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Franchises under the spotlight

SMALL businesses are being asked to comment on a background paper which examines if there is a fair and competitive environment for franchised businesses in WA.

The background paper for the state government's inquiry into the operation of franchise businesses in WA was released in December and Small Business Minister Margaret Quirk said the inquiry provided an "important opportunity to examine fairness".

Although there is no evidence of systemic problems, this inquiry is an opportunity for the State Gov-

ernment to identify areas of concern within the franchising industry and to ascertain whether there is a fair and competitive environment for franchised businesses in WA," Ms Quirk said.

The background paper is available from the Small Business Development Corporation website at www.sbdc.wa.gov.au.

Submissions should be made in writing and either mailed, faxed or e-mailed. Telephone the SBDC on 9220 0241 for contact details.

The closing date for submissions is February 15.