

# The ACT Social Enterprise Hubs

The ACT Social Enterprise Hub, a partnership between Social Ventures Australia (SVA), PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), The Snow Foundation, Mental Health Community Coalition (MHCC), ACT Health and the Department of Housing and Community Services ACT, is designed to assist the development and accelerate the growth of social enterprises in the ACT.

## Social Enterprise Hubs

It is not easy to set up and run a business – even more so a social enterprise. The Social Enterprise Hubs focus on equipping social entrepreneurs, existing enterprises and community organisations with the appropriate tool set to create and sustain a business that has a social objective.

Social Enterprise Hubs offer business and support services that might otherwise be inaccessible or unaffordable to social enterprises. Services include:

- tailored advice in business planning
- assistance in exploring and developing new market opportunities
- access to professional resources in areas such as legal, accounting, marketing HR or IT support
- capacity Building Programs – building skill sets in the areas of feasibility, business planning, financial management, marketing and performance evaluations
- business mentors
- regular information and networking opportunities

The key objectives of a Social Enterprise Hub are to:

- Increase the sustainability of new or existing social enterprises
- Increase employment opportunities and quality of life for people with serious disadvantage in the labour market
- Increase the capacity of social entrepreneurs to run sustainable social enterprises
- Improve social inclusion within the local community

## Results so far

SVA, together with various partners, launched the first Social Enterprise Hub in Queensland in 2006. To date this Hub has delivered impressive results to the community, assisting over 40 social enterprises. In the previous financial year the Queensland Hub provided intensive support to 12 enterprises, resulting in 72 new jobs. Three-quarters of these were for people who had previously been long term unemployed. Based on this success a second Social Enterprise Hub was launched in Parramatta in 2007.

Impact for social enterprises/ social entrepreneurs/ community organisations:

Through a careful and well-planned enterprise development process, offered by the Hub, social enterprises can reduce the risks, increase their chances of success and mission impact.

Impact for supporters:

Public, private and non-profit organisations can play an important role in supporting social enterprise

development within the ACT community, through pro bono support, procurement opportunities, business mentoring or investment.

Impact for the community:

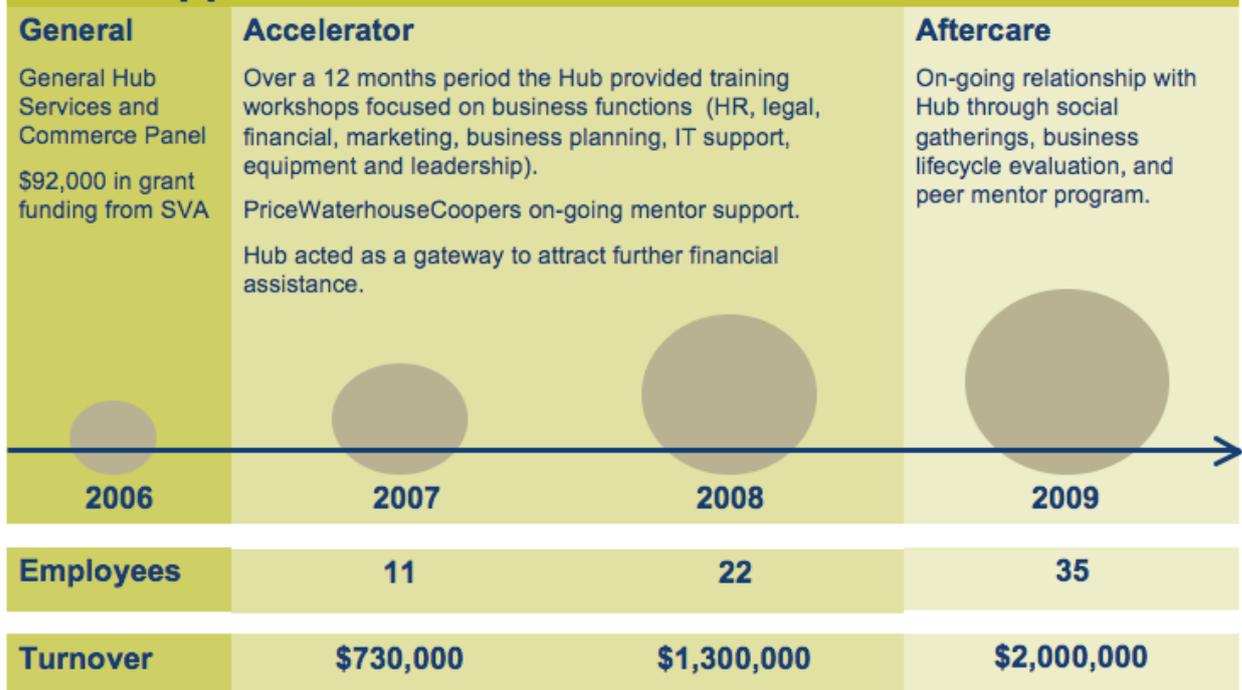
While the Hubs offer a specific program of services, evidence shows that the benefits to the enterprises, their employees and the communities which they serve extend well beyond these. Both the Queensland and Parramatta Hubs act as a focal point for a wider range of support services, including social enterprise peer gatherings to discuss a broad range of social challenges within their locality.

### Case Study

## FoodConnect: The Journey with the Hub

FoodConnect is a social enterprise focussed on responsible food production and distribution in Australia. 50% of employees are from a marginalised background.

### Hub Support & Services Provided



#### Find out more:

For further information about the ACT Hub please contact:

Mandy Richards, ACT Hub Co-ordinator

Email: [mrichards@socialventures.com.au](mailto:mrichards@socialventures.com.au)

Tel: 0448 644 600