

# Free advice on offer

**I**MAGINE being able to access thousands of dollars' worth of free advice to benefit your business?

The government's Jobs Assist program has up to \$8000 in funding available to businesses who are registered for GST, have 10 or more employees and an ABN.

The government is most keen to hear from those in a list of 17 "key sector" areas, but in good news for the Sunshine Coast, applicants can come from any sector at all.

"The Sunshine Coast, Caboolture and Bundaberg are regarded as priority employment areas, so we don't have to worry about whether or not it's in a key sector," Anna Searle, who is a Jobs Assist business support consultant, said.

"I think it's a fantastic opportunity. I worked in strategic consulting with Deloitte in Melbourne and South Africa and we could charge between 50 and \$100,000 for this sort of thing."

Stage One offers up to \$3000 in funding for a consultant like Ms Searle to visit the business and prepare a report.

"So I would look at the strengths of the business, where the opportunities out in the market are, what they need to fortify and top priority areas that would warrant further investigation.

"Out of that stage, they get a strategic review business plan that identifies areas they can implement with funding from stage two (up to \$5000)," Ms Searle said.

"And the consultant doesn't get paid until we have submitted our report and the invoice and the client submits a client satisfaction report.

"We're wearing all the risk."

Ms Searle is the director of three-year-old Coast business Inspired Leadership and is one of an estimated 100 approved Jobs As-



**HERE TO HELP: Anna Searle.**

PHOTO: CHE CHAPMAN/188184

## COULD \$8000 BE YOURS?

1. Do you run a business?
2. Do you have 10 employees or more?
3. Does your business have an ABN?
4. Is your business registered for GST?

sist business support consultants on the Sunshine Coast.

Her contact number is 0414 453 913.

Another consultant is Ashton Wood, who helps people manage their home finances through eBooks, tips, guides and some software he has created.

His number is 0412 281 900.

## Children's safety a chosen charity