

SMALL BUSINESS DAY

**554. Ms E. EVANGEL to the Minister for Small Business:**

I understand that in a couple of weeks' time there will be a Small Business Day. Can the minister inform the house of some of the state government's initiatives that support small businesses?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:**

Thank you, member for Perth, for your question. We are behaving a bit like schoolkids on the last day before school holidays and everyone is a bit rowdy. Over the winter recess a number of significant events will occur, not the least of which is the member for Girrawheen's birthday tomorrow. I would like to wish the member for Girrawheen a happy birthday for tomorrow.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Thank you.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** That is the first major event for the winter recess and I look forward to seeing her tomorrow and spending some quality time with her at the firefighter academy.

On 11 July we are going to have Small Business Day. I would like to place on the record the efforts of Nicolle Jenkins and Kitty Prodonovich for driving Western Australia's Small Business Day. It is an opportunity for every one of us to go out into our communities and to think big and shop small, to support small businesses by helping them wherever we can on that day, Saturday 11 July; helping small business and thinking about the contribution that they make to the Western Australian economy. There are now 211 658 registered small businesses across the state of Western Australia. They make up 97 per cent of all registered small businesses across the state. They make a significant contribution to the economy. They have been far more resilient in the past 12 months than big businesses.

**Mr D.J. Kelly:** Big electricity bills, big water bills, small business.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** They do not like talking about small business, Mr Speaker—we do. We want to go out there over the recess and support small business and say to them that we recognise the sacrifices and the risks—all the things they do to create jobs, employment opportunity and wealth for other people in the state of Western Australia. We want to thank them for their efforts. Small Business Day is on 11 July.