



***THE HON. ALAN GRIFFIN MP, MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS, MEMBER FOR
BRUCE
THE HON. ANTHONY BYRNE MP, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME
MINISTER, MEMBER FOR HOLT
MARK DREYFUS MP, MEMBER FOR ISAACS***

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CONNECTING DANDENONG BUSINESS

Government launches \$250 million Enterprise Connect network

Dandenong is set to benefit after the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, last night delivered on a key election commitment by launching the Rudd Labor Government's \$251 million Enterprise Connect network.

Alan Griffin said: "This is good news for businesses in Dandenong, where one of the ten Enterprise Connect centres will be located."

"The Dandenong Manufacturing Centre will provide services for the whole state, helping Victorian businesses to succeed, and creating high-wage, high-skilled jobs for our kids," he said.

Anthony Byrne said: "Through the Dandenong Manufacturing Centre, Victorian small and medium-sized enterprises will be able to get help to become more productive and more competitive – building new markets and boosting their export readiness."

"Dandenong's Manufacturing Centre will form part of an Australia-wide Network, giving Victorian manufacturers access to a wide range of expertise and facilities," he said.

Mark Dreyfus said: "The new network will make a very real and practical contribution to competitiveness of local small and medium enterprises."

"Through the Dandenong Centre experienced business advisers will work directly with companies, providing:

- a free business review;
- assistance in business strategies and operations;
- benchmarking of business and manufacturing processes against best practice;
- help in finding the latest research, technology and organisational knowledge to improve products and efficiency;
- prototyping and testing facilities to turn good ideas into products; and

- help to cut through red tape and get the best access to government programs.

"Our future prosperity rests on local and Victorian businesses becoming more innovative to compete in global markets." Mr Dreyfus said.

The application process for Enterprise Connect is simple and quick. A new website with all the information is live at www.enterpriseconnect.gov.au or interested businesses can call 131 791.

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