

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICE — DISPUTE-RELATED INQUIRIES

332. Hon KATE DOUST to the Minister for Small Business:

Mr President, you might not like my question either!

I refer to the media statement dated 31 May 2012 regarding the more than 600 dispute-related inquiries to the alternative dispute resolution service.

- (1) What is the number of inquiries for the ADR service to 8 June 2012?
- (2) From these inquiries, what is the number of inquiries that have moved to —
 - (a) guided resolution; and
 - (b) mediation?
- (3) What is the number of disputes in which only one party has agreed to mediation?
- (4) In relation to retail shop lease disputes —
 - (a) How many businesses have requested the assistance of the Small Business Commissioner?
 - (b) Of these, how many have been referred to the ADR service?
 - (c) How many certificates have been issued by the Small Business Commissioner for disputes to be settled by the State Administrative Tribunal?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of her question and I am delighted to be able to provide this information, because the Small Business Commissioner is already making a significant difference with members of his team at the Small Business Development Corporation in solving people's problems, and that includes disputes.

Hon Kate Doust: Good; I look forward to meeting him one day.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: The member met him the other day, did she not?

Hon Kate Doust: No, only informally.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: She only met him informally; that is not good enough! I shall arrange a formal introduction.

Hon Kate Doust: I wish you would. I have been asking your office for a while, so I look forward to it.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I shall arrange a formal introduction. We will have the member —

Hon Ken Travers: Won't you be back as transport minister soon?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: Let us —

Hon Kate Doust: Let him answer my question.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: Question time has been going nicely; let us not get ugly about it.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am not sure it has; let us get to the answer.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I will answer the question.

- (1) The number is 731.
- (2)
 - (a) There are 51.
 - (b) There is one.
- (3) There is one.
- (4)
 - (a) There are 310.
 - (b) There are 31.
 - (c) There is one.