

PAEC Inquiry into the 2017-18 Budget Estimates – Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearing

Minister Dalidakis, Small Business, Innovation and Trade, Tuesday 30 May 2017

Question 1

The performance measure ‘Clients engaged in export and trade programs’ had an actual figure of 2,434, an expected outcome of 2,500 in 2016-17 and a target of 2,500 for 2017-18 (Budget Paper No.3, p.147).

Please explain:

- a. the methodology used by the Department to estimate this performance measure;
- b. what is the process followed by the Department to engage with clients; and
- c. what constitutes ‘engagement’.

Response A

This performance measure is a count of Victorian organisations who have participated in Victorian Government trade programs, these programs include the inbound and outbound trade mission program, Export Skills Program, Access Program and business events as recorded in the Department’s customer relationship management system.

Response B

The department engages with clients across a broad range of programs and activities. These include both inbound and outbound trade missions, export skills workshops and seminars, industry round tables and promotional activities including events such as the Governor of Victoria Export Awards. In support of these activities the Victorian Government runs an extensive network of 20 international Government Business Offices which deliver in-market trade facilitation support to Victorian businesses.

Response C

Refer to response A and B.

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Question 2

The 2017-18 Budget states that ‘The Government will support small business through the implementation of the first round of recommendations identified in the Small Business Regulation Review. This includes four areas of focus: access to regulatory information; reform of planning approval processes; reform of food safety regulation; and further improvements to the retail leasing regulatory framework. Greater use will also be made of digital delivery channels to improve accessibility and enable greater participation of small businesses in events and programs, such as the Small Business Festival Victoria. A business case will be developed for an online platform to place Small Business Victoria’s support services online’ (Budget Paper 2017-18, p.35).

Please indicate:

- a. if the Small Business Regulation Review has been made publicly available;
- b. the timelines for the implementation of recommendations made as part of the Review; and
- c. the expected completion date for the ‘online platform’ business case and if it is going to be made publicly available.

Response A

The first review under the Small Business Regulation Review program is a review of the retail sector. The draft Retail Action Statement with proposed reforms was released on 26 May 2017 for a further four week consultation period and is available at <https://smallbizreview.economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au/>.

Response B

An implementation plan is currently being developed to support delivery of the final Action Statement.

Response C

Small Business Victoria has engaged with small businesses, business advisers and other sector stakeholders to develop a business case to streamline and enrich the government’s small business service delivery through its online platform Business Victoria. The business case is an internal document for departmental decision making.