

SMALL BUSINESS — RETAIL SECTOR

**1496. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the minister representing the Minister for Small Business:**

I apologise—there are noticeable spelling errors and grammatical errors in the question. I will correct it as I read it out. I refer to the recent publication of the Small Business Development Corporation —

**Hon Sue Ellery:** Does that mean you did write it!

**Hon COLIN TINCKNELL:** I will read it out as it was meant to read, because the grammatical errors are bad. I am sorry about that.

I refer to the recent publication of the Small Business Development Corporation “Annual Report 2018–19”, and note that of the 224 270 reported small businesses in Western Australia, the industry with the highest number of small businesses—reported on page 6—is construction, at 18 per cent; and, further, the top five industries, which account for 58 per cent of all small businesses in WA, do not include small businesses operating in the retail sector.

- (1) What percentage of small businesses in WA are operating in the retail sector?
- (2) How many workers are employed by small businesses operating in the retail sector?

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question. The Minister for Small Business was able to sort through the grammatical complexities and has provided the following information.

- (1) It is five per cent.
- (2) It is 50 008 employees.