

COVID-19 Assistance Programs

At a glance

18 August 2022



| Grant Provider | Grant Name | Amount Available | Key Eligibility Criteria | Additional Information |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Australian Federal Government | JobMaker Hiring Credit | Up to \$200 per week | <p>Provides employers with incentive payments for hiring job seekers aged 16 to 35.</p> <p>Eligible employers must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • register for the JobMaker Hiring Credit scheme • operate a business in Australia • hold an Australian business number (ABN) • be registered for pay as you go (PAYG) withholding • have not claimed JobKeeper payments for a fortnight that started during the JobMaker period • be up-to-date with income tax and GST returns for the 2 years up to the end of the JobMaker period you're claiming for • satisfy payroll increase and the headcount increase conditions • satisfy reporting requirements • not belong to an ineligible employer category. <p>Employees are eligible if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are an employee during the JobMaker period • are 16 to 35 years old when they started employment • started employment on or after 7 October 2020 and before 7 October 2021 • worked or have been paid for an average of at least 20 hours per week they were employed • have completed a JobMaker Hiring Credit employee notice for the employer • have not already provided a JobMaker Hiring Credit employee notice to another current employer • received one of the following payments prior to starting employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JobSeeker Payment - Parenting Payment - Youth Allowance (unless they were getting it for full-time study or are a new apprentice). | <p>Program ends 6 October 2022.</p> <p>More information is available here</p> |

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| Australian Federal Government | Insolvency reforms to support small business | | <p>The package of reforms features three key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new formal debt restructuring process for small businesses to provide a faster and less complex mechanism for financially distressed but viable firms to restructure their existing debts, maximising the chance of them surviving and contributing to economic and jobs growth. • A new, simplified liquidation pathway for small businesses to allow faster and lower-cost liquidation, increasing returns for creditors and employees. • Complementary measures to ensure the insolvency sector can respond effectively both in the short and long term to increased demand and to the needs of small business. | <p>These measures commenced on 1 January 2021.</p> <p>More information is available here.</p> |
| Australian Federal Government | \$500m Loans for exporters | \$250k – \$50m | The new COVID-19 Export Capital Facility will target loans to established and previously profitable exporters who, due to COVID-19, are unable to gain finance from commercial sources. | To register your interest, apply here . |
| Australian Federal Government | Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment | | Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment (PLDP) is a lump sum payment of \$1,500 to provide financial support to individuals who cannot work and earn an income because they are directed to self-isolate or quarantine as a result of COVID-19. PLDP is taxable income. You may claim PLDP for each 14-day period of self-isolation or quarantine that you are directed to serve. | <p>Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment has been extended. Claims open 8 am Wednesday 20 July 2022.</p> <p>Further information can be found in the following link: Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment - Services Australia</p> |
| Australian Federal Government | Australian Bank Support | | <p>The COVID-19 related relief package is available to all small businesses and home loan customers impacted by current lockdowns or recovering from recent lockdowns. It will allow the ABA and participating banks to defer loan repayments and waive certain banking fees for small businesses.</p> <p>Small businesses are encouraged to contact their bank to discuss the COVID-19 related relief package.</p> | <p>Further information can be found via the link below: COVID-19 Support - Australian Banking Association (ausbanking.org.au)</p> |
| Australian Federal Government | Temporary full expensing | | Temporary full expensing supports businesses and encourages investment, as eligible businesses can claim an immediate deduction for the business portion of the cost of an asset in the year it is first used or installed ready for use for a taxable purpose. | <p>Further information including full Ruling and eligibility requirements can be found here: Temporary full expensing Australian Taxation Office (ato.gov.au)</p> |
| Australian Federal Government | New Business Assistance with NEIS | | New Business Assistance with NEIS provides support to people interested in starting their own business or who need help to refocus an existing micro-business. | <p>Further information and instructions on how to apply can be found in the following link: New Business Assistance with NEIS business.gov.au</p> |
| NSW Government | Regional Events Acceleration Fund | Between \$15,000 to \$200,000 depending on the stream | The NSW Government's Regional Events Acceleration Fund aims to support the social and economic recovery of our regions after the devastating effects of floods, drought, bushfires and COVID-19. | <p>Further details here.</p> <p>Applications close on 4 October 2022</p> |
| NSW Government | Connect2work Program | \$2,400 | This program aims to offer financial support to employers who provide work placements to assist workers who are unable to recover at their pre-injury workplace or are looking to gain new work skills during the COVID-19 crisis. | <p>Further details here.</p> <p>Open on an ongoing basis</p> |

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| NSW Government | Regional Event Fund - Event Development Stream | \$50,000 | The Regional Event Fund (Event Development Stream) supports proven events in regional NSW that will develop tourism potential and deliver long term benefits to the region. | Further details here . Applications are now open and will remain open until available funds have been exhausted. |
| NSW Government | NSW Event Saver program | \$10m | This program aims to provide financial support to organisers of Major Events scheduled to be held between Wednesday 15 December 2021 and Saturday 31 December 2022 where an event is cancelled or significantly disrupted as a direct result of Public Health Orders (PHO). | Further details here . Expressions of Interest are now open and close 30 September 2022. |
| NSW Government | Music and Overnight Camp Provider Support Payment | \$30,000 | This program provides support for music education and overnight excursion providers impacted by COVID-safe settings that remained in place in NSW schools after 8 November 2021 | Further details here . Applications are open and close 8 September 2022. |
| NSW Government | Alfresco Restart Rebate | \$5,000 | The first 5,000 eligible small or medium food and beverage businesses that register can use the rebate to help create or expand their outdoor dining areas through claiming the rebate for eligible expenses incurred between 14 October 2021 to 30 September 2022. | Further details here . Applications are open in July 2022 and close 30 September 2022. |
| NSW Government | NSW Payroll tax Support | 50% Payroll tax reduction | The NSW Government has announced further assistance for payroll customers. Payroll tax customers eligible for a 2021 COVID-19 Business Grant or JobSaver payment whose total grouped Australian wages for the 2021/22 financial year are \$10 million or less, will have their annual tax liability reduced by 50% when they lodge their 2022 Annual Payroll Tax Reconciliation online. | Further details here . |
| NSW Government | Skilling for Recovery (JobTrainer) | Fee-free training places | Sole traders, small business owners or not-for-profit organisations in NSW, may be eligible for a small business fees and charges rebate of \$2,000. Funds can be used to offset the costs of eligible NSW and local government fees and charges due and paid from 1 March 2021. | Further details here . Program is open now and will close 31 December 2022. |
| NSW Government | R&D Fund | \$1m | The R&D Fund supports small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and scaleups to commercialise products that address the health, social or economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The objective of the R&D Fund is to stimulate the development and commercialisation of innovative products that benefit the people of NSW, with possible nationwide and global impact. | Further details here . Applications opening soon. |
| WA Government | Small Business Development Corporation Hotline | Free business advice | Hotline number and website for business owners with queries regarding the wide range of recently announced federal and state government measures to alleviate the impacts of COVID-19. | To access the service, contact 133 140 (8.30am-4.30pm weekdays) or visit http://www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au |
| WA Government | Payroll Tax Waiver Grants for hospitality businesses | Payroll tax waiver | Payroll tax will be waived from 1 April to 30 June 2022 if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you are a hospitality business employer; and • you are registered for payroll tax on or before 21 July 2022; and • your or your group's total Australian taxable wages for the 2021-22 financial year are more than \$4 million and less than \$20 million and • you have experienced at least a 40% loss of turnover during any consecutive 28 day period between 1 January 2022 to 30 April 2022 compared to the same period last year; and • you are not eligible to receive the grant under the Small Business Hardship Grants Program. | Further details here . |

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| WA Government | Building bonus program | \$20,000 | Grants of \$20,000 are available to any homebuyer who wishes to build a new house or purchase a new property in a single-tier development (such as a townhouse) prior to completion of construction. Homebuyers now have up to a year after signing their contract to commence building. | Further details here . Applications for the Building Bonus grant for new detached homes now close on 30 April 2024. |
| WA Government | Power Outage Payments | \$120 one-off payment + \$40 top up payments for any previously approved and paid claim. | Home or business is connected to the Western Power grid and experienced an extended outage of 12 consecutive hours or more between December 23 and December 27 2022. | Further information can be found at: https://www.westernpower.com.au/faults-outages/make-a-claim/extended-outage |
| Queensland Government | Great Barrier Reef Marine Park fee waivers | Waiver of Permit Application Assessment Fees and the Environmental Management Charge until 30 June 2023. | Businesses that use and access the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park may be eligible for a waiver of Permit Application Assessment Fees and the Environmental Management Charge until 30 June 2023. | Further information available at: https://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/access-and-use/permits |
| Queensland Government | Industry Partnership Program | \$350m total funding pool Minimum project spend \$200,000 (1:1 matched funding) | The program will deliver the long-term actions and support essential for Queensland's priority industry sectors to continue to strengthen, grow and create jobs in the post COVID-19 environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be a legal entity and hold an active Australian Business Number or Australian Registered Body Number have obtained internal approval to make the application, including approval to co-fund all project costs not covered by financial assistance provided through the program have the financial ability to deliver the project have a history of regulatory compliance, including development and environmental approvals, Corporations Act 2001, competition and consumer legislation and industrial relations legislation. | Additional information available at: https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/queensland-jobs-fund/industry-partnership-program |
| Queensland Government | Backing Queensland Business Investment Fund | \$100m total funding pool | BIF targets businesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a proven product/offering and an established market presence. That are approaching profitability over the investment period. Seeking investment of between \$2.5 to \$10 million. With a current or planned Queensland-based presence (i.e., Queensland-based FTE). With significant growth potential and job creation opportunities. | Additional information available at: https://www.qic.com.au/bqibif/investment%20Criteria |
| Queensland Government | JobTrainer Fund | \$200m total funding pool | Permanently reside in Queensland. Be an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident (includes humanitarian entrant), temporary resident with the necessary visa and work permits on the pathway to permanent residency, or a New Zealand citizen. Have finished school or no longer be at school (including home schooled). Not already be enrolled in training (includes VET and higher education courses). Not have previously completed a qualification funded under the JobTrainer Fund. Either be a job seeker or a school leaver or young person. From 1 October 2021, enrol in an aged care, childcare, disability care or digital skills qualification, and can do so regardless of age or employment status. | Available until 31 December 2022. More information available at: https://desbt.qld.gov.au/training/training-careers/incentives/jobtrainer |

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| Queensland Government | Queensland Tourism Business Professional Advice Rebate | 50% assistance on up to \$5,000 of professional advice (\$1M total funding pool) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1: All tourism businesses. • Stage 2: Micro to medium sized tourism businesses in Queensland with up to 199 employees who have completed the Tourism Business Health Check and have been advised via their assessment report to contact the Queensland Tourism Business Financial Counsellors or the COVID-19 Small Business Financial Counsellors for additional advice and individual support. • Stage 3: Businesses in a tourism industry in Queensland who have received a free Tourism Business Health Check report and an approved eligibility referral form from a free Tourism Business Financial Counsellor or a COVID-19 Small Business Financial Counsellor to receive eligible professional advice. | <p>More information available at Queensland Tourism Business Financial Counselling Service Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (dtis.qld.gov.au)</p> <p>This program will run until June 2023.</p> |
| Queensland Government | Tradies in Paradise | Up to \$1,750 (total funding pool \$1.75M) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident. • Be at least 18 years of age. • Have relocated from interstate (except New South Wales) • Be a qualified tradesperson or building industry professional in an eligible occupation and have been issued with the relevant Queensland licence, registration and/or accreditation. • Have undertaken eight weeks of continuous work (with a minimum of 20 hours per week) on flood reconstruction in an eligible location and with an eligible employer or business in Queensland. | <p>More information available at https://www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/resources/campaign/tradies-paradise</p> |
| Isaac Region | Isaac Region Community Chest Fund | Maximum \$10,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a small-medium business owner located and operating in the Isaac Region. • Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN during the COVID-19 pandemic and recession. • Own a small-medium business located and operated in the Isaac Region that has suffered a downturn in turnover as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession. • Have been engaged in carrying on the small-medium business when affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and recession in the Isaac Region. • Be primarily responsible for meeting the costs claimed in the application. • Intend to re-establish the small-medium business in the Isaac Region | <p>More information available at Isaac Region Community Chest Fund - Applications Speak Up Isaac</p> |
| GIVIT | Queensland Small Business Hardship Appeal | Support in the form of items/vouchers requested by appeal | <p>The Queensland Small Business Commissioner (QSBC) is working with GIVIT on this appeal. The Queensland Small Business Hardship Appeal directs help to small businesses when they experience hardship as a result of an event outside of their control. The appeal is designed to help small businesses to recover from hardship and get back to business with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations of business equipment, or funded vouchers to replace essential equipment. • Donations of voluntary time to assist small businesses to clean up a business' premises or do other essential work once flooding has subsided and it's safe to do so. | <p>More information available at Small Business Hardship Appeal Help Small Business Owners In Hardship Donate Items To Help People Impacted By Floods, COVID-19 (givit.org.au)</p> |

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| The Local Buying Foundation | Local Buying Foundation – B.I.G. Futures Fund | Financial assistance with no specific limits | Eligible applicants include business communities located in regions/shires of interest in QLD, WA & SA. | <p>The 2022 funding round dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● QLD: 16 September ● WA: 14 October ● SA: 4 November <p>Further information can be found here.</p> |
| South Australian Government | Jobs and Economic Growth Fund | An extra \$220 million over the next 4 years to expand the Economic and Business Growth Fund with \$60 million provided in each of 2020-21 and 2021-22, and \$50 million in 2022-23 and 2023-24. | For initiatives and projects that have broad economic benefits, supporting industry or sector productivity and competitiveness. No minimum or maximum grant amount. | Further information can be found at https://www.rdaep.org.au/jobs-and-economic-growth-fund/ |
| South Australian Government | Economic Recovery Fund | \$100m across several rounds of grants over the next 4 years. | <p>South Australian-based businesses looking to expand and secure more investment will be able to access a range of support packages.</p> <p>Aims to assist businesses to create jobs, employ more South Australians</p> | Further information to be announced. Currently available information available here . |
| Tasmanian Government | Business growth loan scheme | \$60m | <p>The Tasmanian Government is offering low interest loans between \$20,000 and \$3 million to help businesses adapt, recover and grow.</p> <p>This new program is targeted towards employment retention, business growth and new projects that contribute towards employment and growth of Tasmanian economy</p> | <p>Applications opened 14 September 2020 and will close 14 September 2022, or until all funding has been utilised.</p> <p>Full programs guidelines and instructions on how to apply are available: www.business.tas.gov.au/covid-19-business-support-packages/business-growth-loan-scheme2</p> |
| Tasmanian Government | Tourism Development Loan Scheme | Loan amounts between \$50,000-\$2m | The Tasmanian Government is offering loans with no interest for the first three years for projects focussing on the development of tourism products and experiences that support Tasmania as a leading destination. | <p>Applications will open for applications on 23 August 2021 and close on 23 August 2022, or until all funding has been utilised.</p> <p>More information here.</p> |
| Tasmanian Government | Small Business Advice and Financial Guidance Program | Between \$750-\$1,500 (2.2million) | The Tasmanian Government is offering eligible small businesses with access to specialist financial services and/or business recovery, transition, growth, or application of other strategies to address the impacts of the pandemic. | <p>The program closes 2 pm Tuesday 30 May 2023, or when the annual funding has been fully allocated.</p> <p>More information here.</p> |
| Tasmanian Government | Business vehicle registration relief package | \$9.75m | Small businesses looking to suspend activity due to the COVID-19 business downturn and trading restrictions can apply to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to freeze their business vehicle registrations for both light and heavy vehicles. | <p>Application to freeze a vehicle registration are no longer being accepted, but applications to unfreeze remain available.</p> <p>Further information can be found at: https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/registration/business-vehicle-registration-relief-package</p> |

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| Tasmanian Government | Event Ready Grant | \$5,000 | Events Tasmania is offering grants of up to \$5 000 in funding to support events. Event Ready grants are not intended to provide general support for an event or organisation. Available for events scheduled to occur from 1 January 2021 to 30 November 2022 inclusive. | Further information can be found at: https://www.eventstasmania.com/grants_and_funding/event_ready/event_ready_2021-2022#double-tabid_281569 |
| Tasmanian Government | Land Tax | | Anyone experiencing financial hardship paying land tax can apply for a payment arrangement. | More information here . |
| Tasmanian Government | Rapid Response Skills Matching Service | | Skills matching service established by Searson Buck to help move workers into new jobs as quickly as possible. Businesses that have immediate job needs and opportunities available and job-seekers that would like to be considered for employment opportunities can register interest on the portal. | More details here . |
| Tasmanian Government | Free business advice | | Free business advice offered by Enterprise Centres Tasmania to help small business owners reach their potential. | More details here . |
| Tasmanian Government | Free digital coaching | | Free 4-hour coaching session with expert digital coaches. | More details here . |
| Tasmanian Government | Rapid Antigen Test Supply Register | | Website developed to help you or your business identify suppliers selling COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Self-Test kits (RAT). | More details here . |
| Tasmanian Government | PPE Supply Register | | Website developed to help you or your business identify suppliers selling personal protective equipment. | More details here . |
| Victorian Government | Wellbeing and Mental Health Support for Small Businesses | Free mental health support | Mental health support for Victorian small business owners dealing with challenges of COVID-19 including: Partners in Wellbeing telephone hotline 1300 375 330 (9am to 10pm weekdays) | The telephone helpline has also been expanded to provide business owners under stress with free access to financial counsellors and business advisors. More details here . |
| Victorian Government | Victorian Business Growth Fund (VBGF) | \$250 million | This program will run for 10 years and is designed to support long-term growth opportunities for businesses and boost employment and economic development across the State. It will help to address barriers faced by successful small and medium enterprises (SMEs) who meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have annual revenue of between \$5 million and \$100 million; • have no more than \$250 million in assets; and • have positive cash flow, or cash flow is expected to be positive during the investment. | Roc Partners has been engaged to manage the VBGF. Express your interest through Roc Partners' website . |
| Victorian Government | Business Adaptation Program – Food Businesses | Range of programs | A range of programs available including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal Harvest Sign-on Bonus - \$2,430 • Test Isolation Payment - \$450 | More information here . |
| Victorian Government | Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment | | The \$1500 Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment is a one-off payment to help Victorian workers who have been directed to self-isolate or quarantine for 14 days, or care for someone who has been directed to self-isolate or quarantine. | Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment has been extended. Claims open 8 am Wednesday 20 July 2022. More information here soon. |

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| Victorian Government | Emergency Food Relief | | The Victorian Government has announced further funding to provide emergency food relief. This \$4.5 million package of initiatives will deliver more food to Victorians in need, facilitate partnerships between food relief providers and local businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and boost the capacity of key community food relief organisations. | Further information and Frequently Asked Questions can be found here: Financial and other support for COVID-19 Coronavirus Victoria |
| Victorian Government | No Interest Loans Scheme | | Small amount, no-interest loans are available to all eligible Victorians through Good Money community finance outlets in Morwell, Geelong, Collingwood and Dandenong and a network of 77 local community organisations across Victoria. The No Interest Loans (NILs) provides individuals and families on low incomes with access to safe, fair and affordable credit. Loans are available for essential goods and services such as fridges, washing machines, car repairs and medical procedures for up to \$1,500, repayable over 12 to 18 months. | Further information and eligibility requirements can be found here: Financial and other support for COVID-19 Coronavirus Victoria No Interest Loans (NILs) – Good Shepherd |
| Victorian Government | Seasonal Worker Program and Pacific Labour Scheme | | Approved Employers that are Victorian agribusinesses or supporting Victorian agribusinesses under the Australian Government’s Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) and Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) can apply to the Australian Government for workers under the schemes. The Victorian Government is covering the majority of costs associated with quarantine arrangements. Approved Employers are required to reimburse a contribution of \$2,000 per worker to the Victorian Government for the cost of quarantine. | Further information, eligibility requirements and how to apply: Finding workers for your business The Big Victorian Harvest Crops and horticulture Agriculture Victoria |
| Victorian Government | Concessions Program | | The Victorian Government offers concessions to make essential services more affordable for low-income households and to help out with bills in times of hardship. | Further information and eligibility requirements can be found here: About concessions - DHHS Services (dffh.vic.gov.au) |
| Victorian Government | Small Business Ventilation Program – Grants and Rebates | \$500 rebate Matched grants from \$1000-\$5000 | This funding assists public facing small businesses to undertake immediate action to improve ventilation and/or air purification. | Small Business Ventilation Program Business Victoria Latest round closes 8 September 2022. |



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