

Your childcare options there at a mouse click

GIUSEPPE TAURIELLO

BUSY parents looking for last-minute and casual childcare will be able to search for vacancies in their local area via a new website developed by an Adelaide entrepreneur.

Launched yesterday, Empty Spot allows parents to search and book from a database of childcare centres across the state.

Centre operators can create their own detailed profiles on the website, regularly updated with day-to-day vacancies, the type of childcare being offered, other services and pricing.

The website is the brainchild of local entrepreneur Kris Antczak who has plans to roll it out nationally.

He said the website had already attracted a strong response, with hundreds of registered users across the country and a strong Facebook following.

"There is a real shortage of available childcare placements across Australia, especially for parents that require childcare on a casual and last-minute basis," he said.

"For parents that get called in to work or called away unexpectedly, or simply need an extra day for someone to care for their child, the website allows them to search for suitable childcare in their local area."

It will give parents another childcare option



LOOK: Website developer Kris Antczak from emptyspot.com.au with new mum Ashlea Cole, 25, from Tranmere, on the site with her 16-month-old daughter Isla.

Picture: DAVID CRONIN

"The challenge for parents currently is that they just don't know where the local childcare centre is located let alone know who has a vacancy on a day that parents need."

A total of 18 centres are already registered on the website, across metropolitan Adelaide and in regional areas

including Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Naracoorte.

Emali Early Learning Centres has four registered centres, as well as Bubble 'n' Squeak Child Development Centre, which operates six centres across Adelaide and in regional areas.

Emali director Eman Serhan said last-minute vacancies often

popped up, due to illness or when families went on holiday.

Ashlea Cole from Tranmere, who's pregnant with her second child, said parents needed more childcare options.

"A lot of parents I know often rely on grandparents to look after the kids when they have a last-minute appointment or work commitments,

which can place a lot of stress and frustration if no one can look after their children," she said.

"The website will give parents another childcare option and that's especially important given the busy lifestyles that most of us have these days."

EMPTY SPOT CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.EMPTYSPOT.COM.AU

Casino rolls dice for top award

TWELVE hundred staff at a major Adelaide landmark are hoping for national recognition of their work later this week.

Adelaide Casino is one of three finalists in line for employer of the year at the federal government-run Australian Training Awards to be held this Friday at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Casino HR manager Cameron Tannock said \$1.1 million had been invested in training across roles ranging from frontline management to electronics and communications since 2012.

"We're proud of staff retention with the average length of employment at the casino three times the hospitality industry average of 2.4 years."

The awards recognise the achievements of trainees and training practitioners.

Adelaide Casino celebrates its 30th anniversary next year and contributes \$40 million to the state annually.

Westpac Victoria and state government department Main Roads WA will also compete for the employer of the year award.

Becoming Adept...

TECHNOLOGY consulting firm Adelaide Interim has changed its name to Adept, a title it believes better reflects its service offering.

The rebranding comes on the back of a record-breaking year for Adept, which achieved \$2 million in revenue and forecast \$10 million within five years.

Adept specialises in areas such as software management,

hardware design and engineering management and employs 20 staff, including technology specialists and project managers.

Adept chief executive Nigel Hall said after 10 years in business, he and co-founder Rob Silva believed it was time for a change.

"They have been saying we are an agile company and we make success happen," he said.

We have to keep building or sink

BELINDA WILLIS

DEFENCE SA's new chief is calling on the Federal Government to support Australian industry rather than use taxpayer dollars to build the economies of other countries.

Malcolm Jackman said if the Government bought more off-the-shelf defence equipment overseas, it would do nothing to address the country's struggling advanced manufacturing sector.

"One dollar spent offshore is worth one dollar; one dollar spent onshore is going to be worth a lot more," Mr Jackman said. "Defence delegation is not going to be good for advanced manufacturing. We will become a nation most able to produce board shorts and surf boards..."

Speaking at an American Chamber of Commerce lunch last week, Mr Jackman referred to Holden pulling out of Australia, saying: "It has been catastrophic for the state and for the country and I think for advanced manufacturing and engineering."

Defence could help fill the gap and increase not only the country's industry capability, but also its defence capability in being able to sustain its own equipment, he said, adding: "We certainly need to make sure governments at all levels draw the linkages between advanced engineering, advanced manufacturing and defence."

And fighting for a federal government commitment to a naval shipbuilding industry in SA was at the top of his goals for the upcoming year. At the moment, the defence industry in SA employed about 27,000 people and contributed about \$2 billion to the state economy.

The future frigate program could continue growing our shipbuilding industry, he said, and would see work roll on from the current air warfare destroyers project based at Techport in Osborne.

Mr Jackman is scheduled to address the Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce on Friday next week.




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