

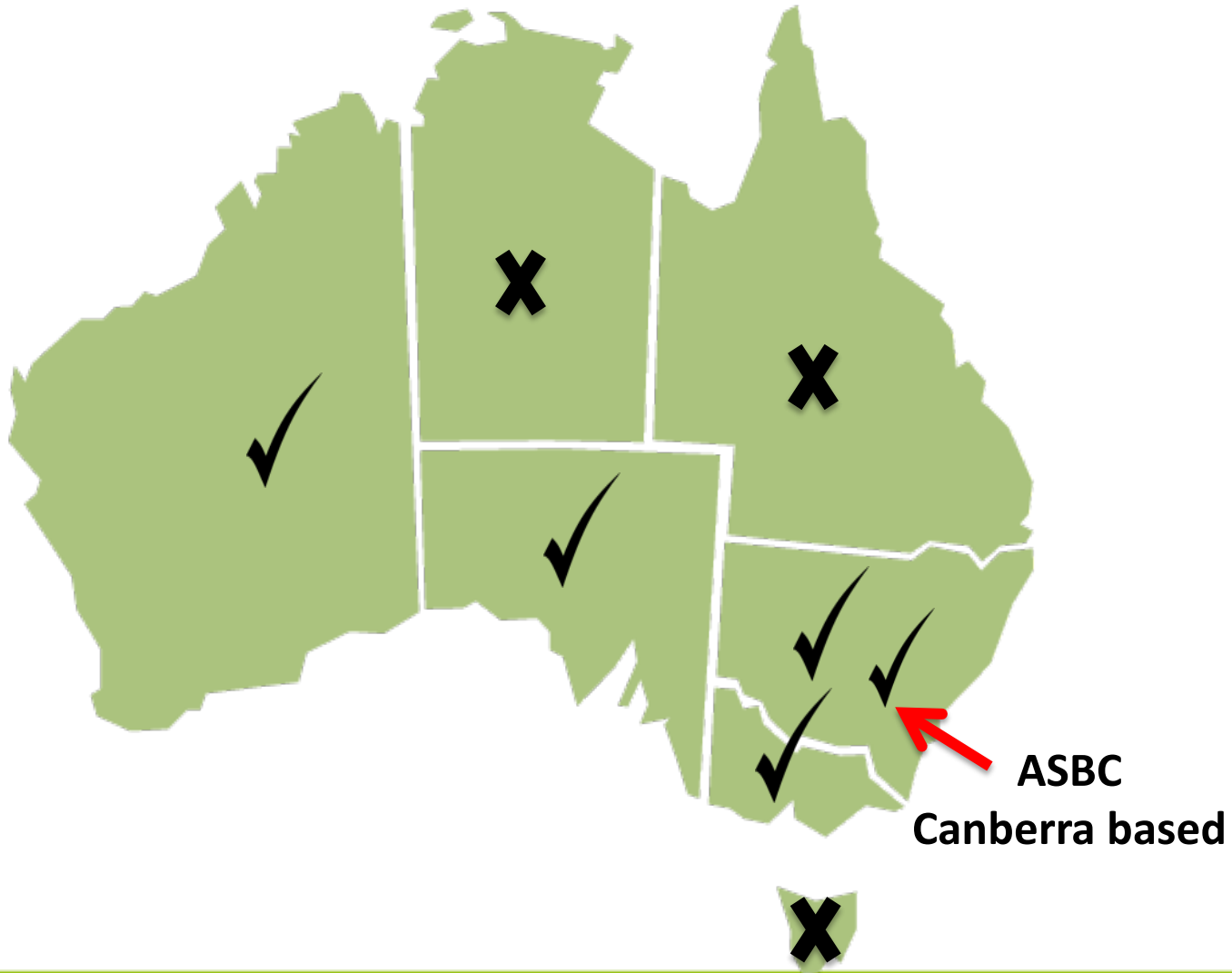


Mr Mark Brennan

Australian Small Business
Commissioner



Small Business Commissioners



Small Business Commissioners

- only in Australia
- started in Victoria in 2003
- distinct characteristics
 - access to information and education
 - advocacy to Government
 - investigation of complaints and behaviour
 - facilitating resolution of disputes
 - influencing small business conscious government



Transformation

The **Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman** will:

- be a Commonwealth-wide advocate for small businesses and family enterprises
- act as a concierge for dispute resolution to allow businesses to resolve disputes without resorting to costly litigation
- offer its own, outsourced alternative dispute resolution service



Advocacy and assistance

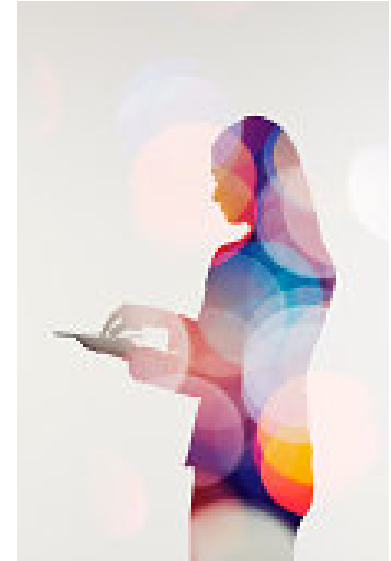
The legislation outlines the Ombudsman's role under the two functions of advocacy and assistance

Advocacy

- research and inquiries into legislation, policies and practices affecting family businesses
- information-gathering powers

Assistance

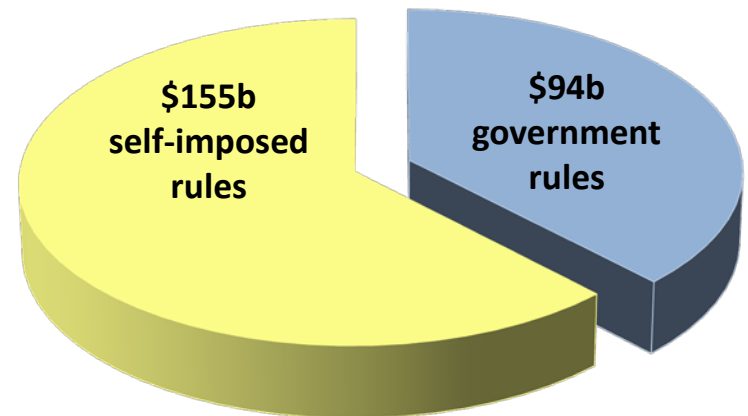
- response to requests for assistance from small businesses and family enterprises
- avoids duplication with existing services but works cooperatively
- dispute resolution service will address disputes including disputes with Commonwealth government departments and interstate/international nature disputes



Red-tape

- governments and business impose rules and requirements
- Australians work for 8 weeks/year just to pay for compliance costs
- 16% of resources go to complying with rules and regulations
- 1 in 11 employed Australians now works in the compliance sector

Business compliance costs in Australia: \$249b/year



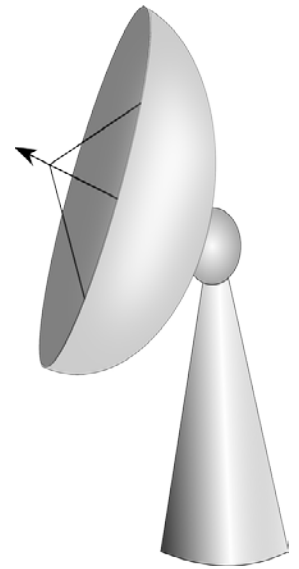
2014 report by Deloitte

Reducing red-tape

- \$2.45b in annual red-tape compliance cost savings
 - need real improvements... not just savings on paper
- business struggles to articulate meaningful examples
 - different levels of government
 - feed examples through SPASA
- Federal Regulatory Agency Group
 - improving regulatory coordination and collaboration on small business matters (ASBC, ASIC, ACCC, ATO, FWO)

Family business benefits

- improved government awareness and understanding of family business matters and concerns
- influencing policy development and keeping family business matters on the policy 'radar'
- improvement of government consultation on legislation
- section 64 of the bill has a role in the promotion of 'best practice'



BUDGET
2015



\$5.5b Jobs and Small Business package

For small businesses with a turnover less than \$2m per year:

- **company tax rates** reduced by 1.5%
- **5% tax discount** for businesses that aren't a company
- immediate **asset deductions** for assets less than \$20,000
- immediate **professional cost deductions** for starting a business
- **Fringe Benefits Tax** no longer payable on portable electronic devices provided to employees for work purposes.