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## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA EYRE PENINSULA

# Media release: Eyre Peninsula Small Business First Program

24 July 2023

Small businesses on Eyre Peninsula will benefit from funding received by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, via the Office for Small and Family Business, with a Business Fundamentals Program to be delivered across the region over the next 18 months.

Andrea Michaels MP, Minister for Small and Family Business recently announced the new program to give small businesses the fundamental skills to grow.

“During our engagement process last year, the small business community told us their biggest challenges are a lack of time and resources to focus on strategy or growth as well as cashflow and lack of access to capital, attracting and retaining staff, digital literacy and other foundational skills. The Small Business Fundamentals Program responds directly to these challenges, providing the tools and tailored support for small and family businesses to build their business know-how and capability in areas critical to long-term sustainability and growth”, Minister Michaels said.

The program is one of 20 initiatives of the Government of South Australia’s [Small Business Strategy 2023-2030](#), launched on 7 July, by Premier Peter Malinauskas.

10 partner organisations, including Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula, have been chosen to deliver the mentoring and business coaching program, which may include the following support: training in legal and financial management, human resources, workforce development and planning, transition or succession planning, digital literacy, strategic planning, marketing and becoming an employer of choice.

CEO Ryan Viney said, “this is a positive step for small businesses in our region, who are struggling with workforce shortages, to gain tools and tailored support to build their business know-how and capability”.

“Our small businesses are fundamental to our regional towns, without them, our small communities wouldn’t survive. We look forward to providing assistance over the next 18 months to address issues such as strategy and growth, cashflow, attracting and retaining staff, digital literacy and other skills”, Mr Viney said.

The Eyre Peninsula Small Business First Program will consist of:

- 12 bespoke workshops delivered at no cost to participants in 6 towns across the Eyre Peninsula to develop fundamental business knowledge and capability in areas critical to long-term business sustainability and growth.
- One-on-one mentoring and training sessions addressing business needs identified by participants during the workshops, at a subsidised cost to participants.

Small businesses will be encouraged to undertake a gap analysis survey to identify the skills and capabilities that are lacking and require addressing.

For further small business information, tools and resources, please visit the Small and Family Business website: <https://business.sa.gov.au/>

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