

The Hon Jaala Pulford MP
Minister for Employment
Minister for Innovation, Medical Research
and the Digital Economy
Minister for Small Business

SMALL BUSINESS PORTFOLIO

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

29 June 2021



Our small businesses are the lifeblood of the Victoria economy and the communities they serve.



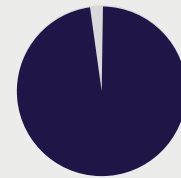
644,000

Small businesses in Victoria (June 2020)



Half

Proportion of private sector jobs that are generated by small business



98 in 100

Victorian businesses are small businesses

Our achievements

The Victorian Government's Circuit Breaker Business Support Package support small and medium businesses (including sole traders) impacted by restrictions

The May-June **Circuit Breaker Business Support Package** includes three components:

- The Business Costs Assistance Program Round Two (\$379.4 million)
- A new round of the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund (\$70 million)
- Victorian Events Support Package (\$20 million)

Additional support was also provided for tourism businesses through the Regional Tourism Support Package (\$32.2 million).

The February **Circuit Breaker Action Business Support Package** included:

- The Business Costs Assistance Program (\$92 million)
- The Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund – Circuit Breaker Action Payment (\$24.9 million)

Our achievements

Delivering COVID support to small businesses

The Government invested in the biggest package of business support in Victorian history with approximately \$6 billion in financial support, including:

- **Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme (CTRS)** – extension
- **Victorian Small Business Commission mediation service**
- **Sole Trader Support Fund**
- **Small Business Digital Adaptation Program**
- **Business Chambers and Trader Groups Program**

Our small business support programs are extensive, including the three tranches of the Business Support Fund, grants for commercial landlords, the hospitality sector and outdoor dining and entertainment, payroll tax relief and the Circuit Breaker Action Business Support Package.

Our achievements

Supporting small businesses to adapt and thrive

- **Business Recovery and Resilience Mentoring** – matching small business owners and sole traders with experienced professionals
- **Partners in Wellbeing** – a telephone helpline featuring free wellbeing coaching, financial counselling and business advisory services
- **Upskill my Business** – a website connecting Victorian business operators with short courses, online training and resources from the state's top education providers
- **Small Business Support Toolkits** – \$6 million program providing resources and coaching to assist businesses to digitise, adapt and meet customer needs
- **Small Business Bus** and the **Business Victoria website** – ongoing business support services and engagement

Our achievements

Supporting regional businesses

The Victorian Government has supported small businesses across the state, including in rural and regional Victoria with more than 54,000 businesses receiving grants and direct support worth over \$434 million, including:

- \$68.53 million to Geelong businesses
- \$33.86 million to Ballarat businesses
- \$26.91 million to Bendigo businesses
- \$22.09 million to Shepparton businesses

In addition, new partnerships are in place between the Victorian Small Business Commission and local councils, with 57 councils now signatories to its Small Business Friendly Council Charter.

This Budget – Key Initiatives

Small business services and support

The 2021-22 Budget provides **\$4.4 million** over two years to continue supporting small and medium-sized Victorian businesses through:

- Business Recovery and Resilience Mentoring
- Small Business Support Toolkits
- Ready for Growth
- A new case management system for the Victorian Small Business Commission

These investments sit alongside hundreds of millions of dollars for industry recovery and support that will also flow into small businesses across the State.