

MEDIA RELEASE

22 November 2010

Canberra Business Council and Lighthouse to deliver Canberra BusinessPoint

Canberra Business Council and Lighthouse Business Innovation Centre are proud to announce they will be partnering with the ACT Government to deliver the *Canberra BusinessPoint* program.

The *Canberra BusinessPoint* program will continue business as usual this year. Throughout November, December and January there will be workshops and one-on-one mentoring opportunities available, with a variety of new services to be added in 2011.

The first exciting development will be a *Canberra BusinessPoint* online portal. This will provide businesses with a simple, one stop access point to the expanded resources of *Canberra BusinessPoint*, including e-learning products and on-line diagnostics.

Under the new dual provider format Canberra Business Council will work with early stage firms and new entrepreneurs. The Council will provide seminars, workshops, a mobile business advisory service, networking and face-to-face support.

“*Canberra BusinessPoint* gives the Council the opportunity to leverage off its extensive experience working with businesses in the ACT to help start-up and early stage businesses to establish and grow their businesses”, Chris Faulks, CEO of Canberra Business Council said today.

“We are really keen to work closely with these businesses to provide them with the advice and support they need to get started and be successful”, Ms Faulks said. “The service we deliver will be personalised, tailored to the needs of each client and focussed on connecting them to the best information and advice available.”

Lighthouse Business Innovation Centre will deliver services and advice to more established businesses with high growth potential. A key focus will be those companies seeking to grow through innovation strategies and equity and risk capital financing.

Since its inception in 2008, Lighthouse has been successful in building partnerships to maximise business opportunities and providing one on one mentoring to businesses.

Lighthouse Director Ken Kroeger said the organisation is excited by the opportunity to assist Canberra businesses in new ways through *Canberra BusinessPoint*.

“We will be building on our strengths to create new networks and opportunities for local businesses. Lighthouse has an extensive mentors’ network, which allows us to provide tailored solutions to a wide variety of businesses.” Mr Kroeger said.

“We don’t use off the shelf solutions, every business is different, which is why we work with them one on one.

“We don’t believe in reinventing the wheel and will be working together with different players in Canberra’s innovation ecosystem to create the best result for our small business clients” Mr Kroeger said.

Both organisations are looking forward to partnering with each other and the local business community to help propel Canberra’s new and developing businesses forward.

More information about Canberra BusinessPoint can be found at www.canberrabusinesspoint.com.au or on 1300 648 641.

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