

**Speaking Notes for Senator Grant Chapman  
representing  
the Minister for Small Business and Tourism**

**Telstra South Australian Small Business Awards  
16 July 2004**

As Chairman of the Federal Government Members' Industry, Resources and Small Business Committee, it is a great personal pleasure for me to participate at this celebration of South Australian business success, and also present the Australian Government Micro Business Award.

It is also a privilege to represent my colleague Joe Hockey, the Federal Minister for Small Business and Tourism, who regrets his inability to attend personally this evening but has asked me to pass on his best wishes to all and congratulations to award winners.

For the purposes of this Award, a micro-business means a business with five employees or less, but as I am sure everyone here will know, 'micro' in name does not mean micro in impact.

Around one-third of Australia's non-agricultural, private sector output is generated by Australia's 1.2 million small businesses, and they are a strong source of jobs growth.

Our small businesses are also a huge source of innovation, with many of the products and services that we will use in the future being created and tested in the competitive world of small business.

Of course, there are some great Australian success stories right here in Adelaide, such as Lance Hill.

As you might know, Lance invented the Hills Hoist in his suburban backyard, and this has now led to Hills Industries being a listed company, employing over 2000 Australians and with annual revenues more than \$350 million, and profits growing consistently at 15 per cent a year for more than a decade, not only from its original home and hardware products division but also from its electronics arm and building and industrial products division.

The power of home-based businesses was brought home to me when I heard about Tim Skilton who has built up his successful one-man export enterprise from a studio\_workshop in the Adelaide suburb of Hope Valley. Over\_the past 14 years, he has turned a passion for woodwork and a hobby into a successful export business.

Tim is a craftsman in wood: making bowls, storage boxes, vases and music sticks with a distinctly Australian feel. He exports his unique creations from his home base business to Canada, Europe and the USA, as well as supplying shops and galleries around Australia.

Tim stresses that “it’s more than a business, it’s a lifestyle”.

We all know that South Australia is a tough market.

If you can do it here, you can do it anywhere.

That’s why here in South Australia we have many other entrepreneurs and role models, such as Craig Wickham – Managing Director of Adventure Charters on Kangaroo Island.

This is an organisation providing high-quality, personalised wildlife adventure and natural history tours of the island.

Craig is working with the tourism industry to raise standards of hospitality and promote activities that are both environmentally and economically sustainable.

His experience and understanding of small business means he was recently appointed as a welcome addition to the Small Business Council established by Minister Hockey.

As we all know, small business is not an easy path to success.

The combination of long working hours and isolation can mean that owners and operators are cut off from sources of information and inspiration that could help the business to prosper.

However, small business makes such a major contribution to our economy and community life in Australia, that it is important we get things right so it can prosper.

The Prime Minister has recently re-affirmed the Federal Government’s commitment to small business with a statement outlining significant improvements to the climate for small business in Australia.

The Statement includes measures to reduce the regulatory burden on small business, to extend information services and improve the effectiveness of the

Trade Practices Act for small business in its dealings with big business, an initiative which especially pleases me, having participated on the Senate Inquiry on this issue.

Within the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, John Martin, the commissioner with small business responsibilities, and who was previously the Chief Executive of the Council of Small Business Organisations, has been promoted to the new position of Deputy Commissioner.

Because running a business requires hard work and commitment, it is important to recognise outstanding achievers and achievements that will inspire others to reach ever higher standards.

So the Australian Government is proud to sponsor this Award through the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources.

We make this investment because we know that excellence and innovation in business are key drivers of our economic growth and international competitiveness and should be celebrated.

These Awards are a tremendous opportunity to showcase the innovation and resourcefulness of the small business community here in South Australia.

I congratulate everyone who has contributed to this event tonight and wish all the nominees and finalists every success in your business operations in the future.

It is now my pleasure to present the Australian Government Micro Business Award for businesses with 5 employees or less.

## ***Australian Government Micro-Business Award – SA Finalist Profiles***

The Australian Government Micro-Business Award is open to businesses with five employees or fewer. The finalists are:

### **Beauty Benefits**

Established more than 15 years ago, Beauty Benefits offers a wide range of beauty treatments from its Grange salon. The owner purchased the business at the age of 21, with just twelve months of work experience in the industry. A highlight for the business was winning the best beauty therapy category at the 2001 Annual Bridal Industry Awards for Excellence.

### **Dependable Cabinetry**

Dependable Cabinetry manufactures and installs cabinets for kitchens, laundries and wardrobes. The business started operations in 2000 offering home maintenance services. Today the business builds entire kitchens and laundries for the home renovator market. Dependable Cabinetry is in the process of building a new workshop in Mt Barker.

### **Groceries 4 U**

Groceries 4 U is an online store allowing customers in the greater Adelaide area to order groceries, fresh produce and liquor via the internet, telephone, fax or email. Groceries are delivered to customers the following day with the optional service of having the groceries unpacked. Groceries 4 U was established in 2002 and currently offers more than 6000 grocery items on its website.

### **TALK Speech Pathology, Training & Resources Pty Ltd**

TALK Speech Pathology, Training & Resources provides speech pathology services, runs speech and language development seminars for educators and produces educational materials to support children's learning. Speech pathology services are offered to pre-school and school-aged children at five clinics in Adelaide as well as 17 childcare centres, pre-schools and schools.

### **The Foot and Leg Centre (Winner)**

The Foot and Leg Centre is a podiatry centre treating foot and leg disorders. The centre averages 100 appointments each day and promotes treatment alternatives to the traditional orthotic therapy. The Foot and Leg Centre's principle services are the detection and correction of joint displacements and education and adjustment of clients' posture through natural corrective care.