

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Phillip Martin will ask the following Question on Notice:

'Noting the role of the Council operated Enterprise Adelaide and the Council funded/AEDA delivered Business SA advice services offered to sole traders and small business operators in the City of Adelaide until 2020 and 2023 respectively, could the Administration advise;

1. How has AEDA replaced or is planning to replace the professional advice that was offered by the former services to business operators, particularly about landlord/lease issues and other financial obligations and
2. In the absence of any replacement service, how has AEDA directed/proposes to direct the funding provided by Council as part of it 23/24 budget and the proposed 24/25 budget?'

REPLY

1. Prior to AEDA's formation, the City of Adelaide entered into an arrangement with Business SA to provide small businesses with basic information and advice. The release of the South Australian Government's Small and Family Business Strategy in mid-2023 included funding for the Office of Small and Family Business to employ staff whose dedicated role is to provide information and advice to small business operators. In addition, the State Government is also funding a range of organisations to deliver business mentoring, support services and workshops for small business operators including those in the City of Adelaide. The State Government continues to fund the Office of the Small Business Commissioner to provide low-cost dispute resolution on matters impacting their day-to-day operations, including landlord/lease issues.
2. Given this changing environment, the AEDA Board resolved to target the 2023-24 Strategic Partnerships program towards initiatives that supported small growth-oriented businesses in the City of Adelaide. The Board considered it important that the activities it supported complemented, rather than duplicated, State funded activities. As advised via e-news on 14 November 2023, funding was provided to the University of Adelaide's Thinclab, MTP Connect and Southstart to deliver these programs. These programs, funded through the 2023-24 budget are currently underway. The Board will consider its future approach through the development of its Strategic Plan and informed by the outcomes achieved through the current programs.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 4.5 hours.
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