

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER NOT SEEKING REAPPOINTMENT**

**10 August 2016**

The Victorian Small Business Commissioner, Geoff Browne, has announced that he will not seek reappointment when his five year term ends in October. He informed Small Business Minister Philip Dalidakis of his decision last Friday.

The Small Business Commissioner provides a quick, low cost dispute resolution service for commercial disputes between businesses.

“We have achieved the goals I established five years ago, and it’s now time to let someone else reset those aims and take the organisation forward” said Mr Browne

The achievements under Commissioner Browne include stopping the previously increasing trend in disputes between landlords and commercial tenants, doubling engagement with small and medium businesses, and increasing awareness of the dispute resolution service offered by the Office. The incidence of businesses refusing to engage with his Office has also reduced by two-thirds.

The Commissioner has also successfully implemented mediation services under the *Farm Debt Mediation Act 2011*, assisting over 400 farmers.

“The total volume of applications we receive has increased 27 percent in the past five years, and we have continued to achieve mediation settlement rates exceeding 80 per cent and customer satisfaction ratings of 95 per cent.”

Mr. Browne completes his term as Commissioner on 7 October.

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Contacts: Geoff Browne, Victorian Small Business Commissioner, 0448 533 162