



Franchise Council of Australia Media Release

WA's first Small Business Commissioner announced

December 22 2011

The WA Government has announced the appointment of David Eaton as the state's first small business commissioner.

FCA Executive Director Steve Wright says the FCA welcomes the appointment, and sees it as another positive step by the Government of Western Australia.

"We look forward to meeting with and working with Mr Eaton constructively in the near future," Mr Wright says.

Mr Eaton, formerly the National Manager Commercial Services at Australia Post, will take up the post on 17 January 2012.

The announcement was made by the Member for South Metropolitan Region, Hon. Simon O'Brien MLC, Minister for Finance, Commerce and Small Business.

Mr O'Brien last year decided that the government-funded Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) would be brought under the responsibility of the new small business commissioner, once appointed.

Mr O'Brien said the commissioner's primary function will be to receive and investigate complaints about unfair market practices affecting small business, and to provide help to resolve those complaints.

The SBDC has been the primary provider of advice and guidance for the small business sector in Western Australia since 1984.

During 2010-11, the necessary amendments to the Small Business Development Corporation Act 1983, the Commercial Tenancy (Retail Shops) Agreements Act 1985 and the State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004 were passed through both houses of State Parliament, thereby allowing the establishment of the small business commissioner.

Mr Eaton said that he was looking forward to working with the small business community in WA. He acknowledged the sector faces unique challenges, but was confident he would help small business take advantage of the opportunities that the current and future WA business environment does and will provide.

Mr Eaton's first actions upon taking office will include visits to regional areas to speak with small business operators.

ENDS



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