

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**  
**Inquiry into the Victorian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Judy O'Connell, Victorian Small Business Commissioner**  
**Additional information and questions**

**1. Differences between regional and metropolitan business**

As at 15 May 2020, the Victorian Small Business Commission had received 235 COVID-19 related retail leasing dispute applications. Of these, 203 (86.4 per cent) related to metropolitan premises while 32 (13.6 per cent) were from regional Victoria. These figures are broadly in line with those for 2018-19, where 11.8 per cent of the VSBC's retail leasing dispute applications were from regional Victoria.

**2. Types of businesses**

While there is limited data available, at this stage the leading type of industries lodging disputes under the Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme are:

- retail (56 per cent)
- accommodation and food services (11 per cent)
- health care and social assistance (11 per cent)
- other services (11 per cent)
- construction (6 per cent)
- information, media and telecommunications (6 per cent).