

CORONAVIRUS — SMALL BUSINESS — LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

587. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) Under the current state of emergency measures, are small businesses in Western Australia required to provide a COVID-free environment to staff, clients and customers?
- (2) If yes to (1), what risks or penalties are small businesses faced with if they fail to do so; and, if not, why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), are WA small businesses able to refuse entry to COVID-unvaccinated customers?
- (4) Has any health advice been provided regarding this issue?
- (5) If yes to (4), will the parliamentary secretary table this advice; and, if not, why not?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I provide the following response on behalf of the Minister for Small Business.

- (1)–(2) Western Australian businesses are required to comply with certain directions issued under the Emergency Management Act 2005. The COVID Safe (Phase 5) Directions require that the person responsible for a relevant venue or premises have a COVID safety plan in place. A COVID safety plan includes safety measures such as maintaining hygiene standards, conducting frequent cleaning and carefully managing shared spaces to ensure physical distancing. The Contact Register Directions (No 3) require that the person responsible for a relevant venue or premises must request each person entering the premises to provide contact registration information.
- (3) Small businesses maintain their right to refuse entry to anyone so long as it does not unlawfully discriminate.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.