

16 July 2021

## Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Circuit Breaker Action - Business Support Package

On Friday, 16 July Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Martin Pakula announced financial support for businesses impacted by Victoria's July 'Circuit Breaker' lockdown.

The **\$201.8 million** July *Circuit Breaker Business Support Package* is designed to assist more than 90,000 Victorian businesses.

The package contains previous targeted initiatives:

- The ***Business Costs Assistance Program***, which offers grants of \$2,000 for eligible businesses in the hospitality, food wholesaling, tourism, events and selected retail industries.
- The ***Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund*** will provide businesses holding an eligible liquor licence and food certificate with a \$3,000 grant per premises.

### Business Costs Assistance Program

The new [Business Costs Assistance Program](#) will support businesses with costs incurred as a result of the circuit breaker action.

Eligible businesses with an annual payroll of up to \$3 million can receive a one-off grant of \$2000 whether they have employees or not.

### Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund – Circuit Breaker Action Payment

Eligible businesses who received a grant through the [Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund](#) will receive a further one-off payment of \$3000 to help with costs incurred as a result of the circuit breaker action.

Businesses that receive this payment will not be eligible to receive a grant from the Business Costs Assistance Program.

### Registration

Businesses that have previously received the *Business Cost Assistance Program* and the *Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund* will not have to reapply and will automatically receive a payment.

Businesses can register their interest in the Business Costs Assistance Program at [business.vic.gov.au](https://business.vic.gov.au) so they can be notified when applications open this week. Operators eligible for the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund payment will be contacted directly by email in coming days.

The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions is working with 22,000 applicants to the Business Costs Assistance Program to finalise those applications where information has been missing or further detail has been requested to confirm eligibility.

The new package builds on more than \$6 billion in direct economic support from the Victorian Government to help businesses get through the pandemic, including four previous rounds of the Business Support Fund.



## Commonwealth Income Support

Workers affected by the public health restrictions will be eligible for income support during the July 2021 'Circuit Breaker' Lockdown.

- Workers who have **lost more than 20 hours** per week can receive **\$600 per week**.
- Workers who have **lost between 8 and 20 hours** of work per week can receive **\$375 per week**.

There is no liquid assets test applied to receive these payments.

The Federal Government will fund payments for those Victorians who work or live in a COVID-19 Hotspot declared by the Commonwealth – that includes Greater Melbourne, Moorabool Shire, the City of Greater Geelong, Borough of Queenscliffe and the Surf Coast Shire.

The Victorian Government will fund payments for Victorians who live outside of these areas but are still subject to the lockdown.

All applications can be made through the Services Australia [here](#).

These payments will reoccur weekly for the duration of the lockdown. Recipients will no longer be required to apply for payments each week.

## Further Information

For more information, contact Hawker Britton Victorian Directors, JP Blandthorn at [jblandthorn@hawkerbritton.com](mailto:jblandthorn@hawkerbritton.com) and Emma Webster at [ewebster@hawkerbritton.com](mailto:ewebster@hawkerbritton.com), or Policy and Business Analysts, Raphael Mengem at [rmengem@hawkerbritton.com](mailto:rmengem@hawkerbritton.com) and Millie Boag at [mboag@hawkerbritton.com](mailto:mboag@hawkerbritton.com).

Further Hawker Britton Occasional Papers on the activities of the Victorian Government are available [here](#).

For further coverage of Labor Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Hawker Britton Briefs [here](#).

For further coverage of Liberal Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Barton Deakin Briefs [here](#).