

highlights 2005–06

- › Assisted **5,098 clients** to achieve **export success in international markets**. The number of businesses that exported with Austrade’s assistance increased by 17 per cent on the number assisted in 2004–05. 6, 42
- › The **dollar value of export successes** achieved by clients, with acknowledged assistance by Austrade, totalled **\$18.4 billion**. 6, 42
- › Eight **Export Hubs** were opened during the year combining the services of Austrade and AusIndustry, the program delivery division of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR), in each location. 8, 13
- › Administered the payment of 3,485 grants and \$137.1 million under the **Export Market Development Grants (EMDG)** scheme, which partially reimburses companies for eligible export promotion expenditure. This was an increase of over 6 per cent in recipients and almost 11 per cent in payments over 2004–05. 8, 47
- › Delivered a business matching program—**Business Club Australia: Melbourne 2006**—in the lead up to and during the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, which attracted over 7,800 Australian and international members and delivered 57 business networking events. 34
- › Continued work to increase awareness of and maximise export and international business outcomes arising from the **free trade agreements (FTAs)** with the United States, Thailand and Singapore. Austrade took a lead role in the development of a **practical guide** to assist Australian businesses access the US government procurement market. 14, 23
- › Commenced implementation of the Australian Government’s decision to **continue the TradeStart program** for another four years and to **extend the EMDG scheme** until the end of 2010–11. 8
- › With the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), provided **on-the-ground consular assistance** to locate and evacuate Australians caught up in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. 55