



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR KIM CARR

Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

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QUEENSLAND MANUFACTURING CENTRE KICKS OFF

Queensland manufacturers will now have ready access to world-class services to help them boost productivity and increase competitiveness with the opening today of the Queensland Enterprise Connect Manufacturing Centre at the Brisbane Technology Park.

Speaking at the opening of the Centre at Eight Mile Plains, Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, said it was an important step in the development of a national network, providing hands-on assistance to Australian companies.

"This Centre is an integral part of the Rudd Government's \$251 million Enterprise Connect network designed to help firms become more innovative, productive and competitive by helping them focus squarely on creativity and excellence," Senator Carr said.

"It is about giving small and medium business access to new ideas and new technologies by linking them with a network with local roots and a global reach."

Through the Manufacturing Centre, eligible companies will be able to access Business Reviews, conducted by expert, independent Business Advisers.

Enterprise Connect can also pay up to \$20,000 per business (excluding GST) to cover half the cost of a Tailored Advisory Service – a service that meets the firm's specific needs, as identified in the Business Review.

But Enterprise Connect is not just about one-off support – it will also provide small and medium sized manufacturers with ongoing mentoring and access to the latest thinking and technology through its growing connections with leading edge research providers.

"Enterprise Connect has already received strong acceptance in Queensland and of the 900 applications for Business Reviews received across the country so far, 155 have come from companies in this state," Senator Carr said.

"This not only reflects the strength of manufacturing in the 'Smart State' but the commitment of the companies here to growing and competing through innovation."

It is expected that up to 200 firms in Queensland will receive direct assistance to enhance their productivity each year. Nationally the network is expected to assist 2,000 firms each year with direct, tailored support, and through workshops, advice and information.

The Manufacturing Centre will work in partnership with existing Queensland Government programs and will link directly to *QMI Solutions*.

It will also be a hub for accessing other specialist Enterprise Connect services in areas such as mining technology and creative industries.

"Enterprise Connect recognises that governments have a responsibility to help businesses to grow and prosper; not as observers but as active and enthusiastic participants," Senator Carr said.

For more information on Enterprise Connect, visit www.enterpriseconnect.gov.au or interested businesses should call 131 791.

The Minister's speech opening the centre is available [here](#).

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