

Question on Notice
No. 388
Asked on 28 March 2006

MS JARRATT asked the Minister for Small Business, Information Technology Policy and Multicultural Affairs (MR CUMMINS) —

QUESTION:

Will he outline why he is getting the views of small business operators, business and industry groups and those who advise small business?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and for her strong support for small business within her electorate. The Beattie Government recognises that small business represents 96.5% of all Queensland businesses and employs around 50% of all private sector workers, and as such, this Government is committed to driving economic growth and innovation, developing business and industry and securing employment opportunities for Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government acknowledges that there are many issues facing small business. Initial consultation with small business operators, business and industry groups, and those who advise small business, revealed their concerns in a range of areas including the:

- importance of being able to compete and grow in a fair marketplace;
- difficulty in attracting and retaining skilled employees;
- importance of ongoing management skills development;
- burden of state taxes and charges;
- need to reduce red tape for business; and
- lack of awareness of the Queensland Government's small business support services.

The Beattie Government wants to ensure current and future Queensland Government services are aimed at supporting small business operators and remain relevant to their needs and to allow small business operators, business and industry groups, the opportunity to identify innovative policy initiatives to support the growth and development of this sector.

I would therefore encourage all small business operators to read the discussion paper and have their say. The closing date for submissions is 12 May and comments can be made via email, online, post or fax.

The *Small Business – a high priority for the Smart State* discussion paper is available online at www.smartsmallbusiness.qld.gov.au/sb, or by contacting the Office of Small Business on (07) 3247 9249. Feedback can be given online at www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au, emailed to smallbusiness@sd.qld.gov.au, faxed to (07) 3234 0487, or posted to PO Box 15168, City East, Queensland, 4002.