

**Question on Notice
No. 931
Asked on 7 June 2007**

MS MALE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICHEL)—

Will he advise the House about the role of the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council and how its work will assist small businesses across Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Small Business Advisory Council has played a key role in helping the Queensland Government set the agenda for small business development since 1999. The Council's contribution to a number of business management skills products and services over this time highlights the benefits of Government engaging with small business to ensure programs are relevant to the sector.

Since becoming the Minister for State Development, Employment and Industrial Relations, I have met with many business owners and stakeholders, including members of the Council, to determine the most effective way to enhance the Government's engagement with the small business community.

As a consequence, I have reconstituted the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council into a Queensland Small Business Advisory Group to be chaired by my colleague, Mr Michael Choi, Member for Capalaba. Individual business operators make up the membership of this new Advisory Group which met for the first time in early May, and will continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

This Advisory Group will provide me, and the Queensland Government, with an opportunity to hear first-hand the issues facing business operators on a day-to-day basis.

Membership of the Advisory Group is broadly representative of the Queensland small business community and includes:

- Ms Lorraine Pyefinch, Best Practice Software Pty Ltd;
- Ms Karen Neuendorf, Neuendorf Interiors;
- Ms Larissa Bright, Diva Cosmetics;
- Associate Professor Karen Woolley, ProScribe;
- Ms Gillian Adams, ASK Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd;
- Ms Christine Cameron, Rockcote Enterprises Pty Ltd;
- Ms Fiona Waterhouse, FEX Climate;
- Mr Varun Khanna, MINT Indian Gourmet; and
- Mr Andrew Foo, Drew International.

I have asked the members to:

- provide me with input on identified small business issues;
- provide feedback on proposed small business assistance programs and policies; and
- bring to my attention systemic and emerging issues with the potential to affect the ability of Queensland small businesses to operate successfully.

I am looking forward to working with the members of the new Queensland Small Business Advisory Group and business and industry associations for the benefit of Queensland's small business community.