The new and improved Victorian Small Business Commission

Judy O’Connell
Victorian Small Business Commissioner

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Small businesses are vital to the Victorian economy.

Over 550,000 small businesses in Victoria employing over 50% of the State’s private jobs.
ENGAGE
Connect with the small business community to promote VSBC services and encourage informed decision making

ADVOCATE
Advocate on issues affecting small businesses and their operating environment

MONITOR
Monitor the impact of market trends, legislation and government policies on small business

DISPUTE RESOLUTION
Provide an efficient and low cost small business dispute resolution service
Advocating on your behalf

- Mental Health
- Australian Supplier Payment Code
- Melbourne Metro Rail Authority Small Business Engagement Guidelines
- Melbourne Water Small Business Consultation Guidelines
Monitoring

The VSBC will **monitor** the impact of market trends, legislation and government policies on small business

- Review the potential impact of legislation and policies
- Recommend, report and advocate change where appropriate to Minister and in *Annual Report*
Engaging with small business

Engaging with the small business community to promote services and encourage informed decision making.

• Roundtables
• Presentations
• Webinars
Resolving Disputes

Any commercial agreement between business-to-business/government or not-for-profit

- Licensing
- Franchises
- Buying a business
- Leases
- Service contracts
- Supply chain
- Distribution

No definition of ‘small business’
Last year, the VSBC had close to 12,000 enquiries with the majority of these settled over the phone.

The VSBC received approx. 1700 dispute applications and 31% were completed prior to mediation.

5% of parties refused mediation.

There were 614 completed mediations with 80% of these successfully resolved.
Small Business Commission Act 2017

The Small Business Commission Act 2017 (the Act) strengthens and broadens the roles and functions of the VSBC. The Act has been passed by Parliament and commenced on 1 July 2017.

Key changes:

- Dispute is now defined as a “contractual or commercial” dispute
- Widens scope of organisations to include: a school, RTO, TAFE institute or university; a professional association; a peak business, industry or trade body.
- Powers to review legislation & policy that impacts small business
- National Priorities – collaboration with other states to enhance conditions for small business
Contact us

Contact the VSBC for:
• Information
• Assistance
• Guidance
• Dispute resolution
• Sign up to our e-newsletter

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