

SMALL BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

**807. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Small Business:**

- (1) Is it a fact that the small business improvement program, funded through the Small Business Development Corporation, ceased on 28 February this year?
- (2) Why has the program been shut down?
- (3) Does this move have the support of the business enterprise centre network, particularly in regional Western Australia?

**Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I am advised as follows -

- (1) The small business improvement program, funded through the Small Business Development Corporation, closed to further applications from 1 March 2003. Applications received up to 28 February 2003 have been accepted for processing, and successful applications will be funded from the 2002-03 budget allocation. The small business improvement fund will not be funded in 2003-04.
- (2) The decision to cease funding the small business improvement program for 2003-04 was a result of the Government's functional review. It was a whole-of-government decision based on budget priorities and limited funds. The program impacted directly on only a relatively small number of small businesses in Western Australia; viz 180 in 2001-02.
- (3) The minister is not aware that the network as a whole has made any decision.