

SMALL BUSINESS — STATISTICS

283. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Small Business:

I have a supplementary question. Given that under the minister's watch, three employing businesses are shutting their doors every day, when will his government finally accept that his policies are destroying the small business sector, which is the lifeblood of the state, and will he finally stand up for small businesses by publicly rejecting Bill Shorten's high-cost, job-destroying policies?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

The sycophantic response from the opposition towards a government that looks in a bit of trouble is interesting. It is embarrassing but interesting. Which policy have we initiated that is making this impact that she claims?

Several members interjected.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Nothing like yours.

The SPEAKER: There is nothing like nabbing the Treasurer to order for the first time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I looked across the chamber when I asked that question and someone's mouth was not moving. A lot of other mouths were moving. I assume that they are ventriloquists. What does that make the member? The member had no policy in mind that we have initiated that has resulted in a bad outcome.

As I said, small business is a tough gig. I admire and respect people who have the courage to do it, like the member for Jandakot and the member for Pilbara. I think the member for Kingsley was involved in small business as well. We have a lot of members who were successful small business operators. I mention the member for Murray–Wellington as well.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister, you will get to the end of this answer please.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I also mention the member for Bicton. If I have overlooked anybody else, my apologies. Sorry; the Minister for Housing, of course. So many members on this side of the chamber have small business experience. We have great sympathy and empathy and we are deeply motivated to assist the small business sector, like we did with the biggest reforms to the Liquor Control Act 1988 that we passed last year. Thousands of small businesses benefited from that. Thousands of small businesses will also benefit from our negotiations around the sale of the TAB. We are helping people. We are not implementing policies like three land tax increases in three budgets. That would be an outrage.