



Hon Peter Collier MLC
Minister for Energy; Training and Workforce Development; Indigenous Affairs

34-15803

Mr Oliver Moon
Chief Executive Officer
Combined Small Business Alliance of WA (Inc)
PO BOX 2237
MIDLAND DC WA 6936

Dear Mr Moon

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19 November 2011 regarding the evaluation of the Business Growth Centre (BGC) and I note your support for the role of the BGC.

The evaluation report recommendations are being considered by the Department in consultation with the BGC and the Small Business Development Corporation. The evaluation articulates a way forward to continue to improve training for small businesses and proposes a role for the BGC.

The evaluation report is confidential to the Department and the BGC. It is comprehensive and has been undertaken in a professional manner and addresses the Terms of Reference. The consultant has utilised data provided by the BGC, conducted a survey of BGC clients and has consulted widely with stakeholders.

The report highlights that the BGC has been highly active in promoting its services, expanding the range of programs offered and developing the regional network. It acknowledges that the majority of small business owners who have attended the BGC programs have found them to be of benefit.

The report also demonstrates that while the services adopted by BGC have been viewed positively, there is a level of duplication with services provided by the Small Business Development Corporation. As well, the strategies adopted by the BGC have not realised a satisfactory level of training outcomes.

As you are aware there is no funding for the BGC after 31 December 2011. The Department is examining future options for funding and operations. The Department will consult with stakeholders, including COSBA, in this process.

Thank you for raising your concerns with me.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Collier', written in a cursive style.

Hon Peter Collier MLC
**MINISTER FOR ENERGY; TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS**

- 8 DEC 2011