

GUIDELINES

Business Costs Assistance Program Round Two - Targeted Stream: TAB Agents

COVID-19 assistance to businesses

Program Summary

The Victorian Government's \$391.2 million Business Costs Assistance Program Round Two (BCAP2) assists eligible small to medium businesses most affected by the May to June 2021 circuit-breaker industry restrictions (**COVID Restrictions**).

BCAP2's invite-only Targeted Stream supports businesses in select sub-sectors (within larger ANZSIC classes) which were directly affected by the circuit-breaker industry restrictions and unable to operate. The Targeted Stream provides grants of either \$2500 or \$5000 for eligible businesses in select sub-sectors.

1 Standard Eligibility Criteria

1.1 To be eligible for the Targeted Stream, a business must:

- a) Be located within Victoria¹; and
- b) Be invited to apply by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (the Department); and
- c) Be a TAB (Totalisator Agency Board) agent with a physical storefront (within ANZSIC class 9209)²; and
- d) Have incurred direct costs³ as a result of the circuit breaker action and the business cannot predominantly operate remotely; and
- e) Have an annual Victorian payroll of up to \$10 million in 2019-20 on an ungrouped basis⁴; and
- f) Be registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST) on and from 27 May 2021⁵; and
- g) Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at 27 May 2021; and
- h) Be registered with the responsible Federal or State regulator⁶; and

¹ Business location is determined using the ABN registered 'primary operating address' or, if required, workplace addresses registered with WorkSafe Victoria.

² A stand-alone TAB retail storefront.

For example, but not limited to: booking cancellations, utilities, wages, paid leave for staff unable to attend work, rent or the loss of perishable good or any other direct costs affecting the operation of the business related to the May-June 2021 COVID-19 restrictions. These costs may have been incurred prior to, on or after 27 May 2021. The costs must be incurred by the applying business, as defined by its ABN.

⁴ Where a business is in a payroll group, the payroll eligibility criteria applies to each business in the payroll group. That is, any member of a group with an annual Victorian taxable payroll of up to \$10 million in 2019-20 can apply.

⁵ A business or enterprise must register for GST if it has a GST turnover of \$75,000 or more. Not-for-profit entities with annual turnover between \$75,000 and \$150,000 that are not registered for GST and are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission are eligible to apply. Businesses with annual 2019-2020 turnover of \$75,000 or more that are not required by relevant taxation legislation to be registered for GST are eligible to apply, subject to provision of a statutory declaration from a registered tax agent.

⁶ Where required by relevant and applicable legislation. Responsible regulators are the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC); the ACNC for charities and not-for-profits; and Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) for incorporated associations.

For employing businesses only⁷:

- i) Be registered with WorkSafe Victoria⁸; and
- j) Attest that the business is supporting its workers to access any paid leave entitlements, or that if a person can work from home, to work from home during the COVID-19 restrictions, and supporting their casual workers, where possible.

2 Other eligibility conditions

- 2.1 Businesses that have received assistance through the Business Support Fund, payroll tax rebate/waiver, or other COVID-19 programs may apply for assistance under the Targeted Stream.
- 2.2 Businesses that receive a grant under the Business Costs Assistance Program Round Two (BCAP2) or the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund (LHVF21) are not eligible for a grant under the Targeted Stream.

3 Demonstration of eligibility

- 3.1 Applicants must attest that they meet the eligibility criteria at the time of application and intend to remain trading at the end of the COVID-19 restrictions. Applicants will also need to meet the eligibility criteria at the time the application is assessed by the Department.
- 3.2 Identity Documents: Applicants must provide details of a current proof of identity document. This must be one of the following:
 - a driver licence or learner permit issued in any Australian jurisdiction; or
 - an Australian Passport; or
 - a Medicare Card; or
 - a foreign passport for those issued with an Australian Visa.

The identity document details must be for a person listed on the Australian Business Register as either the owner, co-owner, associate or authorised contact of the business⁹.

- 3.3 If the current proof of identity is unable to be confirmed, Applicants will receive a follow-up email with instructions to amend their proof of identity details. If the Applicant does not then rectify proof of identity details before the Targeted Stream close date, the application will not be considered by the Department for this Stream.
- 3.4 The Department's decisions on all matters pertaining to the award of funding under this Targeted Stream is at the Department's absolute discretion.

⁷ Employing businesses are defined as those businesses required to be registered for WorkCover insurance or equivalent. Sole traders, individuals in partnerships and individual trustees of trusts must employ persons other than themselves to be eligible in this category of 'employing businesses'.

⁸ Businesses operating within Victoria that hold an equivalent worker's compensation policy in another Australian jurisdiction in accordance with Victorian WorkCover legislation are eligible. Evidence of the valid interstate insurance policy and operation located within Victoria is required.

⁹ For employing businesses, in the event that the Proof of Identity documents cannot be verified against the Australian Business Register, the Department will rely on an accurate Workcover Employer Number (i.e. WorkSafe registration) for the Applicant.

- 3.5 The Department will require the Applicant to provide the supporting documentation outlined in section 3.6 to verify that the business operates in one of the eligible sub-sectors. Failure to provide the documentation will result in the application being assessed as ineligible.
- 3.6 **Industry Sector:** To be eligible, an Applicant’s primary business activity must be in an eligible industry sector and this must be reflected in the Applicant’s ABN registration information. Applicants should check that their details on the [Australian Business Register website](#) are correct prior to submitting an application. This includes ensuring that the industry classification (ANZSIC class code) linked to their ABN registration correctly capture their primary business activity.
- 3.7 To be eligible, Applicants must provide their wagering ID number issued by Tabcorp.

4 Available funding¹⁰

- 4.1 COVID-19 Restrictions affected businesses differently depending on the businesses location and industry type.
- 4.2 The total value of a grant under the Targeted Stream is up to \$5000 for businesses that meet the eligibility criteria:

Region	Grant Amount
Metropolitan Melbourne	\$5000
Regional	\$2500

- 4.3 The Department will determine the value of the grant based on an assessment of the Applicant’s business location.
- 4.4 A business as defined by its ABN can only receive one grant under the Program.

5 Funding use

- 5.1 Grant funds must be used to assist the business, for example on:
- Meeting business costs, including utilities, wages or rent;
 - Seeking financial, legal or other advice to support business continuity planning;
 - Developing the business through marketing and communications activities; or
 - Any other supporting activities related to the operation of the business.

6 Assessment Process

- 6.1 Funding will be allocated through a grant application process. Businesses must be directly invited by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to apply.

¹⁰ Applicants that are assessed as eligible for the BCAP2 grant will also receive the BCAP2 Top-up Payment of \$2,000 that was announced on 16 July 2021.

- 6.2 As part of the assessment process, any information provided by Applicants will be shared and subject to verification with other government agencies (state and federal) including the Victorian State Revenue Office, WorkSafe Victoria, the Australian Business Register, the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs, the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety, Tabcorp, and Industry Associations (as applicable).¹¹
- 6.3 Any of the following circumstances may be taken into consideration in any decision whether to award a grant:
- Any adverse findings by a Government agency or local council regarding a business or its operation;
 - A business is, or notice has been given that it will be, placed under external administration;
 - There is a petition for bankruptcy or to wind up or deregister a company or business; or
 - The business is or becomes deregistered or unregistered (including cancellation or lapse in registration or any relevant permit).
- 6.4 Businesses must ensure that their ABN registration information is current and accurate as at the time of application.
- 6.5 Each application will be carefully considered and assessed against the eligibility criteria. If an unsuccessful Applicant considers that their application has been incorrectly assessed, they will have the opportunity to lodge a complaint. More information on the complaints process and a complaint form can be found at <https://business.vic.gov.au/contact-us/complaints>.
- 6.6 Only final applications that are lodged with the Department will be considered and assessed, and applications in draft stage will not be considered.

7 Payment Processing

- 7.1 Grants to successful Applicants will be paid into the bank account nominated on the application form.

8 Compliance and Audit

- 8.1 Applications may be subject to audit by the Victorian Government, its representatives or the relevant Auditor-General and will be required to produce evidence (such as payroll reports to demonstrate impact) at the request of the Victorian Government for a period of four years after the grant has been approved.
- 8.2 If any information in the application is found to be incomplete, inaccurate, false or misleading, or grants are not applied for the purposes of the business in accordance with the terms of funding as set out in these Guidelines and any attached application, the grant will be repayable on demand.

¹¹ DJPR is not responsible for any delays caused by third party validation of an applicant's eligibility. By making an application, the business and person making the application consents to the assessment and verification process.

9 Other information about this Program

- 9.1 DJPR reserves the right to amend these guidelines and application terms at any time as it deems appropriate.
- 9.2 DJPR will endeavour to notify all Applicants of the outcome of their submitted application within 10 business days of the program closing. There may be delays if your application:
- does not meet all the eligibility criteria,
 - does not have correct evidence or documentation,
 - requires you to make changes,
 - is a duplicate application for the same business,
 - has incorrect information, such as ABN or bank details (for successful Applicants),
 - does not include current or accurate information registered with relevant regulators or partner agencies, such as the State Revenue Office, Australian Business Register or WorkSafe Victoria.

10 Closing date and how to apply

- 10.1 Businesses must be directly invited to apply for a grant under the Targeted Stream by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.
- 10.2 The Targeted Stream – TAB Agents will be open for applications until **4.59pm on 10 August 2021**.
- 10.3 Applicants are required to submit an application online via the Business Victoria website (business.vic.gov.au). All questions in the application need to be completed and requested information is to be provided to ensure timely assessment and grant payment.
- 10.4 If you have any queries about your application or require further information on the program visit business.vic.gov.au or contact the Business Victoria Hotline at 13 22 15.