

BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND WORKS — BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION —
INVESTIGATION

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

I refer to the minister's media statement of 17 October 2012 announcing an investigation into the management of Building the Education Revolution projects by Building Management and Works.

- (1) How many subcontractors have registered with the Small Business Development Corporation or through the Minister for Small Business in this issue?
- (2) How many of these subcontractors has the SBDC met with?
- (3) For each of the investigators assigned to assist the Small Business Commissioner in investigating this issue, will the minister provide the —
 - (a) name;
 - (b) qualifications;
 - (c) experience; and
 - (d) date upon which they were appointed to this investigation?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) As at 13 November 2012, 110 subcontractors have registered with the SBDC. This number includes all complaints initially referred to the Minister for Small Business.
- (2) The Small Business Commissioner has developed an approach to investigate this matter swiftly, and his team is in the process of capturing data and examining contract and complaint-handling processes. The SBDC has been in contact with each subcontractor in some form or another, and personal contact has been made with the majority of subcontractors at this stage.
- (3) The Small Business Commissioner has set up an investigation team to progress this body of work, including the engagement of Ms Janette Tavelli and her team from Integra Legal on 5 November 2012. Ms Tavelli was appointed based on her experience. She has expertise in disputation in the engineering and construction industries. She has been appointed as an investigator for various statutory bodies, and has been an instructing solicitor on state inquiries and for a royal commission.