



Daniel Mackay who makes table top games with a 3d printer.

PICTURE: AAP/ROY VANDERVEGT

Launching into business

DAVOREN PARK

Patrick Keam

DANIEL Mackay has always felt passionate about games and starting his own business.

But it wasn't until the Davoren Park designer discovered a program to help launch his project that he was able to realise his dream.

The LaunchME program – run by Good Shepherd Micro-finance – is helping budding Adelaide entrepreneurs get small businesses up and running through \$5000 interest-free loans.

Mr Mackay says his new 3D printing business, Rabid Shetland Designs, is now up and going thanks to the program.

"I've always been a board gamer and tabletop gamer," Mr Mackay, 30, says.

"I never thought I would get into 3D printing – it was years ago when I was injured from a previous job.

"Through the help of LaunchME I've certainly expanded what I can do."

Mr Mackay designs pieces for games and is now broadening his business to other areas, such as creating holders for vacuum-cleaner accessor-

ies. He says the program helped him take his business idea to the next level.

"LaunchME put me in contact with a lot of specialists, like accountants, marketing people," he says.

"Speaking with these specialists I quickly learned that what I thought I knew was just a tiny little sliver of this broad topic."

LaunchME began in May last year for low-income earners wanting to start a business.

For details on Mr Mackay's business go to facebook.com/RabidShetlandDesigns

LGA bid to halt Libs rates cap

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Renato Castello Patrick Keam

A STATE Government pledge to cap council rates within its first 100 days would be impractical, the peak lobby group for the state's 69 councils says.

Local Government Association president Lorraine Rosenberg said councils would seek an urgent meeting with Local Government Minister Stephan Knoll.

Councils will argue against capping rate increases on the grounds it will hurt communities. Ms Rosenberg also said that, with councils already "well under way" in setting their draft budgets for the 2018-19 financial year, rushing rate capping would "be impractical and interfere with the community's right to be engaged in determining the local services and projects they want in their area".

"Additionally, this legislation would need to go through both houses of parlia-

ment, and with Labor, Greens and SA Best all making election commitments to oppose it being introduced ... it looks unlikely that the government will have the numbers to get rate capping through the Legislative Council," she said.

"We maintain there are better opportunities for local government reform, and once we have confirmation of who the new Minister for Local Government is we'll be seeking to discuss this as a priority.

It looks unlikely that the government will have the numbers.

Lorraine Rosenberg

"Although we disagree on rate capping, we welcome the Liberal Government's commitment to stop cost shifting to councils."

The LGA said that rate capping would lead to cuts in services – as had happened in NSW and Victoria.

Last Wednesday new SA

Best Upper House MP Frank Pangallo and colleague Connie Banaros had described as "remote" support for pushing through rate capping and de-regulating shopping hours.

Under the Government's rate capping plan, setting of council rates would be overseen by an independent regulator who would apply the local government price index, which tracks slightly above CPI, as the basis for determining a rate cap.

Councils would be able to apply to seek increases above the cap if able to show it had the support of ratepayers.

Salisbury Mayor Gillian Aldridge said it was "not the intention" for Salisbury to increase council-set fees in response to any impacts from rate capping. "(Salisbury) Council will continue to manage its budget effectively and be responsive to changing circumstances that may arise should a rate capping system be introduced," she said.

Playford Council did not respond to questions before deadline.

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Holy Family Catholic School

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