



A community based non-profit organisation, BETC was established in the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales, Australia in 1987. During that time BETC operated a range of employment and training programs funded by the State and Federal Governments for unemployed people in the area.

In 1997 BETC registered as a private employment agency to provide job agency services to the local community. BETC also became a Registered Training Organisation with the Vocational Education Advisory Board (**VETAB-NSW**). As well as delivering accredited courses, BETC developed courses to meet clients needs, for example the Small Business Management Certificate III which is on the National Register.

To further support the growth of small business BETC opened three small **business incubators**, the Ballina Business Centre in 1993, Byron Creative (Byron Bay) in 1999 and the CLIC Business Village (Mullumbimby) in 2004. These incubators are supporting 27 new businesses.

BETC won three national incubator awards sponsored by the Federal Government:

- Regional Incubator Award 2001
- Innovation Award 2001
- Graduate Tenant of the year 2002

BETC became a member of Business Innovation & Incubation Australia (**BIIA**)

BETC managed the following Government programmes funded by the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations (**DEEWR**):

- Community Work Coordinator / Work for the Dole
- Job Placement Office
- Personal Support Programme
- Literacy & Numeracy
- Youth Pathways

BETC reinvested profits made from their services into the local community. BETC added \$2m in community infrastructure; this included the BETC Head Office and the two small business incubators.

Each year BETC undertook a number of community projects.

Past projects included:

- Major refurbishment of facilities at Shaws Bay and Missingham Bridge in Ballina
- An Amphitheatre in Ballina built with funds secured from the Federation Fund
- The Byron Community Learning and Innovation Centre, located in Mullumbimby

BETC first worked together with Tweed Training and Enterprise Company (TTEC) in delivery of the Federal Government funded Youth Pathways program. Due to a similarity in company ethics, missions and values, the two companies forged strong ties and subsequently merged in 2008.

BETC, in partnership with like-minded company TTEC, will continue to provide excellence in employment, training and community under the new identity of NORTEC Employment and Training.

