

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Small Business Commissioner

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Ryan

QUESTION No.: BI-97

1. In what publications will the Small Business Commissioner position be advertised?
2. Has the Department had conversations with the Ministers office regarding candidates they feel would be best for the position?
3. Can you provide us a copy of the job description and the advertisement that will be placed?
4. How many support staff do you expect will work in the office?
5. Will the Federal Small Business Commissioner monitor the impact of the carbon tax on small business?
6. How will the commissioner monitor the impacts of the Carbon Tax on small business? Especially if it is only operational from Jan 1 2013, will it conduct a study on the impact of the carbon tax over the first six months of its operation?

ANSWER

1. The Australian Financial Review, The Australian, The Canberra Times and SEEK.
2. No.
3. The Role Statement is provided at **Attachment A**. The Expression of Interest advertisement is provided at **Attachment B**.
4. Five.
5. The Commissioner may report to the Minister for Small Business on any small business issues the Commissioner deems to be important.
6. Refer to the answer to question 5 (above).

Australian Small Business Commissioner – Role Statement

The Australian Small Business Commissioner will advocate and advise on small business interests within the Australian Government and bring to light new opportunities to enhance outcomes for small businesses throughout Australia. The Commissioner will adopt a leadership role in consultation with industry and collaboration with other jurisdictions to promote a coordinated approach to small business issues and encourage information sharing on small business matters.

The Australian Small Business Commissioner will be appointed by, and report directly to, the Minister for Small Business. The Commissioner will also work cooperatively with the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education to share information on small business issues.

The Small Business Commissioner will be responsible for:

- advocacy and representation of small business interests and concerns to the Australian Government to ensure that policies and initiatives take into account the needs of small business;
- promoting Government policies and small business activities;
- providing a national gateway to small business information, education, assistance and advice through the *National Information and Referral Service*;
- working with key small business stakeholders, such as other small business commissioners to promote a coordinated approach to small business issues and encourage information sharing on small business matters; and
- oversight of existing Commonwealth funded small business mediation services provided for under the Franchising Code of Conduct, Horticulture Code of Conduct, and Oilcode (mandatory industry codes under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010) and the voluntary Produce and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct.



Australian Government
Department of Industry
Innovation, Science, Research
and Tertiary Education

AUSTRALIAN SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER

Experienced, visionary leaders across business and government are invited to submit expressions of interest in becoming the inaugural Australian Small Business Commissioner.

The Small Business Commissioner will be appointed by, and report directly to, the Minister for Small Business. This significant new appointment will advise on and advocate small business interests within the Australian Government and bring to light new opportunities to enhance outcomes for small businesses throughout Australia.

As Small Business Commissioner you will provide leadership, in consultation with industry and collaboration with other jurisdictions, to enhance partnerships in delivering services to small businesses. The Commissioner will also establish a *National Information and Referral Service* to assist small business with the resolution of business-to-business disputes.

Key qualities of the Commissioner will include:

- A thorough understanding of the economic environment and issues facing small businesses which may include deregulation, taxation, business finance, franchising and competition policy and dispute resolution;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to develop partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders;
- Proven leadership ability and sound judgement, integrity, and wisdom; and
- Knowledge of the workings of government and the capacity to provide advice to government on small business issues.

An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

The appointment will be from 2 January 2013 to 30 June 2016 and is based in Canberra. The position is security assessed, therefore to be eligible for employment, applicants must be Australian citizens.

If you are interested in this position, please email an expression of interest comprising your resume, a two-page statement addressing the key qualities for the position and contacts for two referees.

For more information about this opportunity please visit the website at www.innovation.gov.au/careers. Alternatively, inquiries can be directed to Michael Schwager on (02) 6213 7122 or by email to smallbusiness@innovation.gov.au.

Expressions of interest close 3:00pm, Friday, 22 June 2012.