

Media Release

Mr Tim Pallas MP

Treasurer

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for Industrial Relations



Wednesday, 9 June 2021

EXTRA CASH SUPPORT FOR MELBOURNE BUSINESSES

The Victorian Government will provide additional support for businesses in greater Melbourne who continue to be affected by necessary health restrictions.

After two weeks of Victorians doing the right thing, we are now in a place where we can continue to ease restrictions and reopen more businesses safely – but those businesses that will still be affected by restrictions will share a new injection of \$8.4 million. This takes total support for businesses announced in the past 11 days beyond \$500 million.

The Government has previously announced \$492.2 million of support for small and medium-sized businesses and sole traders, including the *Business Costs Assistance Program*, *Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund* and *Regional Tourism Support Package*.

The initial funding supported businesses including restaurants and cafes, event suppliers, tourism and accommodation providers and non-essential retailers.

The *Business Costs Assistance Program* provides eligible businesses affected by the two weeks of restrictions with access to payments of \$5,000.

A further \$2,000 top-up payment will be available to businesses in metropolitan Melbourne that are closed due to extended restrictions announced today, including gyms, dance schools and yoga studios, taking the total amount available to businesses in eligible sectors to \$7,000.

Up to 90,000 businesses will benefit from the support packages announced over the past two weeks.

Close to 70,000 businesses affected by restrictions beyond Thursday, 3 June 2021 were eligible for an extension payment from \$2,500 to \$5,000, and around 3,700 businesses will be eligible for the new \$2,000 top-up payment.

Tourism businesses in regional and metropolitan Melbourne that receive the Tourism Supplement payment announced on Sunday will not receive this top-up payment. Their payments have already reached \$7,000.

Applications for the *Business Costs Assistance Program* are open and businesses will only need to submit one application to receive their maximum payment. Initial payments started this week.

More information about the *Business Costs Assistance Program* is available at business.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tim Pallas

“Victorians have banded together and now we can relax many restrictions in a safe way, backed by the best public health advice.”

“This top-up payment will support businesses who will still be affected in the coming week, so they can be in the best position to recover once their doors reopen.”

Quote attributable to Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Martin Pakula

“Businesses are doing the right thing across Victoria, championing COVIDSafe practices and using QR codes in the interests of their workers and the wider community. We commend them for their efforts.”

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Quote attributable to Minister for Small Business Jaala Pulford

"We thank each and every business owner in Victoria who has helped to slow the spread of COVID-19 – we know it's been tough and thank them for their effort and sacrifice."