TCF WA NEWS UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2026

Happy Chinese New Year, February 17, Year of the Horse
According to Chinese astrology, anyone born in the year of the Horse is confident, agreeable, and responsible, although they also tend to dislike being reined in by others. They're fit and intelligent, adoring physical and mental exertion; they're decisive but also easily swayed and impatient.The first day of the Chinese New Year is **February 17th in 2026**. There is a tradition on this day to avoid cleaning the house or taking out the trash, as it is believed to sweep away or discard good luck for the coming year.

Belmont Business 'Ask an Export Expert' Sundowner
25 February, 5pm-7pm - BOOKINGS
Promote your business, make new trade and business contacts and gain new opportunities. Guest Speakers include John Tedesco, Dr Eunice Sari, Elena Lennox, Nickson Karie and great Networking.
VENUE: Firehouse Restaurant, Country Comfort, 249-263 Grt Eastern Hwy, Belmont FREE ENTRY, Door Prizes, Nibbles Provided; Happy Hour Drinks, Bar Prices.

PayPal MELBOURNE FASHION FESTIVAL INDEPENDENT PROGRAMME

TCF AUSTRALIA EXPORT Training & Mentoring Project tcfaustralia.com/export

TCF AUSTRALIA is a proud participant in the PayPal Melbourne Fashion Festival Independent Programme 2026. Media Release
FREE Export & Import Guide for Small Business Workshop
Melbourne, 16 February, Monday, 12.30-2.30pm - Develop your success plan for global trading Research, Risks, IP, Logistics, Costings, Marketing, FTA's, Austrade, Grants.
VENUE: Boyd Community Hub, Assembly Hall, 207 City Road, Southbank, 3006 BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Presenter: Carol Hanlon, Founder/CEO, TCFWA & TCF Australia.

United Nations CSW70 - NGO FORUM, March 10th
Topic: Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs, Gender Equality, and the Sustainable Development Goals
Carol Hanlon, Founder/CEO, TCF Global, Belmont BEC Inc & BPW Business Incubator will be hosting our annual NGO Forum in New York. Global speakers from USA, South Korea, Malaysia, Iran, Chile and Australia will provide updates on projects that support women around the globe. MEDIA RELEASE EVENT FLYER SPEAKER PROFILES. Like to know more about NGO CSW visit www.ngocsw.org

I AM WOW 2026: MARCH 7th, Wattle Grove, 10.30-5pm
Join Ms. Ellevation for I AM WOW 2026: ELEVATING WOMEN, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITIES. Held for International Women's Day, this launch honours diverse women, young achievers, and their cultural edge in leadership, communities, business, and personal impact. Enjoy delicious foods, entertainment, and meaningful community connections in a vibrant, celebratory atmosphere. Bring a friend, build new connections, and join our powerful community—**Register Now!**

Quote of the month

"People are the core of every business. Businesses are based on relationships, and relationships are based on people. I would go to an average restaurant run by amazing people over an outstanding restaurant run by awful people."
Marcus Lemonis, American businessman, TV personality, and entrepreneur.

2026 trends for business

Is 2026 going to be any more straightforward than 2025? **Of course not**, complexity is the new normal. What can business leaders expect to see unfold over the next year? Experts shine a flashlight into the murky months ahead, providing some much-needed illumination. **Here.**

TCF AUSTRALIA EXPORT ONLINE Training & Mentoring Project
Looking to increase your sales? Export your goods or services?
FREE WEBINARS – Thursday, 19 February, AWST (Perth Time)
1) Introduction to Exporting: 9.30-11.30am BOOK
2) Export Guide for Small Business: 12-2pm BOOK
3) Writing your Export Marketing Plan: 2.30-4.30pm BOOK
Can't make the date? Request a Recording
Register for FREE ONLINE Export Mentor
TCF EXPORT FLYER **EXPORT MEDIA RELEASE**

The Quiet Power Move – Using Canva

Our YouTube channel supports solopreneurs and small business owners by sharing simple Canva, AI and content creation strategies designed to save time, keep branding consistent, and help businesses grow with confidence. Explore the channel and complete the short survey linked in the channel description to help shape future videos around your needs. **Here.**

'LIVE' AI Webinar Series 'AI for Everyday Business'

Your Digital Intern: Automate the Boring Stuff

February 17th, Tuesday, 12noon-1.30pm BOOKINGS $110
Stop spending your evenings writing emails and formatting documents. In this session, you will learn how to use free AI tools to draft professional invoices, summarise long meeting notes, and handle your admin paperwork in minutes, not hours.

Marketing on a Shoestring: Big Brand Looks for Small Budgets

February 24th, Tuesday, 12noon-1.30pm BOOKINGS $110
You don't need an expensive agency to look professional. Learn how to use AI to write catchy social media captions, fix your photos, and create a month's worth of content ideas in under 30 minutes. This is great for finding new customers without spending a fortune.

Welcome to TCF WA

You are invited join TCFWA Membership – Benefits of TCF Membership includes access to 30-60 free advisory with an accountant; lawyer; HR specialist; or IP Attorney to discuss your issues. Members also receive free webinars during the designedge innovation festival, free business sundowners, buying mission opportunities, access to mentoring at discounted rates, supply chain linkages. Bronze, Silver & Gold Levels available. Membership is tax deductible.
Membership Subscription
TCF invites its network to link with its Social Media pages
TCF Facebook - Link
TCF LinkedIn - Link

TCF WA, TCF Australia and TCF Global Mentors and Business Advisors
Discuss your business issues and concerns with your confidential advisor and develop your action plan for success. **Book by the Hour:**
Online or Phone

Are you an exporter or global trade advisor?

1001 Business Tips from 101™ Exporters and Global Trade Advisor Experts

Would you like to be featured in our new eBook with your 10 tips for Exporters and Global Trade Advisors? Each expert will be allocated two pages. Participation includes additional promotional opportunities as an expert and you may also be invited as a presenter in future 1001 Business Tips Online Forums. Interested to share your expertise and gain exposure? **Contact** Carol Hanlon

Are you a Speaker or Presenter?

Like to present during 22nd designedge Innovation Festival?

BEC, TCF & BPW Members are invited to register interest in being a presenter or speaker during our 22nd designedge Innovation festival which will run 4 months June to September to our national & global network. Speakers can run LIVE or recorded ONLINE. View 2025 Festival **Sponsor Opportunities also available. Contact** Carol Hanlon

Sponsorship Opportunity

33rd Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards 2026

Join us to sponsor a category in the 33rd Annual Belmont & Western Australian Small Business Awards in 2026 providing recognition to small businesses across WA. Launching June and running through to October. Gain extensive promotion and marketing opportunities for your business. View 2025 winners & sponsors Further info contact Carol Hanlon

How to manage your small business through a crisis

No matter how well-managed your business is, all it takes is one crisis to grind everything to a crippling halt. This is especially true for small businesses, as they often lack the resources to adequately handle a crisis. A poor response to a crisis results in customer backlash and reduced sales that, in turn, hurts a company's bottom line and further tarnishes the brand. How to plan.

Grants and assistance programs in Australia

Find grants, funding, and support programs from across government to help YOUR business grow and succeed! When searching for funding, keep in mind that you'll generally need to meet certain criteria to be eligible, and that, aside from funding assistance, many programs can help your business by building your skills and knowledge. Do you qualify?

Reed Gift Fairs Sydney 14-17 February 2026

Kick off the season with a visit to Reed Gift Fairs, conveniently located at ICC Sydney, Darling Harbour, where attendees can explore the largest variety of giftware products in Sydney for Gift & Lifestyle, Home & Décor, Fashion & Accessories, Kids & Family, Beauty & Wellness and Garden & Outdoor Living.

Reed Gift Fairs Sydney stands as Australia's leading retail buying event, offering retailers and designers access to hundreds of premium and emerging wholesale brands - all under one roof. Website.

Melbourne Fashion Festival, 14-18 February 2026

This is more than a moment; it's a major milestone year. And we're just getting started. You won't want to miss it! The 2026 Festival is brought to you in partnership with our naming rights partner PayPal. Travelling interstate for the Festival, plan ahead and book your stay in the heart of the city with our hotel partner The Langham Melbourne. Update.

LAST CHANCE - TCF MISSION - TRAVEL VOUCHER, VIP BENEFITS

VIATT: 26-28 February, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

ASEAN's comprehensive platform for the entire textile value chain

Vietnam International Trade Fair for Apparel, Textiles and Textile Technologies (VIATT) is the region's most comprehensive trade fair covering the full textile value chain: Apparel Fabrics & Fashion, Home & Contract Textiles, and Technical Textiles & Technologies. Contact

TCF Mission – Accommodation support and VIP Benefits

Intertextile Apparel Fabrics – Shanghai, China – 11-13 March 2026

The previous Spring Edition welcomed over 3,100 exhibitors from 25 countries and regions. Next March, Intertextile Apparel will continue to offer a wide range of products with a focus on innovation, sustainability and the latest trends. Pre-register now and prepare for your sourcing journey at one of the world's leading textile platforms. Contact TCF

TCF Mission – Accommodation support and VIP Benefits

Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles 11-13 March 2026

Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles is Asia's leading home textile event at the National Exhibition and Convention Centre (Shanghai). It is a dynamic platform for industry professionals to source and gain design inspirations through the conveniently structured product displays. In 2025, 370 exhibitors and 25,000 visitors joined the event. **Contact TCF**

Hong Kong Jewellery Show March 4 – 8

Hong Kong Diamond, Gem and Pearl Show – March 2-6

Exceptional craftsmanship, innovative designs and customised services. Representing the very best that Hong Kong has to offer, this curated exhibition floor brings together world-class companies that are drawing on decades of expertise in design and production, and precious materials sourcing and manufacturing. Expect stunning displays featuring pure gold creations as well as collections adorned with diamonds, coloured gemstones and pearls. **Details.**

India Sporting Goods Fair, 31 March – 2 April 2026

Sourcing sports goods from India: cricket, football, hockey, badminton, tennis, table tennis and other field sports; sportswear, fitness and training equipment & accessories, etc. Indian sports equipment is used at the highest level of professional sporting events and training academies, including the Olympics and World Championships. **Website**.

TCF Mission – Travel Voucher and VIP Benefits

Global Sources Hong Kong shows – April 2026

World-class AI, innovation and lifestyle sourcing

Check out the wide range of international fairs and trade shows here. Register for shows in Hong Kong for: Consumer electronics, Mobile electronics, Home and kitchen and Sports and outdoor – **Contact TCF**.

Bharat Tex 2026, July 14-17, India

Bharat Tex 2026 is where India's rich textile heritage meets modern innovation, setting the stage for global textile leadership. As the world's youngest and largest global textile show, it serves as a platform for forging partnerships and driving economic growth. **Details.**

eBay Circular Fashion Fund 2026

The future of fashion is circular, and it's being built by those willing to do things differently. The eBay Circular Fashion Fund is entering its third year and expanding into new global markets in 2026. Now a global platform, the Fund champions founders and sellers who are extending the life of fashion, reducing waste, and reshaping the industry for the better. Applications are now open across the EU, UK, US, Germany, Australia, Canada and Switzerland.
Applications Close: 8th March 2026. **Details**.

Fashion industry challenges in 2026: how brands can overcome sustainability, supply chain, and innovation hurdles

To remain competitive, fashion companies must adopt data-driven solutions, recalibrate their supply chains for transparency, invest in verifiable sustainability practices, and embrace innovation, from AI-driven trend forecasting to blockchain traceability. These strategic shifts are vital for building trust and resilience in a year where heightened regulatory oversight meets demanding consumer expectations. **Like this.**

The ultimate guide to scaling a clothing brand in 2026

If you're a clothing boutique or apparel brand store owner looking to discover the 5 keys to successfully growing and scaling your business, this video offers a free 15-minute training with instant access. **Here.**

20 ways to build self-confidence

Being completely confident all the time might not be possible, but we can increase our confidence. Increased confidence often leads to an increase in achievements and opportunities, which further increases our confidence. It's a great cycle! Building confidence can be hard if you feel you have failed a lot. Successful people don't let failure or fear

stop them. They embrace it and use that nervous energy to push themselves forward. **Like this.**

Building a financially resilient business

Being financially resilient in business is more important than ever. When sudden, unpredictable events can bring financial pressure, it's important to have systems and processes in place to respond. The financial resilience of a business has long been a key indicator of potential success, both in the short and long term. **Like this.**

Fair Work OMBUDSMAN

Small business employer guide to family and domestic violence

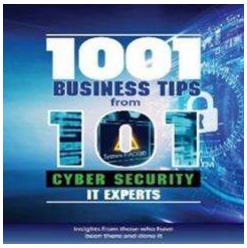
A small business employer's guide to supporting employees experiencing family and domestic violence.

Employees experiencing family and domestic violence often rely on their workplaces to be a safe place to escape violence and a crucial source of social and economic support. It's a place where they are treated with dignity and respect, and their skills and knowledge are appreciated. In addition to the personal impact of family and domestic violence, there are also real costs for their workplace. **What you can do.**

ACCC

Consumer rights and guarantees

Businesses must meet a set of basic rights when they sell products or services. These basic rights are called consumer guarantees. They are included in the Australian Consumer Law. Consumers automatically receive these consumer guarantees when they buy goods and services. It is unlawful for businesses to mislead consumers about these rights. **Learn more.**



1001 Business Tips from 101™ Cyber Security IT Experts

FREE eBook for small business with tips from 101 global cyber security experts to assist small business owners and their staff to remain cybersafe. www.mybusinessincubator.com.au/1001

1001 Business Tips eBook was developed by MY Business Incubator® Cyber Security Training & Mentoring Project, a national project delivered by Belmont BEC Inc.

Australian businesses and accepting cash from January 2026

Is cash making a comeback? On January 1, the Australian government rolled out a cash mandate that will shake up the way we shop in 2026. Under the new rule, businesses selling fuel and groceries must now accept cash for in-person essential purchases of up to $500. Most businesses are exempt, though – what you need to know is – **here.**

Small Business Cyber Security Guide

This Small Business Cyber Security Guide has been specifically designed for small businesses to understand, act, and increase their cyber security resilience against ever-evolving cyber security threats. The language is clear, the actions are simple, and the guidance is tailored for small and medium businesses. **Here.**

Inside Small Business - Summer 2026

Nobody ever said starting and running a business is easy. Most entrepreneurs face hurdles of various sizes on their journey. But for some things, it really goes south, and they get to the point where they think the only option is to close the doors for good. Meet three small-business owners who got to that point and stared into the abyss, but whose resilience and determination enabled them to haul themselves back off the floor and fulfil their dreams. Their stories are both instructive and inspiring. Read the wide range of articles **here.**

accounts all sorted

It's not too late –

Your 2026 business checklist to start the year financially strong

A financial kick-off checklist is essential. It's not just about ticking boxes for compliance; it's about setting the tone for a profitable, stable, and well-managed year. Whether you're running a café, construction business, or professional service firm, starting the year with financial clarity helps you make smarter decisions from day one. How to set up your business for 2026 is **here.**

Create your own QR codes today!

You can create your own QR code of your website address or email for free with a few simple steps. This site offers high-resolution QR codes that look great in a variety of mediums. Save your codes in several popular file formats and print or edit them at any time. **Here.**

How to close a sale using 18 strategies (with examples)

Closing a sale is an important step in the sales cycle that involves confirming a transaction with a buyer and completing the sale. There are a variety of methods for closing a sale effectively, and the method you choose often depends on your experience with the customer during the previous phases of the sales cycle. Learning how to close a sale properly can help increase rapport with customers and may improve your chances of selling the product or service. **How?**

Websites that you may find useful

If you are travelling and need a free Wi-Fi location – Use this.
Upload or drop an image into AI image editor, then apply AI-powered edits like background removal, cleanup, upscaling, and style transforms – here.
Transform your photos with professional-grade tools in a free online photo editor that works right in your browser. No downloads, no hassle – here.
Access one AI assistant with access to all top LLMs, video and image generators. General-purpose and coding agents are included here.

Tips you may find useful

* **To check on ALL the applications** and programs on your computer- hold the Windows key and R. Enter - Shell:AppsFolder and OK. Delete any unwanted.
* **To increase security –** Hold Windows key and I. Windows security. Open Windows security. Device security. Core solidarity. Memory integrity. ON.
* **Any computer problems,** such as being busy or slow, you **could** try this… Settings. System. Recovery. Fix problems using Windows Update.

How to take a vacation as a small business owner

Running your own company comes with plenty of freedom, including the ability to set your schedule and adjust it as life demands. But that flexibility has a flipside: Taking real time off can feel almost impossible when you're the one holding everything together. How to plan a worry-free vacation as a small business owner so you can recharge and support your company's long-term success is **here.**

Another tip by Silvia Ihensekhien -from the now published -

'1001 Business Tips from 101™ Cyber Security Experts

How to spot a phishing email - Sender's name and email don't match.Contains suspicious attachments (e.g., zip files). Uses generic greetings instead of your name (e.g., 'Dear valued customer'). Poorly written email (e.g., bad formatting, spelling and grammar mistakes). Demands urgent action, oftentimes with a strict deadline. Asks for personal details (e.g., password). Links look unusual or don't match the intended URL destination. Uses scare tactics (e.g., account deactivation).

Why flexible workplace strategies can be the right fit for small businesses

As a small business, the idea of special programs to support employee flexibility in the workplace may seem daunting. Yet flexible workplace strategies can drive absenteeism down and foster loyalty. Some of the ways flexibility can benefit your small business and strategies you can employ to make a flexible workplace a reality are **here.**

Australasian Institute of Business and Enterprise Facilitators

The business advice industry in Australia and in many other countries is self-regulated, and virtually anyone can call themselves a business or enterprise facilitator, advisor, coach, mentor, or consultant. AIBEF provides accreditations for your skills and expertise. Further Info **www.aibef.org.au**

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Past Winner - Facility of the Year Award

15% off storage boxes and 50% off the first 2 months of storage. Storage King can ship your parcels to anywhere in the world. Storage King arrange the booking and email consignment notes for clients to attach to their deliveries. We offer a wide range of self-storage options, from lockers to vehicle storage.

Phone Email W: storageking.com.au

Our special thanks to Storage King Perth Airport for their great support in sponsoring storage of textiles and sewing machines donated for our next community village sewing projects.

FOR HIRE - Training and Meeting Rooms at Belmont BEC
Fully equipped training room, catering and refreshments available.
Unit 3, 216 Belmont Ave., Cloverdale - **Contact Belmont BEC**

Business Skills 'On Demand' Sessions

Live and Recorded Webinar for Online - Anytime - Fast Track your Traning
Members receive one FREE webinar below during January - Contact us

- Writing Your Business Plan
- Pricing, Costing and Cashflow
- Starting Your New Business
- Understanding the Australian Privacy Changes
- Credit Management And Debt Collection
- How To Write A Tender Or Grant Submission
- Tips on Building a Successful Business
- Preparing For A Fashion Trade Show
- How To Start A Fashion Label
- Quality Control In The Fashion Industry
- Importing and Exporting
- Get Noticed By The Media
- How To Brief Your Website Developer
- TESTEX – Textile Accreditation and Labelling
- Avoiding Manufacturing Pitfalls
- Marketing On A Budget
- Strategies for Off Shore Outsourcing
- Sourcing in Asia via HK
- Sourcing Textiles & Apparel in India
- Buying Or Selling A Business
- Fashioning Sustainability Diverse Perspectives
- Balancing Work And Life
- Credit Management And Debt Collection
- How To Write A Tender Or Grant Submission
- Tips on Building a Successful Business
- Connect your Business to the Women's Empowerment Principles
- How To Grow Your Fashion Business
- Understanding your Intellectual Property – Trademarks, Designs, Patents
- Ethical Fashion and the Triple Bottom Line
- Italian Fashion Media
- Preparing a Business for Sale
- Global Platform for Sourcing From Women Vendors
- Tips on Using Social Media in your Business
- Make Customer Experience Your Competitive Edge
- Understanding Freight Logistics of Importing and Exporting
- How To Grow Your Business

- Strategies for Off Shore Sourcing
- Establishing Your Label in the USA
- What Buyers Are Looking For
- Specification Sheets for Apparel Manufacturing
- Marketing for Small Fashion Business

The information featured in this newsletter is published in good faith in an endeavour to disseminate a wide range of business-related content. While we endeavour to verify the comments and advice, we cannot make any warranties regarding the accuracy of data from other sources, or the relevance to individuals' circumstances. Any actions you may consider are dependent on your individual choice and circumstances and are strictly of your own volition; consequently, we are not liable for any resulting consequences. We have no control over the content of any links to other websites and are not liable for any resultant actions taken by readers.

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