



An Australian Government Initiative

# AusIndustry

BUILDING BUSINESS · POWERING PRODUCTIVITY

## Program Summary

INFORMATION CORRECT AS AT 22 NOVEMBER 2013

AusIndustry is the Australian Government's specialist business program delivery division in the Department of Industry.

AusIndustry publishes AusFocus, a monthly, online bulletin.

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### INNOVATION AND R&D

#### R&D Tax Incentive

The R&D Tax Incentive is a targeted tax offset designed to encourage more companies, particularly SMEs, to engage in research and development in Australia. It has two core components:

- a 45 per cent refundable tax offset (equivalent to a 150 per cent concession) for eligible entities with a turnover of less than \$20 million per annum
- a non-refundable 40 per cent tax offset (equivalent to 133 per cent deduction) for all other eligible entities.

### VENTURE CAPITAL

#### Innovation Investment Fund

The Innovation Investment Fund (IIF) is a venture capital program that supports new innovation funds and private sector fund managers with expertise in early-stage ventures. The IIF co-invests government capital with matching private investor capital in venture capital funds to commercialise the outcomes of Australia's strong research capability.

#### Venture Capital Limited Partnerships Program

Fund managers seeking to raise a new venture capital fund of at least \$10 million for investing in Australian businesses with assets of up to \$250 million may be eligible for Venture Capital Limited Partnerships Program (VCLP) registration. Registration entitles a fund to flow through tax treatment. Eligible foreign limited partners receive a capital gains tax exemption for gains made on eligible investments.

#### Early Stage Venture Capital Limited Partnership Program

To qualify for registration as an Early Stage Venture Capital Limited Partnerships Program (ESVCLP), a fund must have at least \$10 million and no more than \$100 million in committed capital and invest in eligible investments. Registration entitles a fund to flow-through tax treatment and its investors (whether resident or non-resident) receive a complete tax exemption on their share of the fund's income.

### IMPORT AND EXPORT

#### Tradex

Tradex aims to make Australian exporters more competitive by providing up-front customs duty and GST exemptions at the time of import. The exemptions apply to eligible imported goods intended to be exported or incorporated into other goods to be exported. Export may be carried out by the importer or a third party. Tradex can provide significant cash flow benefits.

### Enhanced Project By-law Scheme

The Enhanced Project By-law Scheme (EPBS) provides import duty concessions on eligible goods imported across single or multiple shipments for major projects in the mining, resource processing, agriculture, food processing, food packaging, manufacturing, gas supply, and water supply industries. The scheme is aimed at projects with eligible goods worth \$10 million or more. Goods for which a concession is being sought must not be produced in Australia, and project proponents must implement an approved Australian Industry Participation Plan which provides Australian suppliers with opportunities to participate in the project.

### SMALL BUSINESS

#### Small Business Support Line

The Small Business Support Line (SBSL) provides small business owners with a single point of contact to help them access information and referral services. The support line links into existing small business support mechanisms including business licensing information and referrals, Business Enterprise Centres, and State and Territory government small business programs and services.

Call the Support Line on **1800 77 7275**, visit [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au) to use 'live chat' or email [sbsl@innovation.gov.au](mailto:sbsl@innovation.gov.au).

#### Small Business Advisory Services

Under the Small Business Advisory Services (SBAS) program, organisations are funded to provide advisory services such as business planning, financial management and mentoring, to help small businesses succeed and grow. SBAS offers grants of around \$100,000 per annum for eligible not-for-profit organisations to provide business advisory services to small businesses for two years.

#### Textile, Clothing and Footwear Small Business Program

The Textile, Clothing and Footwear Small Business Program (TCF SBP) is a competitive, merit-based program that provides grants of up to \$50,000 to small TCF businesses seeking to improve their business enterprise culture. Funding of \$2.5 million is available per year over a 10-year period, finishing in 2015–2016.

### ENERGY AND FUELS

#### LPG Vehicle Scheme

The LPG Vehicle Scheme provides grants to individuals to convert a registered motor vehicle to LPG, or to buy a new vehicle fitted with LPG. Applications for the grant can be made up to 12 months after a car has been converted or purchased.

## MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

### Automotive Transformation Scheme

The Automotive Transformation Scheme (ATS) provides \$3.4 billion in cash payments to the automotive industry, including motor vehicle producers, component producers, machine tool and automotive tooling producers and service providers. Assistance is capped at \$1.5 billion from 2011 to 2015, and \$1 billion from 2016 to 2020. The scheme also includes uncapped assistance of approximately \$847 million. The scheme encourages competitive investment and innovation to place the industry on an economically sustainable footing in a way that improves environmental outcomes and workforce skills.

### Clothing and Household Textile Building Innovative Capability Scheme

The Clothing and Household Textile Building Innovative Capability Scheme (BIC) provides incentives to promote innovation and associated investment in the clothing, household textile manufacturing and design industry in Australia. Funding of \$22.5 million is available each year for a five-year period, finishing in 2015–16.

### Textile, Clothing and Footwear Corporatewear Register

The Textile, Clothing and Footwear Corporatewear Register (TCF Corpwear) allows employers to register non-compulsory occupational clothing, thereby avoiding liability for fringe benefit tax and allowing employees to claim the cost of such clothing as a tax deduction.

### Certain Inputs to Manufacture

The Certain Inputs to Manufacture (CIM) program provides import duty concessions on certain imported raw materials and intermediate goods that form inputs to an Australian manufacturing process. The concession covers chemicals, plastics or paper goods, and metal materials and goods used for packaging food. Applications must demonstrate that the imported goods are substantially superior to comparable goods produced in Australia and must identify any Australian manufacturer of comparable raw materials or intermediate goods.

## COLLABORATION

### Cooperative Research Centres (CRC)

The CRC Program addresses major economic, environmental and social challenges by supporting research collaborations between researchers, industry, business and the community. There are currently 40 active CRCs developing practical solutions in areas as diverse as hearing healthcare, pest management, financial markets security and the auto and aerospace industries. The program also contributes to building innovation capacity in small and medium enterprises, developing industry specific skills and capabilities and fostering international collaborations. The competitive, merit-based program is open to all sectors and research disciplines and selection rounds are held annually. Visit [crc.gov.au](http://crc.gov.au).

## REGIONAL INNOVATION FUNDS

From time to time the Australian Government introduces support for a specific region. This normally occurs via a structural adjustment process. Programs currently open for applications are the Geelong Region Innovation and Investment Fund, Melbourne's North Innovation and Investment Fund, and the Plantation Manufacturing Innovation and Investment Fund.

## COMMERCIALISATION

### Commercialisation Australia

Commercialisation Australia is an initiative that offers funding and resources to accelerate the business building process for Australian companies, entrepreneurs, researchers and inventors. It offers a range of funding options as well as multi-layered networking opportunities to help new ventures succeed. Visit [commercialisationaustralia.gov.au](http://commercialisationaustralia.gov.au) or call 13 22 56.

## BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

### Enterprise Connect

Enterprise Connect provides a range of business improvement services to small and medium businesses in industries such as manufacturing, clean technology, resources, defence, tourism, creative, information and communication technology, transport (freight) and logistics and professional services. Enterprise Connect's services include Business Reviews delivered at no charge to businesses and grant assistance to implement recommendations flowing from the review. Enterprise Connect has a network of more than 100 experienced business advisers and facilitators. Visit [enterpriseconnect.gov.au](http://enterpriseconnect.gov.au)

## SKILLS SUPPORT

### Skills Connect

Skills Connect works with employers and industries to help them improve productivity by building and recognising the skills of their workers, to ensure Australia has an appropriately qualified workforce now and in the future. Funding is available to enterprises to help them train their workers or to encourage them to take on apprentices or trainees. Job seekers can access assistance with their literacy, numeracy and language skills, while those who have undertaken training overseas can seek to have this recognised. Visit [skillsconnect.gov.au](http://skillsconnect.gov.au)

## INFORMATION SERVICES

### Business Online Services ([business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au))

[business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au) is a whole-of-government service that provides simple and convenient access to government information, forms and services for Australian businesses. It provides information on planning, starting and growing a business. The [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au) website saves businesses time and money by making it easier to find compliance information and support from all levels of government. Visit [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au)