

CoSBA



Combined Small Business Alliance of WA (Inc)
Date: 21 May 2014

Manager, Small Business Ombudsman and Procurement Unit
Small Business, Competition and Consumer Policy Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent, PARKES ACT 2600

Re.: SMALL BUSINESS AND FAMILY ENTERPRISE OMBUDSMAN - SUBMISSION

The Combined Small Business Alliance of Western Australia inc. (CoSBA) supports in principle the concept of the Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman (the Ombudsman) and the four key responsibilities outlined in the Discussion Paper, in so doing we would submit the following suggestions for consideration:

- The office of the Ombudsman to be set up as an independent agency (commission) free from control and influence of the Government.
- The harmonisation of States and Federal functions in order that the Ombudsman operate in conjunction with the States' Small Business Commissioners, in particular the referral of power for State Commissioners to deal with dispute resolution of Federal matters. A 'one stop shop' for dispute resolution.
- The responsibilities and powers of the Ombudsman to be along similar lines as for the New South Wales Small Business Commissioner.
- State and Federal industrial relations laws be amended to cede the power for the Ombudsman to deal with dispute resolution of small business industrial relations matters, within the dispute resolution framework of the respective State Commissioners.
- The powers for dispute resolution by the Ombudsman not be limited, and that the powers provide for dispute resolution by the Ombudsman of any matter of dispute concerning a small business, in particular those concerning matters of taxation with the ATO.
- The Ombudsman in the performance of its responsibilities and powers act as a watchdog for unfair or unwarranted red tape imposed upon small business, and to make recommendations to Government for the elimination or reduction of the red tape.
- The Ombudsman to conduct a small business impact review and produce a small business impact statement for all proposed Laws and Regulations.

Yours faithfully

**Combined Small Business Alliance
of Western Australia Inc. (CoSBA)**

OLIVER MOON
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Bruce Billson, Minister for Small Business; Joe Francis, WA Minister for Small Business; David Eaton, WA Commissioner for Small Business.