Funding for a cyber security 'health check'

Do you know if your IT provider is giving you the best service when it comes to cyber security? The Commonwealth Government currently offers small businesses with 19 or less employees a grant of up to $2,100 for a certified small business cyber security health check.

These checks involve a visit to the business' premises by a provider approved by the Council of Registered Ethical Security Testers Australia New Zealand (CREST). The check specifications are based on the Australian Cyber Security Centre's Essential Eight.

To find out if you are eligible, and how to apply, visit the CREST small business health check website and create an account.

According to Darryl Smith, a partner at Clyde & Co who specialises in cyber security, his observation is that many IT service contracts do not include managing cyber security. It is no longer enough to leave the security of your computer and technology systems to the 'IT guy', and it is worth checking if they have included it in their contract with you. Aim to satisfy yourself that what you have in place is at least the base line of protection in what is a constantly changing environment.

If you are not sure how secure your computer system really is start by asking your IT provider about the ACSC essential eight mitigating strategies to help improve your cyber resilience. If it is outside their area of expertise a CREST health check may be a good way to get some peace of mind.

Visit our cybersecurity webpage for more information about the growing risk cybercrime.