

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 18, 2007

NEW FUND TO BOOST SKILLS FOR S.A.'s

FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY

Financial assistance is available to help South Australia's food and beverage workers boost their skills following the launch of a new fund designed to promote career opportunities within the industry.

The Food and Beverage Development Fund SA Inc will provide funding support for food and beverage workers to pursue their career aspirations.

The Fund will be launched on Wednesday 18 July 2007, at Chloe's Restaurant.

More than 136,000 South Australians are employed in the State's food and beverage industry, which includes meat, baking, beverage (including wine) and food processing businesses.

Successful applicants will receive generous financial support from the Fund to assist with professional development opportunities including education, training and research.

Applications for funding support are currently open and will close at the end of August.

Chairperson of the Food and Beverage Development Fund SA, Mr Ian Curry, said the Fund was an initiative of a number of key industry figures.

"The Food and Beverage Development Fund SA Inc has been established to promote food and beverage as the career of choice for more South Australians," he said.

"It will provide much-needed practical support for those seeking to improve their skills.

"The Fund seeks to reassure food and beverage workers that their contribution to the industry is valued.

"Employees, apprentices, trainees and students are invited to apply for financial support, which is tailored to the needs of the individual.

"We hope the Fund will encourage more people to choose the food and beverage industry as a career and add to the pool of skills and talent in this State.

“While there has been much focus in recent times on employment opportunities within mining and defence, the food and beverage sector has plenty to offer.

“The Food and Beverage Development Fund SA is intended to help support the local industry in its quest to survive and grow. We want to do that by helping individual workers realise their full potential.”

Bakers Sarah Neill and Emma Clark are the first two recipients to be awarded funding support through the Food and Beverage Development Fund SA.

Twenty two year-old Ms Neill completed her baking and pastry apprenticeship at the Hyatt Regency and is now manager of Bracegirdle’s House of Fine Chocolates at Burnside.

Ms Neill has received \$20,000 from the Fund to undertake various training courses including Certificate IV Hospitality (Patisserie) at TAFE SA and specialist courses at the Savour Patisserie and Chocolatier School in Melbourne.

Eighteen year-old Ms Clark will complete her bakery apprenticeship at the Blue Bird Bakery in Brighton.

She has received \$20,000 from the Fund to undertake various training courses including Certificate IV Hospitality (Patisserie) at TAFE SA, cake decorating courses at Planet Cake in Sydney and specialised courses at the Savour Patisserie and Chocolatier School in Melbourne.

Application rounds for the Food and Beverage Development Fund SA Inc will be held each year.

Funding available to each successful applicant is expected to range between \$1000 and \$10,000. The nature and extent of funding support awarded in each round will be based on the merit of the applications but is expected to total \$60,000 each year.

What: Launch of the Food and Beverage Development Fund SA
When: Wednesday 18 July, 4.30pm to 6.30pm.
Where: Chloe’s Restaurant, 36 College Road, Kent Town.
Who: To be launched by Tom Phillips, Chair of the Training and Skills Commission. Members of South Australia’s food and beverage industry will be in attendance.

Photo opportunities:

Photos and interviews with winners Sarah Neill and Emma Clark can be arranged prior to the launch. Photos of Sarah working with chocolates can be arranged at Bracegirdle’s House of Fine Chocolates at Burnside. Photos of Emma at Blue Bird Bakery at Brighton can also be arranged. To coordinate, please contact Corporate Conversation on 8363 1158.

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