

CORONAVIRUS — SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

157. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's announcement on 2 March 2022 of a level 2 COVID-19 business assistance package.

- (1) How was the figure of \$72 million for the support package arrived at, and what assumptions and information did the government use to calculate expected business losses?
- (2) Will the government table for the house the modelling, assumptions and calculations used to arrive at this figure; and, if not, why not?
- (3) On what date will applications for the support package open and what department or agency will oversee the assessment of the applications?
- (4) What criteria were used to deem a business eligible for the support package, and will the Premier table those criteria; and, if not, why not?
- (5) What were the criteria used to deem a business ineligible for the support package, and will the Premier table those criteria; and, if not, why?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) This information is Expenditure Review Committee-in-confidence.
- (3) The Small Business Development Corporation will oversee applications for the \$67 million Small Business Hardship Grants program. As per the Premier's media statement of 4 March 2022, applications for the hardship grants will open on 17 March 2022.

Revenue WA is currently assessing payroll tax waivers for affected large hospitality businesses.

The COVID-19 commercial sporting franchises support program provides a rebate of \$35 000 per game for venue hire costs and will be processed as events occur.

- (4)–(5) Eligibility criteria are available on the Small Business Development Corporation—there is a word missing—website. That is not a satisfactory answer so I will ensure that a hard copy is made available.