

CORONAVIRUS — SMALL BUSINESS — IMPACTS

71. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Small Business:

I refer to the impact of lockdowns on the small business sector.

- (1) Is the small business sector consulted ahead of any proposed lockdowns; and, if yes, how?
- (2) Has ongoing consultation with the sector occurred during the pandemic emergency period; and, if yes, when?
- (3) Is the impact on businesses considered when a decision to issue a lockdown is made?
- (4) What is the total compensation paid to date across all small business assistance packages since the COVID-19 pandemic began?
- (5) How many individual businesses have received compensation and how many have been rejected?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I provide the following answer on behalf of the Minister for Small Business.

- (1) The Western Australia Police Force conducts a weekly industry liaison group meeting with business stakeholders to discuss how previous lockdowns have been implemented and identify how businesses can prepare for any future lockdown. The Small Business Commissioner participates in these meetings.
- (2) See the answer to (1).
- (3) The impact on the entire Western Australian community, including the business community, is considered when making the difficult decision to direct a lockdown.
- (4) Across a wide range of assistance packages, a total of \$1.2 billion in relief initiatives has been provided to businesses.
- (5) There is no aggregated data available to answer this question. It is expected that the small business lockdown assistance grant scheme will be provided to 15 000 businesses.