

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINDA ANNOUNCES SUPPORT PLAN FOR SA GROUP ENTERPRISES TO PROTECT LOCAL JOBS

South Australia's leading non-government disability support organisation – Minda Incorporated – is in the final stages of an alliance designed to prevent the closure of SA Group Enterprises and protect nearly 140 local jobs.

Minda CEO, Cathy Miller, said an immediate cash injection would provide surety to more than 75 supported workers and the additional staff currently employed by SA Group Enterprises, while a total funding package was nearing completion.

“As a significant employer in our own right, Minda recognises that a supported employment arrangement provides tasks that offer a sense of routine, achievement, and support within a managed team environment, and the plight of SA Group Enterprises prompted us to explore ways that we can provide assistance,” Ms Miller said.

“In the short term our support will provide employees with a degree of surety, and we hope to see employment numbers actually grow over time as the business works towards a strengthened and more sustainable financial position,” she said.

“Minda is also pleased to be able to share its processes and knowledge of operating a highly-successful range of Commercial Enterprises which provide employment, as well as vocational learning and development opportunities for people living with disability.”

SA Group Enterprises CEO, Mr Robert Hart, welcomed the alliance announcement and said it was a well-timed lifeline which would allow the business to get back on its feet within a short space of time.

“This support will not only see the protection of our electronics recycling business, Aspitech, but will be directly responsible for creating additional jobs for people with disability over time through increased operational capacity,” Mr Hart said.

“Minda has an enviable reputation in providing support and services to South Australians living with intellectual disability, so to be able to forge an alliance with a sector leader of this calibre means we can now look forward to a bright future rather than having to make plans to close our doors,” he said.

Minda announces support plan for SA Group Enterprises to protect local jobs

“When combined with recent commitments by State and Federal governments to increase the volume quotas identified in the regulations, it makes me confident that we will see a sustainable booming E-Recycling industry well into the future.”

Aspitech has been one of South Australia’s largest E-Recyclers since the inception of the NTCRS in 2012. In 2013 it invested \$500,000 in equipment and a new larger facility on expectation of growth and demand, but the sudden loss of major contracts saw a loss of more than 80% of its e-waste revenue.

The final details of the alliance proposal will be considered by the Board of SA Group Enterprises at an Extraordinary General Meeting in early November.

About Minda

Established in 1898, Minda is the largest non-government disability support organisation in South Australia that assists individuals with intellectual disability to thrive in their local environments as valued members of their communities by offering residential and lifestyle services, employment and respite support.

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