



**Amanda Rishworth MP
Federal Member for Kingston**

January 2012 Business Grants

Grant: TechFast

Provider: Australian Institute for Commercialisation (AIC)

Region: All States and Territories

Closes: Ongoing

Purpose: To assist small-to-medium enterprises nationally, across all industry sectors, to remain competitive through obtaining "that market edge".

Overview: TechFast assists small-to-medium enterprises by identifying and linking businesses with the right people and organisations to:

- Solve product, process or service challenges
- Identify technical capability to fill internal gaps
- Identify new growth opportunities for your business

Since 2004, TechFast has developed a unique understanding of where capability and technology development activity lies across research organisations and businesses nationally. Importantly, it also specialises in helping businesses to access relevant skills, facilities and technology in these organisations.

TechFast provides businesses with support and access to:

- Extensive industry, research and government networks
- A national network of AIC's commercial and technical focused innovation managers
- Support and intelligence to assess solutions and opportunities of interest
- Extensive commercialisation experience and strategic support
- Independent advice and negotiation facilitation

TechFast is a needs-driven business support program that works with businesses to assist in areas that require external capability. The TechFast approach and service provides the following value:

- Practical, hands-on support to grow
- Expands businesses networks and provides introductions to potential partners of interest
- Access to additional innovation and commercial experience and support
- Access to new sources of ideas and thinking
- Assistance through independent facilitation of new commercial negotiation and partnership agreements

How to apply: Mail

Further Information

Website: <http://www.ausicom.com/techfast.php>

Contact Details: Australian Institute for Commercialisation (AIC)

Email: techfast@ausicom.com **Telephone:** 1300 364 739 **Fax:** (07) 3853 5226

Grant: Business Development Initiative (BDI)

Provider: Bio Innovation SA

Region: South Australia

Funding: Max: \$250,000

Closes: Ongoing

Purpose: To assist South Australian bioscience companies to develop their business.

Overview: Bio Innovation SA is a South Australian Government funded organisation established to enhance the development of the local biotechnology industry.

This Initiative aims to increase the success of biotechnology commercialisation in South Australia. The BDI is positioned to provide early stage companies with funds to overcome obstacles prior to raising institutional equity finance and applying for Federal grants (e.g. Commercial Ready).

Who can apply: The following requirements must be met for a company to be eligible for assistance:

- the applicant must be a South Australian bioscience company or individual(s)/organisation(s) in the process of forming a South Australian bioscience company. In the case of the latter, a condition of the grant will be that the applicant registers a new South Australian company with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC);
- the requested funding must be for activities that will achieve important commercial outcomes for the company;
- demonstrated access to existing and potential IP;
- the applicant must demonstrate that they are unable to fund the activities without financial assistance; and
- the applicant must be registered for the R & D Tax Concession.

How to apply: Mail

Further Information

Website: <http://www.bioinnovationsa.com.au/business-development-initiative-bdi-grant>

Contact Details: Mr Neil Finlayson - Bio Innovation SA **Telephone:** (08) 8217 6400

Fax: (08) 8217 6416

Grant: International Seminars Support Scheme (ISSS)

Provider: AusAID

Region: All States and Territories

Funding: Max: \$50,000 **Min:** \$5,000

Additional Info: Funding in excess of \$A50,000 maybe considered if the seminar directly supports Australian Government developmental programs.

Closes: Ongoing

Purpose: To fund attendance at international development-oriented seminars in Australia and overseas.

Overview: The International Seminars Support Scheme (ISSS) is an Australian Government aid program administered by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). ISSS funds attendance at international development-oriented seminars in Australia and overseas.

The scheme helps to develop knowledge and technical expertise in developing countries, and builds linkages between the government, academic and community sectors in Australia and our partner developing countries.

ISSS is a discretionary scheme. Funds are limited and competition for them is strong. Applications need to provide a convincing case for support, with clear objectives and details of how they will be achieved. Successful applications must demonstrate tangible outcomes and practical contributions to the economic development/social advancement of developing countries. An application must be submitted at least three months prior to a seminar. AusAID requires this time to complete its administrative processes.

Priorities: Priority is given to short seminars with a clear focus and practical value.

AusAID will give priority to seminars that focus on:

- poverty reduction including, employment generation;
- good governance, human rights and participatory development;
- private sector development;
- sustainable improvement of production and productivity in agriculture and other sectors, including technology transfer;
- economic policy reform, including trade and income-related issues;
- health and population, particularly primary health and child and maternal health;
- education, including adult literacy and distance education; viii. urbanisation and infrastructure development;
- ix. environment and development; and/or
- peace, conflict and development.

Limitations: Funding will not be available for:

- training courses or training seminars;
- registration fees, transit fees and baggage allowances;
- social/entertainment/hospitality costs, costs for seminarrelated tours or the costs associated with organising the seminar itself, including costs for individuals associated with the organisation of the seminar;
- activities such as social gatherings, arts festivals, sporting competitions, board/administrative meetings, or liaison exploratory meetings; and regular meetings of small working groups;
- seminars which have political, religious, sectarian, marketing, commercial objectives or other such business related activities, or which are inconsistent with the interests of the Australian community; or

• Participants from developed countries (except eligible Australians), in-country participants, accompanying spouses, or interpreters.

Organisations are not eligible for funding if they already receive funding from AusAID which provides support for seminars or related activities.

Who can apply: Organisers of the seminar apply on behalf of the participants. Seminars must be initiated or cosponsored by an Australian organisation. A company managing a seminar will not necessarily be regarded as a cosponsor.

How to apply: Mail, Email The preference is for applications to be e-mailed in Microsoft Word format.

Further Information

Website: http://www.ausaid.gov.au/business/other_opps/issc.cfm

Contact Details: The Coordinator - AusAID

Email: issc@ausaid.gov.au **Telephone:** (02) 6206 4000 **Fax:** (02) 6238 0648

Grant: Space Concession

Provider: AusIndustry

Region: All States and Territories

Funding: Various **Closes:** Ongoing

Purpose: To provide duty-free entry of goods imported for use in a "space project".

Overview: The Space Concession Program provides duty-free entry of goods imported for use in a "space project", provided certain conditions are met. The main policy objective of the Item 69 concession is to increase the competitiveness of the space industry in Australia, while ensuring compliance with international obligations. It is intended to facilitate the transfer to Australia of sophisticated space related technology and technical expertise. It is expected to be of significant benefit to companies proposing to establish and develop operations in the high technology, high value-added space sector in Australia.

Who can apply: To be eligible for authorisation as a "space project", a project must:

- Involve activities between parties from Australia and other countries involving joint investment, research or manufacturing, or the supply of equipment or technologies by one party to another for the purpose of the joint activity; and
- Be in the field of the exploration of outer space, remote sensing, material processing in space, space medicine and biology, space communications and information technologies, satellite navigation systems and technologies, automated and manned space apparatus and systems and corresponding ground equipment, protection of the outer space environment, or space launch services.

How to apply: Mail, Email, Fax

Further Information

Website:

<http://www.ausindustry.gov.au/ImportandExport/SpaceConcession/Pages/SpaceConcession.aspx>

Guidelines:

<http://www.ausindustry.gov.au/ImportandExport/SpaceConcession/Documents/Space%20Guidelines%20March%202009.pdf>

Contact Details: AusIndustry **Email:** hotline@ausindustry.gov.au **Freecall:** 13 28 46

Grant: Textile, Clothing & Footwear Corporatewear Scheme

Provider: AusIndustry

Region: All States and Territories

Funding: Various

Closes: Ongoing

Purpose: To allow employers to register non-compulsory occupational clothing and allow employees to claim the cost of such clothing as a tax reduction.

Overview: Registered uniforms attract the following benefits:

- Employers are exempt from Fringe Benefit Tax on any contributions they make toward the uniform.
- Employees are eligible for tax deductions for expenses incurred in the rental, purchase or maintenance of approved non-compulsory occupational clothing.

The level of tax deductions is determined by the Australian Taxation Office. To be approved, the uniform design must meet the requirements of the *Approved Occupational Clothing Guidelines*. Here are some hints to help you do that:

- The uniform must be a complete outfit, eg dress, shirt and trousers, shorts, and/or skirt.
- A company identifier (discrete logo/ name/ initials) must be on all items in the uniform, including accessories.
- For garments, the identifier must be at least 80 per cent of a four cm square, or for accessories, such as a tie or scarf, a one cm square.
- Identifiers must be in a contrasting colour to the garments they are attached to in order to be seen and legible from two metres away
- Identifier must be permanently attached to each garment (eg. embroidered, iron on, heat seal)
- A maximum of eight colours (which includes different shades of a colour and excludes those found in the identifier) for the entire garment range is allowed
- The number of colour/pattern/print combinations permitted is limited by the number of employees in a class (see paragraphs 31-32 of the Approved occupational clothing guidelines).
- Where a variation on a uniform is worn by different groups in an organisation, there must be a common theme between these groups or classes of employees and the male and female uniform
- The uniform must be appropriate for the duties of the employee.

Limitations: The following items cannot be included on the non-compulsory uniform register:

- compulsory uniforms
- occupation-specific clothing such as a chef's check pants and white shirt
- protective clothing.

How to apply: Mail

Further Information

Website:

[http://www.ausindustry.gov.au/Manufacturing/TextilesClothingandFootwearTCF/TextilesClothingandFootwearTCFCorporatewearRegister/Pages/Textiles,ClothingandFootwear\(TCF\)CorporatewearRegister.aspx](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au/Manufacturing/TextilesClothingandFootwearTCF/TextilesClothingandFootwearTCFCorporatewearRegister/Pages/Textiles,ClothingandFootwear(TCF)CorporatewearRegister.aspx)

Contact Details: AusIndustry **Email:** hotline@ausindustry.gov.au **Telephone:** 13 28 46

Grant: Australia and Pacific Science Foundation (APSF) Research Grants

Provider: Australia and Pacific Science Foundation (APSF)

Region: All States and Territories

Funding: Up to approximately A\$15,000 per year for up to three years.

Closes: 9 March 2012

Purpose: To fund scientific projects.

Overview: In seeking to achieve its aims, The Australia & Pacific Science Foundation provides support, on a competitive basis, for the following activities:

- The top priority is to encourage high quality research by scientists in Australian national or state institutions, and similar institutions in other countries of the south west Pacific.
- Occasional support may also be given to such activities as training, publications or conferences. Travel expenses for attendance at conferences are not funded, nor are expenses associated with the participation of scientists from countries other than that of the recipient institution.

Typically the APSF provides project grants up to A\$15,000 per year for up to three years. Grants are awarded to institutions within Australia or other countries of the South West Pacific region for activities within those countries or within the region.

Grants are made in annual instalments, and payments are dependent upon the receipt of satisfactory, annual reports and financial statements. An additional progress report is required six months after the start of the project. Salaries of technicians and research assistants may be supported, but normally grants do not cover the salaries of scientific research staff or stipends of students. Administrative overheads are not funded.

Who can apply: Grants are awarded to institutions within Australia or other countries of the South West Pacific region for activities within those countries.

How to apply: Mail

Further Information

Website: <http://www.apscience.org.au/guidelines.html>

Appl. Forms: [http://www.apscience.org.au/APSF_application\(Rev%202010\).doc](http://www.apscience.org.au/APSF_application(Rev%202010).doc)

Contact Details: Dr B K Filshie - Executive Secretary Research Committee, APSF

Email: bfilshie@apscience.org.au **Telephone:** (02) 6582 7813 **Fax:** (02) 6582 7814

Grant: Anti-Dumping Program**Provider:** Australian Customs and Border Protection Service**Region:** All States and Territories**Funding:** Various**Closes:** Ongoing**Purpose:** To protect Australian industries from import-dumping that generates material or financial injury.**Overview:** The term "dumping" is often used to refer to countervailing or subsidisation as well as dumping. Customs and Border Protection has sole responsibility for investigating and reporting to the Minister for Home Affairs on dumping and countervailing matters.

These investigations cover applications for:

- new anti-dumping and/or countervailing measures;
- reviews or revocations of existing measures;
- dumping duty assessments; and
- continuation of existing measures passed the 5 year sunset period.

When an exporter sells a product to Australia at a lower price than the price charged in its home market, that exporter engages in a form of price differentiation known as "dumping". Anti-dumping remedies are available where the dumping causes or threatens to cause material injury to an Australian industry.

International trading conventions, in particular the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements, do not prohibit dumping but recognise that remedial action may be taken when dumping causes or threatens material injury to an industry within the country of import. Equally, Australia's legislation does not require that the commercial or other reasons for price differentiation be established. Rather, the objective is simply to identify if the goods are dumped; if any material injury has been caused (or threatened) to the Australian industry by that dumping; and, to provide a mechanism to remove the injurious effect of subsequent dumped imports.

Price differentiation in the form of dumping is a common international commercial practice that can be beneficial to both exporting and importing countries. An exporter will often experience greater price pressure on the export market as compared to its domestic market. It may also be striving to maintain or develop an export market. In these circumstances it is not uncommon for there to be lower prices in the export market than in the domestic or home market. Price differentiation on different markets is an everyday part of commercial practice. Dumping will often occur where competition on international markets is intense, and lower prices benefit consumers. Similarly, the practice of governments providing assistance to domestic industry by way of subsidies or other financial assistance is not uncommon. Such subsidies can provide a benefit to a producer or exporter of the goods. Remedial action is available if subsidised exports cause or threaten to cause material injury to an Australian industry. Again, the question is not one of fairness, but of providing a remedy for injury caused by the subsidy.

The point is that there is nothing inherently illegal or immoral about the practices of dumping or subsidised assistance. However, where these cause or threaten material injury to a domestic industry, there are statutory remedies. In the case of injurious dumping, the remedy may be the imposition of a dumping duty. Countervailing duty is the duty imposed to redress the effects of injurious subsidisation.

Who can apply: The Anti-Dumping Program is available to an Australian industry that demonstrates it has been financially injured as a result of dumped or subsidised goods.

Subject to standing, any local industry can apply but there must be sufficient evidence that the local industry produces similar or identical goods to those allegedly being dumped.

How to apply: Application forms are available at www.customs.gov.au by following the anti-dumping link or by contacting Trade Measures Branch.**Further Information****Website:** <http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page4227.asp>**Contact Details:** Liaison Management Section Trade Measures Branch, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service **Email:** tmliasion@customs.gov.au **Telephone:** (02) 6275 6066 **Fax:** (02) 6275 6888**Grant: Caring for our Country Proposals****Provider:** Australian Government**Region:** All States and Territories**Funding:** Various**Closes:** 9 February 2012**Purpose:** To achieve an environment that is healthier, better protected, well-managed, resilient, and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate.

Overview: The outcomes are focused on protecting and building resilience into our environment across six national priority areas:

- natural resource management in northern and remote Australia
- community skills, knowledge and engagement
- the National Reserve System
- biodiversity and natural icons
- coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats
- sustainable farm practices.

Activities funded through this business plan will round out over \$2 billion of Australian Government investment across outcomes in these six priority areas.

In the final year of this phase of Caring for our Country, the Australian Government will support projects that fulfil the initiative's medium-term outcomes.

This 2012-13 business plan identifies the targets and investment focus for the fifth year of Caring for our Country. Caring for our Country is an ongoing Australian Government initiative. The funding arrangements for ongoing natural resource management activities are expected to be announced in 2012.

Who can apply: To be eligible for Caring for our Country investment you must meet all of the following:

- be a legal entity. If your organisation is not a legal entity you will need to partner with an organisation that is.

In broad terms, a legal entity is an organisation that can legally enter into a contract

- clearly identify in your application which targets you seek to address
- have, or be able to obtain before agreed commencement, all necessary planning, regulatory or other approvals, to ensure all activities are completed by 30 June 2013
- have no overdue reports or acquittals from previous Australian Government funding
- have the agreement of the lead partner organisation and key partner organisations to submit the application (for example, chief executive officer of the company, president of the community group, chief executive of the government department).

Individual targets may have additional specific eligibility requirements, including ineligible activities.

The relevant target information in section 2 details any additional specific criteria. Applicants for projects under the Sustainable Farm Practices and Coastal Environments and Critical Aquatic Habitats priority areas should also refer to the information sheets available at www.nrm.gov.au for additional eligibility requirements.

How to apply: See Caring for our Country website www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/index.html

Further Information

Website: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/11-12/index.html>

Guidelines: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/resources/publications/bp-2012-13/pubs/bp-2012-13.pdf>

Contact Details: Australian Government

Email: grant.services@nrm.gov.au **Telephone:** 1800 552 008

Grant: Biodiversity Fund

Provider: Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

Region: All States and Territories

Funding: Total Pool: \$36,000,000

Additional Info: Various

Closes: 31 January 2012

Purpose: Aims to support projects that reduce Australia's carbon pollution and improve the resilience of our ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.

Overview: The objectives of the Biodiversity Fund are to:

- help maintain ecosystem function and increase ecosystem resilience to climate change
- increase and improve the management of biodiverse carbon stores across the country.

The Biodiversity Fund will do this through:

- support for revegetation, including in areas of high conservation value
- management and protection of existing biodiverse carbon stores, including publicly owned native forests and land under conservation covenants or subject to land clearing restrictions
- support for actions to prevent the spread of invasive species across connected landscapes.

Through the funding of these activities, the Biodiversity Fund will support restoration and management of areas of the landscape which can store carbon while also achieving biodiversity outcomes.

The Biodiversity Fund will promote investment so that, over time, significant and strategic national biodiversity conservation gains can be made. This will include capturing opportunities provided by the Carbon Farming Initiative to establish new biodiverse plantings in order to produce both biodiversity and carbon benefits. A primary mechanism for building resilient landscapes will be undertaking projects that restore and connect ecologically important areas including those where habitats are fragmented and habitat condition is under threat.

Limitations: To be eligible, a project must:

- Not include activities that:
 - o have been completed
 - o are being undertaken outside Australia or its territories
 - o are substantially the same as activities completely funded through other initiatives or programs.
- Involve financial and/or in-kind contribution from the public land owner if it is located on public land. For the purposes of these Guidelines, 'public land' means land owned by a government entity or government related entity except where such land is leasehold land (i.e. the subject of a 99 year lease or a pastoral lease).

Who can apply: Biodiversity Fund grants are targeted towards individual land managers, groups of land managers working in partnership or organisations working on behalf of multiple land managers.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be a legal entity, for instance:
 - o an individual
 - o an incorporated association or cooperative society
 - o a body corporate (company)
 - o an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander corporation, council or incorporated association
 - o a Government-related entity.
- declare that they have, or are able to obtain, the written consent of any organisation that the applicant partners with or represents on the project, including traditional owners.

How to apply: Mail Online

Further Information

Website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture/biodiversity-fund/index.html>

Guidelines: <http://www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture/publications/pubs/biodiversity-fund-guidelines.pdf>

Contact Details: Email: biodiversityfund@environment.gov.au Telephone: 1800 008 678

Grant: Digital Hubs program

Provider: Dept of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Region: All States and Territories

Funding: The total program funding is \$13.6 million over three years.

Closes: 3 February 2012

Purpose: The digital hub program aims to provide training and support to residents in communities to maximise the benefits of the NBN.

Overview: The Digital Hubs program will establish a Digital Hub in each of the 40 communities that first benefit from the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The program will provide residents in the local community with training in digital literacy skills to help them to participate in the NBN-enabled digital economy. The Digital Hubs will also demonstrate the opportunities presented by the NBN and how households can take advantage of these opportunities by connecting with it. Community organisations-including public libraries, local councils, adult education institutions and others-are eligible to provide the activities of a Digital Hub.

Round Two locations

Funding rounds for the program will be aligned with the NBN rollout schedule and the first 40 communities to benefit from it. Funding under round two will be available to:

- Bacchus Marsh, Vic
- Brunswick, Vic
- Coffs Harbour, NSW
- Darwin, NT
- Deloraine, Tas
- George Town, Tas
- Geraldton, WA
- Goodna, Qld
- Gungahlin, ACT

- Kingston Beach, Tas
- Modbury, SA
- Prospect, SA
- Richmond, NSW
- Riverstone, NSW
- St Helens, Tas
- South Hobart, Tas
- South Morang, Vic
- Toowoomba, Qld
- Triabunna, Tas
- Victoria Park, WA

Limitations: Entities not eligible to deliver a Digital Hub are:

- individuals
- Commonwealth government departments and other Commonwealth entities
- non-Australian legal entities
- third parties seeking funds on behalf of others

Who can apply: An eligible applicant for funding under the Digital Hubs program is:

- an incorporated association
- a local government
- an organisation established through specific Commonwealth or state/territory legislation (for example, a church, TAFE college or university)
- an incorporated or unincorporated partnership
- a company incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001
- a non-government legal entity.

How to apply: Email: digitalhubs@dbcde.gov.au by 2.00pm AED

Further Information

Contact Details: Email: digitalhubs@dbcde.gov.au Telephone: 1800 025 145

Grant: Innovations Funding

Provider: Dept of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Region: All States and Territories

Funding: Various

Closes: Ongoing

Purpose: Designed to address the needs of the most disadvantaged job seekers through funding projects that will foster innovative solutions to overcome barriers to employment which these job seekers face.

Overview: The Australian Government has provided \$41 million over three years for Innovation Fund projects. To date 48 projects have been funded for \$26.5 million (GST Exclusive).

In order to receive funding from the Innovation Fund, organisations must be a member of the Innovation Fund panel. Selection of panel members was conducted through the Request for Tender for Employment Services 2009-12. Innovation Fund panel members may submit proposals at any time.

Panel members considering lodging a proposal for funding under the Innovation Fund program should consult the program guidelines. Proposals for funding must be submitted using the proposal for funding form and proposal cover sheet.

While only Innovation Fund panel members are eligible to receive funding under the program, if you are an organisation that wants to be involved, you may directly approach panel members to collaborate on proposals which the panel member can submit. If you are a non-panel member you may also forward ideas for projects directly to the department, and if determined to be suitable, the department may seek panel members to work with you to develop and implement these projects.

How to apply: Mail, Email

Further Information

Website: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/Pages/InnovationFund.aspx#ifp>

Guidelines:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/Documents/Guidelines%20for%20the%20Innovation%20Fund.pdf>

Contact Details: Email: innovation.fund@deewr.gov.au

Grant: New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS)**Provider:** Dept of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations**Region:** All States and Territories**Funding:** Income support**Closes:** Ongoing**Purpose:** If you are an eligible job seeker and are interested in starting and running a small business, you may be able to access assistance through the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS).

NEIS can provide you with accredited small business training, business advice and mentoring, as well as ongoing income support for up to 52 weeks.

Overview: NEIS is delivered by a national network of NEIS providers under Job Services Australia, in locations right around the country. NEIS providers include local organisations, such as Business Enterprise Centres, TAFE Small Business Centres, community organisations, and private sector businesses.*Support to build your own business*

Your local NEIS provider can help you put your business idea into practice. They will provide you with individualised assistance to help you achieve your goals, and will maintain regular contact with you to provide extra help if you experience any business problems or need other additional support.

NEIS Training Job Services Australia has set aside specific training places under the Australian Government's Productivity Places Program for job seekers who wish to establish their own small business through NEIS.

Your NEIS provider will help you decide whether you should undertake a Certificate III in Micro-Business Operations or a Certificate IV in Small Business Management. This will depend on the type of small business you are planning.

During the training you will also develop a business plan which will need to be approved by your NEIS provider. NEIS training helps you to achieve a nationally recognised qualification, and is a Centrelink approved activity for up to 13 weeks. This allows time for completing the course (normally six to eight weeks), assessment of your business plan by your NEIS provider and any final business preparations.

If you have prior training or experience in business, you may be eligible for prior learning exemptions.

If your business plan is approved, you will receive NEIS Assistance, which includes:

- NEIS Allowance for up to 52 weeks
- NEIS Rental Assistance for up to 26 weeks (if eligible), and
- business mentoring and support during your first year of business operation.

NEIS Allowance and NEIS Rental Assistance

While participating in NEIS you will receive NEIS Allowance for the first 52 weeks of business operation. NEIS Allowance is equivalent to the single, 21 or over, no children rate of Newstart Allowance, and is paid fortnightly in arrears, subject to you fulfilling your obligations under your NEIS Participant Agreement. An advantage of NEIS Allowance is that the amount you receive will not be affected by income from your NEIS business. You can receive external income while participating in NEIS—that is, income from outside your business, such as from investments or other work. However, your NEIS provider is required to ensure that your NEIS business is your primary, full-time activity.

Therefore, if your external income is greater than twice the basic rate of NEIS Allowance in a given financial quarter, it may affect the amount of your NEIS Allowance.

Note: Recipients of Disability Support Pension, Carers Payment, Parenting Payment (Single) and some Department of Veterans' Affairs pensions can choose to remain on these payments while participating in NEIS. You may also be eligible to receive NEIS Rental Assistance, which is a fixed rate payment made to you for a period of 26 weeks from the date you first receive NEIS Allowance.

NEIS business mentoring and support

Business mentoring and support is an essential component of NEIS. NEIS business mentors are people with proven business acumen and experience in marketing, finance, accounting or other relevant business skills. As a NEIS participant you will receive NEIS business mentoring for the first year of operation of your business, including assistance and advice about organisational, financial and marketing issues to help develop your business. Your NEIS mentor will meet with you face-to-face a number of times during this first year of operation to help maximise the potential success of your business. If you have been assessed as highly disadvantaged, or are an Indigenous Australian, NEIS can provide you with additional mentoring and support to ensure you have the best chance of getting your business off the ground.

Who can apply: Who can participate in NEIS?

To participate in NEIS you must be registered with a Job Services Australia provider. Your Job Services Australia provider can tell you if you are eligible. You also must:

- be available to participate in required training and work full time in your proposed NEIS business
- not be an undischarged bankrupt

- not have received NEIS Assistance for a similar business activity, and
 - not have received NEIS Assistance in the previous two years.
- * or fewer hours for those with an assessed partial capacity to work, reduced work participation requirements or who volunteer for employment services.

Your NEIS business must be:

- not currently operating on a commercial basis
- independent, capable of withstanding public scrutiny, and lawful
- assessed as commercially viable by a NEIS provider
- not based on the purchase or takeover of an existing business
- not competing directly with existing businesses, unless it can be demonstrated that there is an unsatisfied demand for the product or service, or the product or service is to be provided in a new way
- established, located and operated solely within Australia, and
- in an area where skills are in demand for less disadvantaged job seekers.

Further Information

Website: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/EmploymentServices/Pages/NEIS.aspx>

Contact Details: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Grant: Irrigation Modernisation Planning Assistance

Provider: Dept of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Region: All States and Territories

Funding: Max: \$350,000

Closes: Ongoing

Purpose: To provide funding to assist irrigation water providers to develop modernisation plans for the irrigation distribution systems within their district.

Overview: *Irrigation Modernisation Planning Assistance helps irrigation water providers to:*

- develop modernisation plans for their districts
- upgrade irrigation infrastructure and
- assess options to adapt to a future with less water.

The scope and detail of a modernisation plan will vary with the particular characteristics of the irrigation district to which it applies. It is expected however, that a modernisation plan will consider the issues affecting the irrigation district in a strategic, integrated manner and include consideration of:

- the structure and governance arrangements of the irrigation water provider
- planned investment in existing irrigation assets in the irrigation district including supply infrastructure through upgrading, replacement or reconfiguration of the assets
- customer base and relationships with other water users from the same water supply
- the opportunities to improve knowledge of water use in the system through improvements to metering
- existing irrigation infrastructure, efficiency of the water delivery system, and opportunities for efficiency improvements, including a quantification of estimated water savings from the options explored
- the future strategy for the irrigation water provider and the irrigation district in the short-term (to 2012) and long-term (to 2030)

The Irrigation Modernisation Planning Assistance Program will remain open to receive and assess applications until 29 October 2012, unless all available funds are committed earlier.

Who can apply: *To be eligible for Assistance, an applicant must:*

- own or operate infrastructure within the Murray Darling Basin for the purpose of delivering water to other persons for the primary purpose of agricultural irrigation;
- be a legal entity capable of entering a Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia (note: unincorporated associations are not eligible);
- be registered with the Australian Taxation Office for Goods and Services Tax purposes with a valid Australian Business Number (ABN); and
- provide a 20 per cent cash co-contribution to the total cost of the modernisation planning exercise (Funding from State or other Commonwealth funding sources will not be considered as eligible co-contributions).

How to apply: Mail

Further Information

Website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/off-farm/index.html>

Contact Details: Dept of the Environment and Water Resources

Email: WaterPlanEnquiries@environment.gov.au **Telephone:** 1800 218 478

Grant: HESTA Australian Nursing Awards**Provider:** HESTA Australian Nursing Awards**Region:** All States and Territories**Funding:** There are \$30,000 worth of prizes up for grabs.**Closes:** 28 February 2012**Purpose:** To encourage skills advancement and excellence in the nursing profession by awarding outstanding nurses.**Overview:** The HESTA Australian Nursing Awards is an initiative of HESTA - your health and community services industry super fund. ME Bank has been a proud supporter of the awards since 2008. In 2012 we will host our sixth gala dinner on Thursday May 10. There are three categories in all, designed to cover the wide range of nurses and skills exhibited by Australia's nursing profession, sometimes in trying circumstances and environments. If you know a remarkable nurse, recognise their innovation and leadership by nominating them for one of three awards: Graduate Nurse, Innovation in Nursing or Nurse of the Year.**Who can apply:** Patients, carers, colleagues, and all kinds of nurses themselves can nominate a special individual or team, who has made a real difference to the lives of patients, their families and the community.**How to apply:** Online**Further Information****Website:** <http://www.hestanursingawards.com/about-the-awards.html>**Appl. Forms:** <http://www.hestanursingawards.com/nominate.html>**Contact Details:** awards@hesta.com.au HESTA Australian Nursing Awards **Telephone:** (03) 8660 1600**Grant: Employment Assistance Fund****Provider:** JobAccess**Region:** All States and Territories**Funding:** Various **Closes:** Ongoing**Purpose:** To improve access to employment, work opportunities and work productivity for people with disability.**Overview:** The EAF encourages and supports the employment of eligible people with disability by providing financial assistance to purchase a range of work-related services and modifications. These include, but are not limited to, the cost of modifications that may be needed to a workplace, modification to work vehicles and equipment, Auslan interpreting services and specialised assistance for people with mental health conditions and specific learning disability. Assistance available through the EAF is subject to meeting eligibility and application requirements, and funds being available. The range of assistance and support available through the EAF includes:**Modifications:** The EAF can be used to purchase Modifications such as modifications to a Participant's or Worker's physical workplace including work vehicle modifications and the purchase of adaptive equipment. Examples include the following:

- Computer software and upgrades, on a case by case basis, for those who require special software required due to their disability;
- Modification to work vehicles if a Participant in Employment or a Worker is a courier/delivery driver for example, and the vehicle's use is primarily to carry out the functions of their job;
- Communication technology devices, including assistive listening devices, paging systems and telephone and computer hardware. Cochlear implants and hearing aids are not funded by EAF;
- Specific items of work equipment or modifications to existing work equipment that will be used by the Participant, Worker or Individual in their job or to facilitate them getting a job;
- Physical workplace adjustments that remove barriers to employment, e.g. alternative lighting, wheelchair accessible toilets and access ramps, noise control devices, automatic doors and alert systems, workstation height adjustments, adjusting locations of shelves and entry switches, etc. can be considered. The total cost of any building modification cannot exceed \$30,000 (GST exclusive). Building modifications can only be considered where the building owner or landlord has agreed that the building modification can be implemented. All applications that include building modifications will be referred for a Workplace Modifications Assessment.

Workplace assistance and support services: The EAF can be used to purchase work-related support services aimed at assisting Participants, Workers and their Employers and Individuals. Examples of work-related support services available through the EAF include the following:

- Training in instances where a Participant, Worker or Individual in Employment requires technical support or training in the use of disability specific Modifications or equipment normally not provided by an Employer. The cost of 9 such training should be included in the total cost of the items in the EAF application. Training travel costs may be considered on a case by case basis by the JobAccess provider where the Participant, Worker or Individual has to travel interstate or distances over 300 kilometres return to attend training for disability specific modifications or equipment;
- Specialised support and training packages for Participants in Employment and Workers with mental illness and specific learning disorders. A maximum of \$1,500 (incl GST) may be payable per eligible employee in a 12-month period;
- Disability awareness, deafness awareness and mental health awareness training for eligible Employers. This training must be delivered by qualified people who possess a minimum of a Cert IV in Training and Assessment and who possess expertise in the content area. The training cannot be provided by the Employer's or the Disability Employment Services Program provider's own organisation. A maximum amount of \$1,500 (incl. GST) may be payable per eligible Employer in respect to each eligible employee with disability in a 12 month period.

Auslan assistance: Auslan assistance aims to maximise the ability of people who are deaf to find work and assist them to achieve workplace independence

Who can apply: To be eligible for assistance, a Participant, Worker or Individual must meet all of the following criteria:

- have an ongoing disability that:
 - o has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least two years; and
 - o results in a limitation, restriction or impairment that affects the Participant, Worker or Individual's everyday activities; and
- requires a Modification; and
- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident

How to apply: Online

Further Information

Website: http://jobaccess.gov.au/Services/A-Z_list/Pages/EmploymentAssistanceFund.aspx

Guidelines:

http://jobaccess.gov.au/Services/AZ_list/Documents/Employment%20Assistance%20Fund%20Guidelines%20V2.0.pdf

Contact Details: JobAccess Freecall: 1800 464 800

Grant: Telstra's Disability Equipment Program

Provider: Telstra

Region: All States and Territories

Funding: Various

Closes: Ongoing

Purpose: To provide eligible customers with specialised equipment to access the standard telephone service.

Overview: Products hired under Telstra's Disability Equipment Program are provided at the same annual rental charge as a standard rental telephone handset.

If you do not currently have a Telstra rental handset a once-only provisioning fee will apply.

The Disability Enquiry Hotline staff can advise of the current rental charges and if a provisioning fee is applicable.

Limitations: Business customers who have a PABX, Commander System or other switchboard system, are not eligible for products through the Disability Equipment Program.

Who can apply: To be eligible for equipment through Telstra's Disability Equipment Program customers must:

- have a disability and be unable to use a standard telephone handset and
- be a Telstra customer i.e. obtain basic line rental from Telstra or be an associate of a Telstra customer residing at the same address (for example, spouse, member of household or employee) and
- complete an application form (available from the Disability Enquiry Hotline) and have it signed by an authorised professional i.e. a Medical Practitioner, Audiologist, Audiometrist, Ophthalmologist, Optometrist, Occupational Therapist, or Speech Pathologist.

How to apply: Fax

Further Information

Website: <http://www.telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/commitments/disability-services/disability-equipment-program/>

Guidelines: <http://www.telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/download/document/disability-equipment-program-c036-0111.pdf>

Contact Details: Telstra **Email:** disability@online.telstra.com.au **Freecall:** 1800 068 424
Freecall Fax: 1800 814 777 **TTY:** 1800 808 981

Grant: Churchill Fellowship

Provider: The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

Region: All States and Territories

Funding: Average Amount: 100 Fellowships in excess of \$20,000 each.

Closes: 29 February 2012 **Opens:** 1 November 2011

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for Australians to travel overseas to conduct research in their chosen field that is not readily available in Australia.

Overview: A Churchill Fellowship is a remarkable opportunity to travel overseas for a minimum of four and a maximum of about eight weeks to conduct research into a topic that you are passionate about. It is for anyone who feels that they have exhausted all research opportunities within Australia and would like to see what overseas currently has to offer. Every application is assessed based on merit, a demonstrated need for the proposed research, the perceived benefit to Australia and a willingness to share the overseas findings and knowledge with the Australian community.

No prescribed qualifications are required in order to apply for a Churchill Fellowship. The subject of the proposed project is limitless provided a benefit to Australia is evident and a willingness to share the research findings with the Australian community is displayed.

Who can apply: To be eligible to apply for a Churchill Fellowship you must:

- be an Australian Citizen over the age of 18
- not be completing tertiary studies directly related to the topic of your proposed project
- have experience in and commitment to the field of your project
- have a worthy project that requires overseas investigation
- be willing to disseminate the results of your research to the broader Australian community and
- not have been awarded a Churchill Fellowship in the past.

How to apply: Mail For information and application forms visit www.churchilltrust.com.au

Further Information

Website: <http://www.churchilltrust.com.au/>

Contact Details: The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

Email: info@churchilltrust.com.au **Freecall:** 1800 777 231 **Telephone:** (02) 6247 8333

Fax: (02) 6249 8944

Grant: Business Development Initiative (BDI)

Provider: Bio Innovation SA

Region: South Australia

Funding: Max: \$250,000

Closes: Ongoing

Purpose: To assist South Australian bioscience companies to develop their business.

Overview: Bio Innovation SA is a South Australian Government funded organisation established to enhance the development of the local biotechnology industry.

This Initiative aims to increase the success of biotechnology commercialisation in South Australia. The BDI is positioned to provide early stage companies with funds to overcome obstacles prior to raising institutional equity finance and applying for Federal grants (e.g. Commercial Ready).

Who can apply: The following requirements must be met for a company to be eligible for assistance:

- the applicant must be a South Australian bioscience company or individual(s)/organisation(s) in the process of forming a South Australian bioscience company. In the case of the latter, a condition of the grant will be that the applicant registers a new South Australian company with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC);
- the requested funding must be for activities that will achieve important commercial outcomes for the company;

- demonstrated access to existing and potential IP;
- the applicant must demonstrate that they are unable to fund the activities without financial assistance; and
- the applicant must be registered for the R & D Tax Concession.

How to apply: Mail

Further Information

Website: <http://www.bioinnovationsa.com.au/business-development-initiative-bdi-grant>

Contact Details: Mr Neil Finlayson - Bio Innovation SA **Telephone:** (08) 8217 6400

Fax: (08) 8217 6416
