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Queen of soaps goes hell for lather

ALTONA Meadows resident Melissa Bentaberry has been rewarded for her hard work and ingenuity with a \$700 interest-free loan to launch her new organic soap company Untoxicity.

The plucky, 24-year-old single mother overcame adversity in her personal life to complete a five-month business course run by American Express and the Body Shop charitable organisation Bizness Babes.

"It was great to be involved

in the program and receive the loan," Ms Bentaberry said.

"Obviously, it has taught me a lot about how to run a business properly."

American Express spokesperson Tracey Bowra said Ms Bentaberry stood out from many of the other applicants with her business plan and attitude.

"Melisa was determined to learn about business and went from being a reserved participant to being confident and outspoken."

'It was great to be

involved in the program and receive the loan.'

Melisa Bentaberry

Ms Bentaberry runs the business from home and used the loan money to buy moulds and other materials for the soaps.

She designed different types based on the seven chakras of the body.

A chakra is used in yoga as

one of the seven major centres of spiritual power in the body that balance the flow of energy and enhance wellbeing.

"I used organic ingredients in the soaps so they are good for your skin," Ms Bentaberry said.

She is sure enough of the soaps' benefits they are often used to lather up two-year-old son Kaiden.

"He likes to play with them," she laughed.



Cleaning up: Melissa hopes her organic soaps will be a hit.

Picture: Craig Cahill