

PUBLIC SECTOR AGENCIES — PAYMENTS

825. Hon KATE DOUST to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Small Business:

I refer to the article in last Friday's *West Australian* titled "WA small business gets raw deal from big clients".

- (1) What steps has the Barnett government taken to ensure that all payments made by government departments are made within 30 days?
- (2) Does the Minister for Small Business have any plans to provide relief to small businesses struggling as a result of non-payment?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I answer on behalf of the Attorney General. I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Premier's Circular 2009-3 "Timely Payment of Accounts by Public Sector Agencies" and the Treasurer's Instruction 323 state —

All commercial payments shall be paid within 30 days of the receipt of the creditor's claim, or within 30 days of the provision of the goods and services, whichever is the latter.

Complaints from small businesses about late payments by government agencies have not been received by either the Small Business Development Corporation or the office of the Minister for Small Business.

- (2) The Auditor General is conducting an audit of timely payments by state government agencies.