

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE – COVID-19

GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO BUSINESSES IN VICTORIA

29 November 2020

The Victorian government has announced a range of grants and other measures to support businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Below is a summary of the state government support that is available, as well as links to further information.

GRANTS ABOUT TO CLOSE

- an **Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package** includes grants of up to \$5000 for hospitality businesses with an annual payroll of less than \$3 million to help them adapt to outdoor dining. The premises must be in Victoria but not the City of Melbourne. **Applications close 11 December 2020.**
- a **Sole Trader Support Fund** offers grants of \$3000 to non-employing sole traders. Eligibility conditions include that the sole trader must operate from a premises that is not their residence, and be a tenant of that business premises or the owner/occupier. They must also be receiving JobKeeper and operate in an industry that has been closed or heavily restricted. **Applications close 30 December 2020.**

NEW GRANTS

- a **Small Business Digital Adaptation rebate** of \$1200 is available to help micro and small businesses as well as sole traders build digital capabilities. After registration, eligible businesses will be able to trial selected digital products then choose one of those products to purchase. Once they purchase that product, they can apply for a rebate of \$1200. **Registrations for the program close 28 February 2021.**
- a **First Peoples' COVID-19 Business Support Fund** will provide grants of up to \$10,000 to certified Victorian Aboriginal business through the Kinaway Chamber of Commerce. Such businesses must have a minimum annual turnover of \$30,000 and have been impacted by COVID-19. **Applications close 29 January 2021.**

- a **COVIDSafe Deep Cleaning Rebate** is available to SMEs where anyone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 has been on the premises when they may have been infectious. The rebate covers 80 per cent of the cleaning costs at each worksite, capped to a rebate of \$10,000. **Applications are now open.**

SUPPORT FOR COMMERCIAL LANDLORDS AND TENANTS IN VICTORIA

- The **Commercial Rent Relief Scheme** provides rent relief in the form of a rent payment waiver or deferral proportionate to the tenant's reduction in income because of COVID-19. This is to be negotiated between the tenant and landlord in good faith. **The Scheme runs until 31 December 2020.**
- Landlords of residential and commercial properties who provide a 50 per cent or more outright rent waiver of at least three months' rent to eligible tenants can claim a **50 per cent waiver of the property's 2020 land tax**.
- Owner-occupiers of commercial properties can obtain a **25 per cent waiver of the property's 2020 land tax** if their business meets several conditions, including participating in the JobKeeper Scheme.
- A land tax deferral is available to landowners that allows them to defer payment of their 2020 land tax liability to 31 March 2021.

OTHER SUPPORT ANNOUNCED BY THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

- a payroll tax deferral is available to businesses with a payroll of less than \$10 million for the entire 2020-21 financial year.
- businesses with annual Australian group wages of less than A\$10 million will receive a non-refundable payroll tax credit of 10 cents for every dollar of Victorian wages paid in 2020-21 and 2021-22 above the previous year's wages.
- the threshold to qualify for making annual payroll tax payments will increase from \$40,000 to \$100,000 from 1 July 2021.
- the stamp duty on newly built or 'off-the-plan' homes valued at up to \$1 million will be cut by 50 per cent on contracts entered into from 25 November 2020 to 30 June 2021. The stamp duty on the sale of existing homes under \$1 million will be cut by 25 per cent over the same period.
- the proposed 50 per cent stamp duty concession on purchases of commercial and industrial property in regional Victoria will commence on 1 January 2021.
- the Government will defer the planned increase in the landfill levy for six months.
- the Government will waive 25 per cent of the Congestion Levy for car park owners this year, with the balance deferred.
- the Government will waive the Vacant Residential Land Tax for 2020.
- renewable liquor license fees for 2020 and 2021 will be waived, with businesses that have already paid being reimbursed.

- sub-tenant commercial operators in Mt Hotham, Mt Buller, Mt Stirling, Mt Baw Baw, Falls Creek and Lake Mountain will be entitled to grants of up to \$25,000. Some commercial operators in Dinner Plain are also eligible. **Details not yet available.**

CPA Australia has developed a **[summary of the grants and other assistance state and territory governments are providing to businesses impacted by COVID-19.](#)**