.gov.au](mailto:sbsl@innovation.gov.au) .

**ENDS**

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