

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRES - NUMBER, LOCATION, FUNDING, STAFF, EXPENDITURE

2762. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Small Business

- (1) How many BEC offices are currently operating around Western Australia?
- (2) Where are they located?
- (3) What is the process for determining where BEC offices should be located?
- (4) Can the Minister break down the funding for each of the BEC offices in regard to the amounts given by -
 - (a) State Government;
 - (b) local councils; and
 - (c) private sponsorship?
- (5) Can the Minister detail the number of staff and job descriptions for each BEC office in Western Australia?
- (6) How much money does each of the BEC offices spend on contractors from 2004 to 2005?
- (7) How many vehicles are currently being funded through the State Government for BEC staff?
- (8) What is the total wages bill and total operating costs for all the BEC centres in Western Australia?
- (9) What are the costs for leasing premises for each of the BEC offices?
- (10) What role does the Small Business Development Corporation play in the functioning of the BEC centres?
- (11) How many staff are currently employed at the Small Business Development Corporation?
- (12) What are their job descriptions and associated wages?

Hon KATE DOUST replied:

The Small Business Development Corporation advises:

- (1) As at 8th November 2005, there were 33 community owned and operated BEC offices in Western Australia.
 - (2) Regional:
 - Albany
 - York
 - Broome
 - Bunbury
 - Carnarvon
 - Collie
 - Corrigin
 - Derby
 - Esperance
 - Geraldton
 - Jerramungup
 - Kalgoorlie
 - Karratha
 - Lancelin
 - Mandurah
 - Manjimup
 - Margaret River
 - Mukinbudin
 - Narrogin
 - Northam
 - Port Hedland
 - Tambellup
 - Wongan Hills
 - Wyalkatchem
 - Wyndham
- Metropolitan:

Balcatta
Belmont
Fremantle
Gosnells
Joondalup
Midland
Rockingham
Welshpool

- (3) Historically, communities have decided on the establishment of a BEC office within their location. The process involved the allocation of core funding for facilitation services under contract to the State Government. As a result of the review of the BEC program, BEC locations to be offered State Government contracts have been determined by a combination of factors including demand for services, areas to be covered, special facilitation needs, proximity to other centres and potential small business growth.
- (4) (a) Core funding has been provided for the financial year of 2004/2005 on the basis of \$70,000 to 6 BECs above the 26th parallel and \$60,000 for each of the remaining BECs.
- (b)-(c) The level of funding support from these two sources varies from year to year and is open for negotiation by each BEC. The specific details are the province of each of the separately incorporated BEC entities.
- (5) Each BEC is community owned and operated as a separately incorporated body and as such is responsible for the employment of staff. Job descriptions are the responsibility of each of the centre committees.
- (6) The amount of money spent on contractors by each of the BEC offices is determined by the management committees of the independently incorporated BECs.
- (7) None.
- (8) The BECs are separate, independently incorporated entities and the information requested is only available directly from the BECs.
- (9) Each of the independently incorporated BECs is responsible for its office rental/leasing arrangements.
- (10) To administer the Business Enterprise Centre core funding program;
To support and facilitate Business Enterprise Centre operations at the local level by providing access to information, contacts and resources;
To act as a clearinghouse for information relevant to local economic and employment development;
To maintain regular contact with BEC staff and assist co-ordination of local small business programs where appropriate;
To encourage the professional development of the staff;
To link with educational, training and research institutions to better utilise available resources;
To monitor performance of individual Business Enterprise Centres as contractors to the State Government and the Business Enterprise Centre program generally;
To promote the Business Enterprise Centre successes and assist to improve the Business Enterprise Centre effectiveness as contractors to the State Government.
- (11) 45 staff are currently employed at the Small Business Development Corporation.
- (12) Staff are employed in the following positions with associated wages:

Job Description	Total Wages
Managing Director	\$154,528
Executive Assistant (2 officers part time job share)	\$53,008
Director Corporate Resources	\$81,092
Finance and Administration Coordinator	\$71,898
Human Resources Coordinator	\$53,008
Knowledge Coordinator	\$71,898

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Hon Nigel Hallett; Hon Kate Doust

Online Project Officer	\$71,898
Online Support Officer	\$53,008
Director Business Facilitation Services	\$93,076
Program Facilitation Officer	\$71,898
Business Facilitation Services Officer x 3	\$208,724
Director Small Business Services	\$93,076
Small Business Services Officer x 13	\$800,664
Business Information and Licence Centre Coordinator	\$55,794
Customer Service Officer x 2	\$82,612
Director Policy and Business Liaison	\$93,076
Policy and Business Liaison Officer x 4	\$241,818
Graduate Officer	\$40,699
Administrative Support Officer x 8	\$309,710