GEOFF BROWNE

Overview of the ADR jurisdiction of the Small Business Commissioner

Geoff Browne, the Victorian Small Business Commissioner, will provide an overview of the ADR jurisdiction of his Office, its activity levels and outcomes, the impact of recent changes to legislation, and the policy commitments of the new Victorian Government. He will also discuss the approach used for mediator appointment and comment on mediation styles as well as the Mediation Agreement used for all mediations conducted through his Office, and issues that have emerged. Some case studies of mediation outcomes and issues arising will also be presented. Comparisons will be made on mediation approaches in other jurisdictions, including Small Business Commissioners in other states, and the different approach to Farm Debt Mediation in Victoria and NSW.

Geoff Browne was appointed to the role of Victorian Small Business Commissioner in October 2011. Prior to this, he was Deputy Director at Consumer Affairs Victoria for six years. He has also held senior management positions in the private sector in finance, e-commerce, and telecommunications, and has run his own small business.