

Circular 341:05:20

To: Club Presidents
Club Treasurers

Cc: Club Secretaries
Club Administrators
Grant Officers

From: Simon White – General Manager, Lifesaving Services

Date: 20 May 2020

Subject: **Extension of Victorian Government's Business Support Fund**

Action: Apply for Business Support Fund by 1 June 2020

For additional details on this Circular please contact:
Volunteer Support on 03 9676 6930 or email lifesavingoperations@lsv.com.au
Circulars are available at www.lsv.com.au/circulars

Following [Circulars 314:04:20](#), Life Saving Victoria (LSV) would like to advise that Victorian Government's Business Support Fund deadline has been extended until 1 June 2020.

This grant program is aimed at helping those businesses impacted by COVID-19, by helping supply them with financial support to assist in paying items like rent and electrical bills.

LSV encourages Clubs to review the criteria, to strongly consider applying to the program if they are met. Further information on this and additional support mechanisms can be found below:

Victorian Governments - Business Support Fund

Link: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Business Support](#)

In March 2020, the Victorian Government launched the \$500 million Business Support Fund to support small businesses in the sectors hit hardest by coronavirus (COVID-19) so they can survive and keep people in work. Eligible businesses can apply for a one-off \$10,000 grant which can be used towards costs such as utilities, rent and salaries, and activities to support business continuity planning.

The Business Support Fund is for small businesses that employ staff and are subject to closure or are highly impacted by the shutdown restrictions announced by the Victorian Government as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). This includes businesses in the hardest hit sectors including:

- Accommodation and Food Services (e.g. cafes, restaurants, caterers, hotels, motels)
- Arts and Entertainment (e.g. cinemas, performing arts venues, creative spaces, performers, museums)
- Health and Beauty Services (e.g. hairdressers, barbers, beauty therapists)
- Sport and recreation (e.g. gyms, swimming pools, indoor climbing, play centres)
- Tourism (e.g. tourist transport, tour operators, tour arrangement)
- Retail, other than supermarket, groceries, liquor and pharmacy businesses
- Other Services (e.g. real estate agents)

Eligibility:

Businesses are eligible to apply for a grant through the Fund if they meet the following criteria:

- Have been subject to closure or highly impacted by [Restricted Activity Directions issued by the Deputy Chief Health Officer to-date](#); and
- Employ people; and
- Have a turnover of more than \$75,000; and
- Have payroll of less than \$650,000; and
- Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and held that ABN at 16 March 2020 (when the [State of Emergency](#) was declared); and



- Have been engaged in carrying out the operation of the business in the Australian State of Victoria on 16 March 2020.

If successful in applications, examples of what the grant funding could be used for include:

- Meeting business costs, including utilities, salaries, rent;
- Seeking financial, legal or other advice to support business continuity planning;
- Developing the business through marketing and communications activities; or
- Other supporting activities related to the operation of the business.

How to apply:

Before applying applicants MUST:

- ensure that the information linked to their Australian Business Number reflects their current business activity and is up-to-date;
- have the required documents ready to attach: the applicant's most recent Business Activity Statement (if you are unable to provide a BAS, you must provide business bank statements to evidence that your business activities in the 2019/20 financial year meet the eligibility criteria); bank account details; and any other supporting documents.

If you are eligible and would like to apply, please do so online at:

<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-fund>

Further Information:

If you have any further questions, the Victorian Government have an FAQ document, which can be found here:

<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-fund/business-support-fund-faqs#>

Should your club be eligible, please feel free to contact the Grant Seeking Unit to assist with drafting and submitting an application on the club's behalf.

Additional Support Mechanisms

In addition, the Australian Commonwealth and Victorian State Government's have a range of economic stimulus packages and support mechanisms available not listed above. This can be found by clicking the links below:

- [Australian Treasury's Coronavirus Website](#)
- [Australia Government's Business Support Website](#)
- [Victorian Government's Economic Stimulus Package Information](#)
- [Victorian Government's Tax Relief of Eligible Businesses](#)
- [Australian Tax Office – Boosting Cash Flow for Employers](#)
- [Australian Government's JobKeeper Website](#)
- [Victorian Government's Tax Relief of Eligible Businesses](#)

SLSF – Grant Seeking Unit

In support of life saving clubs in Victoria, LSV provides grant support to affiliated clubs through GSU. This body is a national grant research and writing support unit for lifesaving entities across Australia and aims to assist clubs in understanding what grants are available, as well as assisting in the application processes.

Throughout the current coronavirus pandemic, the GSU has been working hard with clubs to ensure they continue to receive the funding required to provide continuous operations and provide clubs with the help and support required. Over the past two months, they have been averaging 60+ applications a month for clubs.

If your club would like the GSU to assist you in the writing and submission of an application, or if you have questions regarding the application process, please contact:

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