

CoSBA



Combined Small Business Alliance of WA (Inc)



Date: 23 August 2011

Dr Ruth Shean, Director General
Department of Training and Workforce Development
Locked Bag 16
OSBORNE PARK DELIVERY CENTRE WA 6916

Dear Dr Shean

Re: FUTURE OF THE BUSINESS GROWTH CENTRE (BGC)

Further to the review to be conducted into the BGC we wish to convey to you the total support of the Combined Small Business Alliance of Western Australia Inc. (CoSBA) for the role and function of the BGC, and that which are, in our judgement, the excellent outcomes it is producing on behalf of small business.

The BGC was established as the result of ten years of intensive lobbying by CoSBA supported by the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC), resulting in the establishment of a State Training Board (STB) sub-committee, the Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC), comprised of small business representatives charged with undertaking a 12 month study as to the need for a small business training institute.

The outcome of which was that all the recommendations, but one, were adopted by the STB, the one exception was that the Institute be set up under the SBDC, resulting a decision by the then Minister for Education & Training to establish the Small Business Training Institute (SBTI) (now the BGC) under the West Coast College of TAFE. The decision of STB and the Minister, we would suggest, operates to endorse CoSBA's long held contention of the need for such an institute.

CoSBA's promotion of a small business training institute was due to the perceived absence of a "one stop shop" for business management and administrative training for small business owner/operators. Whilst there was and is formal tertiary (University and TAFE) training of that genre available for those small businesses that have that need, the greater need was/is not for formal tertiary training.

Also, whilst various training was and continues to be provided by the SBDC, Small Business Centres (SBC) and by private providers, supported by the Government's **\$200 Small Business Smart Business Training Vouchers**, there was no coordinated approach to the provision of training, mentoring and advice for small business owner/operators, such as that now provided by the BGC.

In CoSBA's judgment, the operation of the BGC has and continues to successfully fulfill an important need in the training and development of WA's small businesses.

Yours faithfully

**Combined Small Business Alliance
of Western Australia Inc. (CoSBA)**

OLIVER MOON
Chief Executive Officer