



New South Wales Government

The Hon Steve Whan MP  
Minister for Emergency Services  
Minister for Small Business

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## **REES GOVERNMENT FUNDS FASHION DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING BUSINESS CLUSTER**

April 29

The NSW Minister for Small Business Steve Whan today announced a \$10,000 grant to set up a NSW fashion design and manufacturing business cluster.

“The NSW Fashion Design and Manufacturing Business Cluster has so far recruited 21 companies which employ nearly 60 people,” Mr Whan said

“The cluster, which is managed by the Australian Fashion Exchange, supplies fashion design, material manufacturing and other services to the State’s fashion industry.

“The cluster’s mandate is to nurture and support emerging Australian fashion labels, designers and manufacturers and share business training, sales support and garment production.

“The cluster is helping its members generate sales, and embrace better business practices,” he said.

Mr Whan said the cluster is supported by the Textile Clothing and Footwear Union of Australia and Austrade.

“The NSW Fashion Design and Manufacturing Business Cluster is aiming to become a central hub of support for its members where it can tackle issues of fair pricing to individuals for the cost of services, and lobby for the ethical payment of award wages,” he said.

Mr Whan said the cluster is using a website to update its members and aims to have more than 20 members exporting their products by the end of 2009.

The NSW Fashion Design and Manufacturing Business Cluster is supported by the NSW Department of State and Regional Development.

For further information contact Ashan Winslow on 1300 882 642 or go to the website at [www.australianfashionexchange.com.au](http://www.australianfashionexchange.com.au)

## **SNAPSHOT OF NSW TEXTILE, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND LEATHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY**

New South Wales plays a significant role in Australia’s textile clothing footwear and leather (TCFL) industry, producing a wide range of apparel, household products, plus outdoor and industrial products.

The NSW textile, clothing, footwear and leather (TCFL) manufacturing industry generates sales and services income of more than A\$3 billion each year — more than 30 per cent of the Australian total. It comprises more than 3,000 businesses, with particular strengths in fashion and clothing apparel, and technical textiles.

The NSW TCFL manufacturing industry employs 13,000 people, and in 2008, Sydney was ranked as the seventh top fashion city in the world by the *Global Language Monitor’s* annual survey. Sydney was the only Australian city to make the top 10.



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The Australian TCFL manufacturing industry covers a diverse range of fibre-based activities, including:-

- early stage processing of natural fibres such as wool, and leather
- textile production;
- transformation of leather, yarns and textiles into clothing, footwear, carpets and other fabric products for the home and office and;
- technical textiles such as shade cloth, medical and sanitary products, filtration products and insulation materials.