

Question On Notice No. 2020 asked in the **Legislative Council** on **23 March 2010** by **Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich**

Question directed to the: **Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Commerce**

Minister Responding: **Hon T.R. Buswell**

Parliament: **38** Session: **1**

I refer to the Minister's announcement on 7 August 2009 that the Government would be establishing a Small Business Advocate, and ask -

- (1) Has the Small Business Advocate been established?
- (2) If yes to (1), who has been appointed to that role?
- (3) If no to (1), why has there been a seven-month delay in establishing this office, the dedicated website and the Freecall service that was announced by the Minister?
- (4) If this advocacy service was not in place, why did the Government go ahead with its actions to extend retail trading hours prior to Christmas?
- (5) Will the Minister apologise to the small business community for neglecting to establish this advocacy service prior to the start of extended retail trading hours as promised?

Answered on 4 May 2010:

(1) No. Following approaches by small business representatives the previous Minister agreed to give further consideration to the role, functions and powers of the Small Business Advocate which will delay the commencement of this service.

As part of this exercise, the previous Minister met with the Small Business Commissioner in Victoria to gain further insights into the operations of his office and have invited a number of small business representatives to participate in an Advisory Group that will report back to me on this matter.

(2) Not Applicable.

(3) Refer to Question (1).

(4) - (5) The State Government will establish a Small Business Advocate to support small business in the transition to extended trading hours across the metropolitan area. This change to Western Australia's trading hours environment, which was foreshadowed when the Government announced its plans for a Small Business Advocate, has yet to be implemented due to a lack of support in Parliament.
