

Question on Notice
No. 405
Asked on 13 March 2007

MR ELMES asked the Minister for State Development, Employment and Industrial Relations (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Regional Business Advisory Service, which was subject to review in 2005 —

- (1) What changes has the Government made to assist Queensland regional businesses?
- (2) What level of funding and from what funding program (reported separately) is provided to regional businesses?
- (3) Which regional businesses have received assistance and what is the amount of funding provided to each business (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

- (1) I am advised that following a review of the Regional Business Advisory Service in 2005 the Department of State Development put in place the following initiatives to assist regional businesses:
 - employment of State Development Officers in regional centres to provide access and advice to assist regional firms grow their businesses and increase exports;
 - secondment of an officer to the Local Government Association of Queensland to facilitate better co-operation between the State Government and local councils in economic development; and
 - development of on-line tools to provide greater assistance to regional businesses, including the Smart Small Business website which provides departmental interactive services, information and transactions including *SmartLicence*, *GOBiS*, *Smart Skills*, interactive business management tools and the business bookshop.
- (2) The Queensland Regional Business Advisory Service funding was not used to provide financial assistance to individual businesses.
- (3) Not applicable.