



Course on for small business

By Rob Greenwood

A NORTHERN suburbs training organisation is offering Bridgestone workers a fresh start as their own boss.

Knowledge Plus last week invited the 600 soon to be redundant workers to apply for its 13-week small business course.

Funded by the Federal Government's New Enterprise Initiative Scheme (NEIS), participants need only a new business idea to take part.

Knowledge Plus business development manager **Mark Houston** said Bridgestone workers registered with Job Services Australia would qualify for the course.

"The (Bridgestone) employees are generally multi-skilled people, usually in a trade or mechanical area," Mr Houston said.

"In terms of businesses, more than 70 per cent of all businesses are small business, so there are many opportunities out there."

Knowledge Plus offers a Certificate Four in Small Business Management, a nationally recognised

qualification.

From its Mawson Lakes base, it will help participants develop business plans and begin operating.

Each fledgling business will then receive one year of mentoring from experienced professionals specific to their industry.

"The government will also pay them their Newstart allowance for those 12 months and they don't have to participate in job searching," Mr Houston said.

"They can just get on with their business for a year and get their fortnightly payments."

Any viable business idea qualifies for the course, with past participants working in fields such as information technology, construction and craft making.

All training, support and learning materials are supplied free of charge.

Knowledge Plus is seeking expressions of interest for courses starting each month.