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Sunday, 20 August 2006

Mr Sean Coley,
Executive Officer,
Outer Suburban/Interface Service and Development Committee,
Level 3,
157 Spring Street,
Melbourne, 3000.

Dear Sean,

Re: Inquiry into Local Economic Development in Outer Suburban Areas.

I am a consultant working with SME on a national basis. I have long years of experience having been trained as a Cost Accountant and having worked with major international corporations. I started public practice in 1972 and retired in 2000. I have been working as a consultant since 2001.

SME are a driving force of business activity in the Outer Suburban Areas and consultants serving these enterprises have developed the skills to work in this field on a low cost basis with limited resources and poor telecommunication.

To support these consultants in my opinion what is required is a data base that the consultants can access to find skills required by their SME clients that are provided by consultants working in this field.

Member of the Financial Industry Complaints Service – Number F 1585
Member of the Financial Planning Association of Australia
Fellow of the Taxation Institute of Australia
CPA membership number 250865
ABN 33 521 356 630

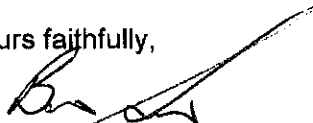
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I give the example of the need for an IT Consultant that has experience in satellite communication for access to internet using a computer network. SME working in area where no broadband is available needs to use the satellite to communicate with customers, staff, suppliers, owners and consultants. The IT Consultant must be skilled to work with SMEs because the consultant must have the low cost fee structure and be able to work with clients with minimum skills in the area of concern.

I am of the opinion to enable growth of SMEs in the Outer Suburban Areas a data base should be built with access via the internet that lists Consultants working with SME providing a list of skills, districts where the consultant will work, fee structure and contact point.

Yours faithfully,



Barrie Sutton

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