



**Kim Houghton, Strategic Economic Solutions** Kim set up Strategic Economic Solutions Pty Ltd in 1997 to provide services to a broad range of clients wanting to understand the economic issues affecting their communities and develop practical responses. The company specialises in local economic development and small business.

SES works extensively on regional labour markets in Australia, looking at where jobs have grown or declined, with a particular emphasis on building community profiles, creating employment and issues for young people. SES has a very strong track record in helping communities across Australia, and among other things has prepared economic development strategies for small towns, developed a 'small business readiness' self assessment kit and completed many other projects to foster growth in the small business sector.

SES is well known for its research on the fast growing home-based and micro business sector, having conducted Australia's largest surveys on home-based business growth issues. SES has worked in partnership with CREEDA to develop a proven program for identifying home-based businesses with growth potential and then supporting them with an intensive growth acceleration program called *Springboard*.

Before founding SES, Dr Houghton completed a major study for the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia (COSBOA) titled *Jobs in Our Regions: Building on the Small Business Base*. The book presents a comprehensive analysis of small business in regional Australia, examining the major constraints on regional small business growth and offering practical solutions.

Kim's previous work has included Adviser in the Federal Government's Economic Planning Advisory Commission (EPAC) and other positions in the Prime Minister's Department. He has lived and worked in Japan for many years, and was Executive Officer at the Australia-Japan Research Centre at the Australian National University (ANU) for four years.

Kim has a PhD in economics from ANU and his other qualifications include a BSc Hons in Geophysics from the University of Tasmania, accreditation as a community mediator and facilitator, and a reputation as a performance poet.