

**IN THE MATTER OF THE BOARD OF
INQUIRY INTO THE COVID-19
HOTEL QUARANTINE PROGRAM**

ATTACHMENTS

PREM.0001.0001.0016

Statement: Enforced quarantine for returned travellers to combat coronavirus, dated 27 March 2020.

PREM.0001.0001.0017-24.

Policy Q&As as at 2.53 pm on 27 March 2020.

PREM.0001.0001.00025-36.

Emails of 11.58 pm and 9:49pm on 27 March 2020 from Jessie McCrone, Deputy Chief of Staff, and attachments to the 11:58pm email.

PREM.0001.0001.00037-46.

Attachments to email of 9.59 pm on 27 March 2020 from Jessie McCrone, Deputy Chief of Staff.

Statement

The Hon Dan Andrews MP
Premier



Friday, 27 March 2020

ENFORCED QUARANTINE FOR RETURNED TRAVELLERS TO COMBAT CORONAVIRUS

Following agreement by the National Cabinet, all travellers returning from overseas to Victoria will be placed in enforced quarantine for a self-isolation period of 14-days to slow the spread of coronavirus.

While Victoria has seen some community transmission of this virus, most cases have been the result of travellers returning from overseas who then pass it onto their close contacts.

To ensure this no longer happens, National Cabinet has agreed that all states and territories will put in place enforced quarantine measures.

This will see returned travellers housed in hotels, motels, caravan parks, and student accommodation for their 14-day self-isolation period.

These measures will not only help slow the spread of coronavirus, they will also support hospitality workers who are facing significant challenges during this time.

The new measures will be operational from 11.59pm on Saturday 28 March, with the Victorian Government already securing 5000 hotel rooms.

We will try to accommodate returned travellers close to their homes, but in some instances that may not be possible. Each person will also receive self-isolation care packages of food and other essentials.

The costs of accommodation, public health and security will be covered by each individual jurisdiction, and there will be reciprocal arrangements in place to house the residents of other states and territories.

It has also been agreed that the Australian Defence Force will be engaged to support the implementation of these arrangements.

The Victorian Government is working closely with the Australian Hotels Association and other organisations so all returned travellers can be housed safely and securely.

As we take this extra step to slow the spread of coronavirus, our message to every other Victorian remains the same: Stay at home, protect our health system, save lives.

If you can stay home, you must stay home.

If you don't, people will die.

PREMIER’S PRIVATE OFFICE POLICY Q&As



TO: PREMIER **DATE:** 27 March 2020
FROM: CHARLIE, EMILY, JESS & **SUBJECT:** Enforced quarantine
 Senior Policy

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1. What are you announcing today?

National Cabinet has taken the step to enforce quarantine for all travellers returning from abroad. Most cases of coronavirus in Victoria – **363** out of **574**, more than **60 per cent** – originated from travel abroad. That's why we are taking the unprecedented step of enforcing a **14-day** quarantine on Victorians returning from overseas.

I can announce today that Victoria already has plans well advanced to secure over **5,000** hotel and motel rooms for forced quarantine. Each person will also receive self-isolation care packages of food and other essentials.

The costs of accommodation, public health and security will be covered by each individual jurisdiction, and there will be reciprocal arrangements in place to house the residents of other states and territories.

Victoria has thousands of rooms available across hotels, motels, caravan parks and student accommodation which could be used for these purposes. It will also provide a much-needed source of income for a sector which has been particularly hard hit by the travel ban and other measures.

While people returning from overseas are high risk it is important to remember that everyone is at risk and everyone has a part to play in slowing the spread of the virus.

If you can stay home, you must stay home.

2. When will this commence?

These measures will commence at 11.59PM on Saturday, 28 March 2020.

3. How many international arrivals are coming to Melbourne each day?

Yesterday Victoria had just over **1,300** international arrivals and we would expect that number to drop over the coming weeks as the travel ban bites. These arrivals will be in forced isolation from tomorrow night, with additional support available from the ADF, and public health and security provided by Victoria.

4. How will this work?

Returned travellers will initially be provided with three accommodation options and we will try to house them as close to their homes as possible. Each person will also receive self-isolation care packages of food and other essentials.

The costs of accommodation, public health and security will be covered by each individual jurisdiction, and there will be reciprocal arrangements in place to house the residents of other states and territories.

5. What is the role of the ADF?

The support of the ADF is available for logistics and will depend on the needs of each individual state. Victoria will work closely with the ADF to determine if any other support is required, including in relation to enforcement. Victoria Police has powers to enforce these measures.

6. How will food be provided to people forced into isolation?

People will be fed during their quarantine.

There will need to be a range of measures engaged, but we will deliver emergency food relief packages to those who need it.

7. Do I get to order room service?

People will be fed during their quarantine.

There will need to be a range of measures engaged, but we will deliver emergency food relief packages to those who need it. Some hotel kitchens may also be used to make food for those isolated.

8. Who has the Government been working with on this? How can hotels / motels be involved?

We have been working with:

- Australian Hotels Association
- Accommodation Association of Australia
- Tourism Accommodation Australia
- Victorian Caravan Parks Association

Any accommodation provider that would like to participate should contact their relevant industry association (listed above).

9. How will returned travellers be escorted to hotels?

All incoming passengers to Victoria from overseas will be subject to the enforced quarantine rules.

The Australian Defence Force has been engaged to assist with transporting passengers will be escorted to their hotels.

We will also look at other measures as required.

10. Why wasn't this measure implemented sooner?

We have said every step of the way that we rely on the most up-to-date health advice to make decisions and we will communicate with Victorians at each stage. The increase in cases means that we need to

take additional steps to slow the spread of the virus within the community. Restricting people's movement is not normally within a Government's powers and these are extraordinary times which call for extraordinary measures.

11. Will the government expect hotels to monitor people's movements if they are diagnosed with coronavirus?

No – the Government will provide that support. For returned travellers on enforced quarantine, Victoria Police will monitor compliance with self-isolation directions and conduct quarantine spot-checks.

12. Won't hotels and motels be shut down by further restrictions shortly?

Accommodation for Victorians to self-isolate will remain an essential service throughout this crisis.

13. Can I visit my family member in forced quarantine?

No. This may be difficult for some people, but this is absolutely necessary to slow the spread of the virus in Victoria.

While Victoria has experienced some community transmission, the vast majority of cases have been from people returning from overseas and passing the virus to their close contacts.

14. What if I have arrived here to look after my sick mother? Or to attend a funeral? Will I be allowed out of isolation for these reasons?

People are being isolated in this way because of the higher risk of infection in people arriving from overseas. Therefore it is not appropriate for people to be residing with elderly or unwell people. It is also not appropriate to visit any unwell relatives in hospital for this reason.

Similarly, the whole point of these measures is to prevent face to face contact with others. Therefore you will not be able to leave to attend a funeral during the period of quarantine.

15. Who is paying for enforced quarantine?

The costs of accommodation, public health and security will be covered by each individual jurisdiction, and there will be reciprocal arrangements in place to house the residents of other states and territories.

The ADF will also provide support for logistics and, if necessary other support as required.

16. Can I choose the star rating of my hotel?

This is not a holiday.

But we will take people's preferences into account.

All incoming passengers to Victoria will be provided with a form where you can pick 3 hotel options.

We'll try to match people as close to home as possible, but there are no guarantees.

17. What happens if I fly back to Melbourne but live interstate?

Enforced quarantine is a national measure. Travelers will have to quarantine in the state they arrive in.

Reciprocal arrangements will be put in place between all states and territories so that no matter where you land, you will be in enforced quarantine.

Victoria currently doesn't place self-isolation measures on interstate travelers.

18. What about people arriving by boat?

These measures will apply to all travellers returning from overseas.

19. Will hotels be available for use on by family violence victims?

Services to help women and children in family violence situations — including crisis accommodation, police responses and courts — are continuing to provide essential help and support to women and child at risk of family violence.

Through existing family violence services, women and children who are experiencing family violence can continue to apply for Flexible Support Packages, which includes providing support for safe and stable housing.

20. What powers are you using to enforce quarantine? Do police need more powers to uphold these directions?

The power to enforce quarantine is in accordance with emergency powers arising from the declared state of emergency. Police have existing powers to assist the CHO in enforcing his directions. There are also existing powers should people refuse to comply with the directions of police.

Victoria will work with the ADF to determine if additional support from the ADF is required to enforce these directions.

21. How will this be enforced?

Victoria Police has established a squad of **five hundred officers** to enforce containment measures that have been put in place to combat the coronavirus.

Coordinated through the Police Operations Centre, the officers will be out in the community doing spot checks on returning travellers who are in **14-day isolation**, as well as enforcing the bans on gatherings.

This includes the enforcement of non-essential activity across our state aimed at slowing the spread of coronavirus.

This decision and other containment measures are meaningless if Victorians don't take them seriously or don't think they will be caught if they flout the measures.

Many people are doing the right thing. To help keep all Victorians safe, the new coronavirus enforcement squad at Victoria Police will take action against anyone caught doing the wrong thing.

Staff will use the next four days for planning and preparation for the likely transition to flexible and remote learning.

22. How does this announcement relate to announcements you made earlier this week?

This announcement builds on announcements we made earlier this week. We have always said our actions would continue to change to match the advice of the experts and we are continuing to do all we can to 'flatten the curve' of the coronavirus and try and keep Victorians safe.

We are telling Victorians as clear as we can that if you can stay home, you must stay home. You should only leave your house for one of four reasons:

- Shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible.
- One form of exercise a day is allowed, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household.
- Medical reasons or other medical necessity
- Travelling to and from work, but only where this work is deemed 'essential' by the Chief Health Officer.

Victorians are being given a clear message to combat the coronavirus: stay at home, protect the health system, and save lives.

All measures to be implemented by Victoria are consistent with agreement at the National Cabinet, on the health advice provided by AHPPC.

23. What non-essential functions are closed at the moment?

Additional restrictions on non-essential activities were agreed by National Cabinet earlier this week. This action is aimed at slowing the spread of coronavirus.

The Government doesn't take these measures lightly – they will test our state and they ask of Victorians things they have never had to do before.

But all of us must play our part to save lives.

We have always said our actions would continue to change to match the advice of the experts and we are continuing to do all we can to 'flatten the curve' of the coronavirus and try and keep Victorians safe.

Since midnight Wednesday the full list of restricted activities is:

- Food and drink:
 - Licenced premises in hotels and pubs: shut, excluding bottle shops and off-licences attached to those venues, accommodation;
 - Registered and licensed clubs: shut, excluding bottle shops and off-licences attached to those venues, accommodation;
 - Restaurants, cafes and canteens: Restricted to take-away and/or home delivery. Cafés or canteens at hospitals, care homes or schools; prison and military canteens; services providing food or drink to the homeless, workplace canteens can provide takeaway;
 - Food courts in shopping centres: delivery and takeaway can remain operational;
- Retail:
 - Auction houses;
 - Real estate auctions and open house inspections: private appointments for inspection only;
 - Outdoor and indoor markets: shut, excluding food markets that observe the **4sq metre rule**;
- Beauty and personal care services:
 - Beauty therapy, tanning, waxing, nail salons, tattoo parlours;
 - Spas and massage parlours;
 - Hairdressers and barbers must manage social distancing and the number of people in the premise.
- Entertainment venues:
 - Cinemas, nightclubs, casinos, gaming / gambling venues, strip clubs, brothels, on-site sex premises;
 - Concert venues, theatres, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums: shut, except for live streaming by a small group of performers observing social distancing;
 - Amusement parks and arcades, play centres;
- Leisure and recreation:
 - Community and recreation centres;
 - Indoor sporting venues, gyms, health clubs, fitness centres, yoga, barre, spin, saunas, bathhouses and wellness centres;
 - Boot camps, personal training operating outside – permitted but must observe the **4 sq metre rule** and there are no more than **10 people**;
 - Social sporting activities;
 - Swimming pools;
- Outdoor recreation:
 - Caravan and camping parks, except for those permanently living in these parks;
 - Zoos and wildlife centres will close to the public;
- Non-residential institutions:
 - Galleries, museums, national institutions and historic sites;
 - Libraries, community centres, and youth centres;
 - Local government non-essential facilities and services (such as libraries and pools);
 - Community facilities (such as community halls, clubs, RSLs, PCYCs);

- All shops and businesses that remain open must implement a **1 person per 4 sq metre rule** (including a customer limit, which must be displayed on a sign) and adhere to stricter hygiene and cleaning practices; and;
- Funerals may continue with less than **10 people** in attendance at any one time (adhering to the **1 person per 4 sq M** rule) may proceed; and;
- Weddings may continue with the couple, the celebrant and the witnesses. That's it. Large gatherings for weddings are not possible.

Restricting weddings and funerals has not been an easy decision, but unfortunately, they have been the cause of large clusters of community transmission. That's why we are putting these arrangements in place.

Cal Viney (VICMIN)

From: Jessie McCrone (VICMIN)
Sent: Friday, 27 March 2020 11:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Lissie Ratcliff (VICMIN); Adam Sims (VICMIN); Stephanie Anderson (VICMIN); [REDACTED] Senior Policy (VICMIN); Enrico Burgio (VICMIN); Olivia Harris (VICMIN)
Subject: Final materials for economic survival package update, and on the spot fines & quarantine update
Attachments: 270320 NEVILLE Infringements NM CV JM.pdf; QnAs - Economic Survival Package update, on the spot fines, quarantine FINAL.pdf

Hello,

Updated Q&A with quarantine information.

Also the Neville/Mikakos release for tomorrow, for your background.

Jessie

Jessie McCrone
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From: Jessie McCrone (VICMIN)
Sent: Friday, 27 March 2020 9:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Lissie Ratcliff (VICMIN); Adam Sims (VICMIN); [REDACTED]; Stephanie Anderson (VICMIN); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Senior Policy Advisor, PPO (VICMIN); [REDACTED] Senior Policy Advisor, PPO
Subject: Materials for economic survival package update, and on the spot fines

Evening

Your materials for tomorrow.

We are still finalising details for the quarantine update – so there will be a second pack with you this evening with those details included.

Cheers
Jessie

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**PREMIER’S PRIVATE OFFICE
POLICY Q&As**



TO: PREMIER

DATE: 27 March 2020

FROM: Senior Policy Advisor, PPO

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ENDORSED:	COS:	DCOS:	DEPUTY / DIRECTOR: EB, CH
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Questions specific to today's announcement

1. What are you announcing today?

Government cannot give businesses customers – but it can give them cash. We know businesses are struggling with the impacts of the 'social distancing' measures.

That's why we announced our **\$1.7 billion** Economic Survival Package last Saturday. Today I am announcing that from Monday, over **30,000** grants of **\$10,000** each will be available to eligible businesses affected by social distancing restrictions.

After consulting with the Victorian Chamber, Australian Hotels Association and the Australian Industry Group, the first part of the **\$500 million** Business Support Fund will be these cash grants. Applications will be open from Monday.

Affected businesses include bars, cafes, restaurants, live music venues and many other businesses. These grants are for small businesses only – that's a business with payroll of less than **\$650,000** who weren't eligible for the payroll tax refund and waiver I announced on Saturday.

I can also provide an update on the status of the other elements of the Economic Survival Package:

- Payroll tax refund and waiver: Businesses were emailed on Monday to update their bank details. The cash has started flowing, with **\$52 million** out the door already, and almost all of it completed by Friday next week. Businesses should respond to the SRO's email to submit bank details if they have not yet done so.
- Government invoices: We have smashed our target of **\$750 million** in fast-tracked payments of outstanding supplier invoices, with more than **\$1.1 billion** paid to businesses as of COB yesterday (Friday 27 March).
- Government tenant rental holiday: Government is working with dozens of tenants from right across the State.
- Liquor licencing fees: Cheques will be in the mail to **12,500** businesses from Monday.
- Land tax deferrals: Land tax deferral letters will be in the mail from Monday.

(ONLY IF ASKED)

- Working for Victoria Fund: More than **40,000 workers** have registered their interest and I'll have more to say on this next week.

2. Which small businesses are eligible for the \$10,000 grants? What is an 'affected' business?

Many businesses have already been affected by 'social distancing' measures, whether it's the mass gathering restrictions, the travel ban or the restrictions announced on 22 and 24 March ("Stage 1 and 2" restrictions). These businesses include:

- Mass gatherings and 22 March: Restaurants, cafes, pubs, clubs, nightclubs, licensed venues in hotels, gyms, indoor sporting venues, cinemas, live music and entertainment venues.
- 24 March: Food courts, auctions and open houses, non-food markets, beauty services, massages, gaming venues, community and recreation facilities, health clubs, swimming pools, hotels, caravan parks, galleries.
- Travel bans: Tourist accommodation, travel agents, tourist transport and tour operators.

Businesses that meet all of the following criteria are eligible to apply for a grant through the fund if they employ people:

- Have been directly impacted by shutdown restrictions announced by Government and which have employees;
- Have a turnover of more than **\$75,000** per annum;
- Have a payroll of less than **\$650,000** per annum;
- Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at 16 March 2020 (date of the State of Emergency declaration); and;
- Have been engaged in carrying out the operation of the business in Victoria on 16 March 2020.

3. What about sole traders?

These grants are aimed at businesses that employ staff. Sole-traders are eligible for Commonwealth Government income support - the economic survival package is designed to work in conjunction with the federal packages, rather than duplicating them.

4. How was this eligibility criteria set up?

The grant eligibility criteria were developed in close consultation with business, including the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Australian Industry Group and the Australian Hotels Association.

The eligibility criteria target this support to businesses worst hit by the 'social distancing' measures.

As I've previously stated, we will move to Stage 3 of our coronavirus response at some point in the coming weeks. This is not the last round of support that we will announce for affected businesses as we roll those measures out.

5. How do I apply?

Businesses need to register go to the Business Victoria website, business.vic.gov.au. Businesses will then be contacted on Monday to complete an application form with payments processed within **5 business days** of receipt of the required information.

6. What about other businesses outside the eligibility which have been affected by the coronavirus slowdown?

As I've previously stated, we will move to Stage 3 of our coronavirus response at some point in the coming weeks. This is not the last round of support that we will announce for affected businesses as we roll those measures out.

7. Why are you paying businesses even if they are laying off their staff?

We want to make sure there are businesses and jobs for workers to come back to on the other side of this crisis.

Each business' circumstances are different. I know a lot of business owners are facing agonising decisions over how to keep their businesses afloat right now.

Cash is the best way to support these owners right now. Many businesses will be able to keep their employees on. Many will need to reduce hours and pay. And unfortunately many will also need to stand down or lay off workers.

This doesn't mean that a business is undeserving of support. Businesses also have to pay rent, utilities and other business costs.

What is important is that businesses survive through this crisis.

8. How do businesses register their details to get the Payroll Tax Refund?

Businesses should log into their "PTX Express" account at www.sro.vic.gov.au/ptxexpress or call the SRO on **13 21 61**.

9. How long does it take to receive the refund once a business has provided their bank details to the SRO?

The SRO will process the request within **1 to 4 days** depending on the recipient's banking arrangements.

10. When will further support be announced? What will be in it?

We are working on targeted industry support packages with the Victorian Chamber, Australian Hotels Association and Australian Industry Group and will have more to say on this in the coming weeks.

11. What are the other elements of the Economic Survival Package?

The Economic Survival Package announced last Saturday included the following elements:

- Cash for small businesses through a payroll tax refund (\$556 million): Immediate cash and payroll tax relief for small businesses with wages of up to **\$3 million**. 2019-20 year-to-date payroll will immediately be refunded, providing relief directly to businesses. Payroll from now through to the end of June will be waived, and payroll from July to September deferred. This supports **24,000** businesses and up to **400,000** thousand workers, with payments up to **\$113,000** and averaging **\$23,000**.
- Business Support Fund (\$500 million): This is for payments to employers in high impact industries, such as hospitality, restaurants, tourism, the arts and event businesses (non-exhaustive). This will be administered by Government with advice from VCCI, AHA and AIG.
- Working for Victoria Fund (\$500 million): This fund will be used to support workers who lose their jobs due to COVID-19, with everything from job-matching, direct Government employment, retraining and hardship payments. This will be administered by Government with advice from VCOSS and VTHC. As an example, this funding will be used to directly employ displaced casuals in Government jobs, for example to clean Government buildings / transport and rebuild regional infrastructure damaged by bushfires (such as walking trails). It will also help the private sector job-match, for example to get displaced workers into agricultural and horticultural jobs which are vacant given the ban on foreign labour. More details will follow in the coming weeks.
- Rent holiday for businesses in Government buildings (\$100 million): Government is a responsible landlord and will charge no rent for all of calendar year 2020 to business tenants.
- Waiving liquor licencing fees (\$30 million): Restaurants, bars, pubs and clubs are hard hit by social distancing. That's why Government is waiving their liquor licencing fees for **~12,500** venues which were due on 31 March.
- Cashflow through payment terms (no cost): Government has a range of suppliers, including many small and medium businesses. All outstanding invoices totalling **~\$750 million** were paid within 5 business days.
- Cash through deferring land tax for small businesses (no cost): **64,000** taxpayers with properties valued at less than **\$1 million** were due to pay land tax in this financial year. They will have their liability deferred into 2020/21.

12. What support has the Commonwealth announced so far?

The Commonwealth has announced **\$189 billion** in support:

- For workers: Temporarily doubling the Jobseeker Payment to **\$550** per week. Two one-off payments of **\$750** on 31 March and 13 July to welfare recipients. Allowing workers to access **\$10,000** from in the next two financial years.
- For businesses: Up to **\$100,000** as a tax-free cash payment to businesses with a turnover of up to **\$50 million**, available from 28 April. A **50 per cent** loan guarantee on SME loans up to **\$250,000**. Other measures include wage subsidies for apprentices, relaxation of insolvency laws, increasing the instant asset write-off, increasing depreciation deductions and **\$715 million** for the aviation industry.

*On-the-spot fines and enforced quarantine update***13. What happens in the event a person breaches a quarantine direction now – how does the existing law work?**

Under the current legislation (the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*), if a member of the public does not comply with a direction issued by the Chief Health Officer or Deputy Chief Health Officer, they will be liable for fines of up to **\$19,826**. Businesses can be liable for fines of up to **\$99,132**. However, they cannot be issued on the spot (like a parking fine). Instead the person accused of breaching the order must first be charged and then be brought to court.

14. Do the new regulations mean that police can issue on the spot fines?

Yes. The new regulations mean that on the spot fines of up to **\$1,652** can be issued to individuals. Body corporates can also be issued on the spot fines of up to **\$9,913**. This avoids the need to go to court and means non-compliance with any directions can be dealt with immediately by police.

15. What fines are able to be issued, and what level will these fines be?

Offence	Amount
Hindering or obstructing an authorised officer without excuse	\$826 for individual \$826 for body corporate
Failure to provide information to Chief Health Officer on their direction	\$1,652 for individual \$4,957 for body corporate
Failure to comply with a direction given by the Chief Health Officer or Deputy Chief Health Officer in relation to a public health risk power	\$1,652 for individual \$9,913 for body corporate
Failure to comply with a direction given by the Chief Health Officer or Deputy Chief Health Office in relation to an emergency power	\$1,652 for individual \$9,913 for body corporate

16. What can the fines be issued for?

Where a person or business fails to comply with the coronavirus State of Emergency directions of the Chief Health Officer or Deputy Chief Health Officer, such as those currently in force for non-essential activities, prohibited gatherings, airport arrivals, cruise ships docking, aged care, hospital visitors, or diagnosis, a fine on the spot can now be issued.

In addition, people can now be issued with on the spot fines for hindering or obstructing authorised officers carrying out their powers under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act*, or where the Chief Health Officer has directed a person to provide them with information and they fail to do so.

17. Can you give some examples of where these fines would be applied?

These fines can be applied where people breach directions made under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, for example:

- where people who have newly returned from overseas, or who have been diagnosed with COVID 19, do not self-isolate for **14 days**;
- if they organise or attend a mass gathering;
- if they organise or attend a wedding that has present more than the two persons being married, the celebrant, and two witnesses, or a funeral that has more than **10 persons**;
- if they organise an auction for the sale of a residential property;
- where a non-essential business continues to operate (for example, a gym or a cinema continue to operate);
- where a person who may have been exposed to COVID019 refuses to provide the Chief Health Officer with information to enable contact-tracing.

18. At what time on what day will police be able to issue these fines?

From this Saturday afternoon Victoria Police will have the power to issue fines to those people that fail to comply with any of the coronavirus State of Emergency directions.

19. Are you closing beaches?

I've been really disappointed at the attitude that some people have taken to the circumstances we're in right now. Yesterday we saw people flouting the directions of the CHO at St Kilda beach and as far as I'm concerned, this sort of behaviour is unacceptable.

We're not going to ask local councils to close beaches today, but we are asking the community to do the right thing. You can go out for a walk or some exercise so long as you keep at least **1.5 metres** away from one another. But you can't hang out on a beach all day.

Enforced quarantine

Yesterday National Cabinet took the step to enforce quarantine for all travellers returning from abroad. Most cases of coronavirus in Victoria – approximately **60 per cent** – originated from travel abroad. That's why we are taking the unprecedented step of enforcing a **14-day** quarantine on Victorians returning from overseas.

We have had offers from businesses to supply **26,000** rooms and have secured **2,800** for Day 1 operations. We are in the final stages of negotiation with Skybus who can provide up to **85 buses** to take returned travellers to their hotels. The Border Force's latest estimate is that we will have **1,000-1,500** arrivals on a **dozen** or so planes on Sunday who will be the first travellers covered by these arrangements.

[NOTE: We currently have 2,800 rooms on call for immediate use - the remaining to 2,200 we have arranged with hotels but haven't indicated we'll take those rooms immediately.]

20. Will people in quarantine be let out of the hotel at all?

We are still working through the finer details of how this will operate - but it's pretty clear that the point of "quarantine" is to be isolated and that is our expectation.

We will work through the legal and medical advice to ensure there are safe options possible which allow people to go outside for essential purposes (such as exercise) consistent with CHO advice.

21. What role will the ADF play?

The support of the ADF is available for logistics and will depend on the needs of each individual state. Victoria will work closely with the ADF to determine if any other support is required, including in relation to enforcement. Victoria Police has powers to enforce these measures.

22. Will the transport arrangements of using ADF and other direct services impact ride sharing who rely on airport fares to survive?

The consequences of coronavirus are being felt economy-wide.

The travel ban that's already in place has caused the majority of the reduction in airport traffic.

We are doing this to slow the spread of coronavirus and save lives.

23. How will we ensure hotel workers are protected from coronavirus?

Anyone in quarantine who is displaying symptoms of the coronavirus will be given appropriate medical care. The vast majority of returned travellers will not have the coronavirus.

Returned travellers in quarantine will be required to stay in their allocated rooms except for a few proscribed periods and not wander around the hotel. Private security guards will be on hand to enforce this.

24. What additional measures have been implemented at the hotels for this new purpose?

Private security and additional cleaning have been arranged for the hotels, to keep travellers, and the broader Victorian community, safe.

25. Will hotels be available for use on by family violence victims?

Over time, as the number of returning Australians reduces, it is our expectation that these rooms could also be used by other Victorians needing to self-isolate, including women and children who need somewhere safe to self-isolate.

Services to help women and children in family violence situations — including crisis accommodation, police responses and courts — are continuing to provide essential help and support to women and child at risk of family violence.

Through existing family violence services, women and children who are experiencing family violence can continue to apply for Flexible Support Packages, which includes providing support for safe and stable housing.

Media Release

The Hon Lisa Neville MP

Minister for Water

Minister for Police and Emergency Services



Saturday, 28 March 2020

ON THE SPOT FINES TO KEEP VICTORIANS SAFE

The Victorian Government is working to protect our health system and those at most risk of contracting coronavirus, with Victoria Police being given the power to issue on the spot fines of up to \$1,652 for individuals and up to \$9,913 for businesses who don't follow the rules.

The Victorian Government's message to all Victorians is clear: if you can stay home, you must stay home. However there are still too many people failing to take this seriously, putting lives at risk.

From today fines can be issued to those who refuse or fail to comply with the Chief Health Officer and Deputy Chief Health Officer emergency directions, public health risk directions, or those who refuse or fail to comply with a direction by the Chief Health Officer to provide information.

This means persons or businesses could be fined on the spot:

- If they fail to self-isolate for 14 days after arriving at an airport in Victoria from a flight originating from overseas, as set out in the Airport Arrivals Direction
- If they organise or attend a mass gathering prohibited by the Prohibited Gatherings Direction
- If they organise or attend a wedding that has present more than the two persons being married, the celebrant, and two witnesses, or a funeral that has more than 10 persons, as prohibited by the Prohibited Gatherings Direction
- If they organise an auction for the sale of a residential property, as prohibited by the Non-Essential Activity Direction.

Victoria Police has already established a coronavirus enforcement squad of 500 officers to ensure containment measures that have been put in place to combat coronavirus are followed. This gives them additional powers.

Coordinated through the Police Operations Centre, the officers are out in the community doing spot checks on returning travellers who are in 14-day isolation, 24 hours, 7 days a week, as well as enforcing the bans on indoor and outdoor gatherings.

Information is being provided by the Australian Border Force of all those who have returned from overseas and this information is being used appropriately. Tasking is based on intelligence from the Department of Health and Human Services and community information.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Police and Emergency Services Lisa Neville

"We sincerely hope that Victoria Police does not have to issue one of these fines, and people do the right thing."

"For those who are at most risk of contracting coronavirus, please, if you can stay home, you must stay home."

Quote attributable to Minister for Health Jenny Mikakos

"Everybody has a role to play in slowing the spread of coronavirus and to take the pressure off our health system. Our message is clear: if you can, you must stay at home."

Media contact: Nathan Motton 0447 771 882 | nathan.motton@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Saturday, 28 March 2020

MONEY IN THE BANK FOR BUSINESSES AND JOBS

Money is in the bank accounts of small and medium businesses – supporting them and thousands of jobs through the devastating impacts of coronavirus on the state’s economy.

Premier Daniel Andrews and Treasurer Tim Pallas announced today that payroll tax refunds have now hit the bank accounts of 2,700 small businesses, putting \$52 million immediately back into the pockets of business owners.

More than 21,000 small businesses have been contacted about their refund, with all eligible businesses who have provided their bank details to get their money from the Victorian Government within four business days.

In more support for businesses impacted by the coronavirus, the first tranche of the Government’s \$500 million Business Support Fund grants will flow from Monday, with \$10,000 grants available for over 30,000 employers who don’t pay payroll tax.

The Government has smashed its target of \$750 million in fast-tracked payments of outstanding supplier invoices, with more than \$1.1 billion paid to businesses this week – putting more money into the economy to support jobs.

Cheques will be in the mail to 12,500 businesses either waiving or refunding their liquor license fees for this year and 64,000 small businesses will have their land tax deferred into the next financial year, helping them cut costs and survive through the impacts of coronavirus.

Yesterday, National Cabinet announced strict new quarantine measures to slow the spread of coronavirus and save lives. Most cases of coronavirus in Victoria right now are connected to returning overseas travellers.

Under the new measures, which come into force at 11:59pm tonight, all travellers returning from overseas to Victoria will be placed in enforced quarantine for a self-isolation period of 14 days.

The Government has already secured 5,000 hotel rooms to house newly-returned travellers – who will each receive care packages of food and other essentials – and will secure more rooms as needed to support the measures.

Victoria is in discussions with the Australian Defence Force about logistical support including transporting travelers from the airport to accommodation or distributing care packages.

With international travel and non-essential domestic travel banned and Victorians canceling their school holiday plans, our hotels and motels are struggling – this allows us to support them, as well as enforcing the new quarantine measures.

The Government will continue to work closely with business and unions and will announce further support over the coming weeks and months, in consultation with the Commonwealth, as the impacts of the coronavirus evolve.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

“We’re getting money out the door and into the bank accounts of struggling businesses as quickly as possible.”

“Our hotels and motels are struggling – hiring rooms allows us to support them, as well as enforcing the new quarantine rules to keep Victorians safe.”

Quote attributable to Treasurer Tim Pallas

“We’re making sure more Victorian businesses can access payroll tax refunds help them weather this storm and get through to the other side.”

Quote attributable to Minister for Jobs Martin Pakula

“Our tourism industry has been hit hard by the coronavirus crisis, but it can play a critically important role helping slow the spread of the virus. This package will help businesses and jobs survive, as we do what’s needed to save lives.”



PREMIER'S PRIVATE OFFICE MEDIA BRIEF

TO: Premier **DATE:** 28/3/20
FROM: Steph Anderson **SUBJECT:** Survival package update, on the spot fines

EVENT SUMMARY: You will announce money has already started to flow from our \$1.7 billion economic survival and jobs package, with payroll tax refunds worth \$52 million hitting the bank accounts of 2,700 small businesses yesterday.

Payments from the \$500 million Business Support Fund will start from Monday and more than \$1.1 billion worth of government invoices have been paid to businesses this week.

By Sunday, police will be able to issue on the spot fines of up to \$1,652 for individuals and up to \$9,913 for businesses for:

- Refusing or failing to comply with the CHO or DCHO's emergency directions;
- Refusing or failing to comply with a public health risk power direction
- Refusing or failing to comply with a direction by the CHO to provide information

WHO: Treasurer Tim Pallas, Minister Pakula, Minister Neville

REMEMBER: The COVID-19 helpline is 1800 675 398. The business helpline is 13 22 15.

More than 40,000 Victorians have applied to find new jobs through our \$500 million Working for Victoria Fund – a sign of the devastating impact of coronavirus. The survival package includes rent relief for commercial tenants in government buildings.

Last night people ignored the advice not to congregate on beaches. At 6:00pm, the Port Phillip Council closed St Kilda beach. This is terribly disappointing – the message to Victorians has been clear. If you can stay home, you must stay home. If people continue to congregate at beaches, we will shut them down.

Journalists have asked about our ICU capacity and hospital preparedness. We're scaling up our health system to prepare for this global health crisis on a scale not seen before. If we find ourselves in a worst-case scenario, demand will outstrip our health system's capacity and people will die. That's why people need to follow the rules and help flatten the curve – if they can stay home, they must stay home.

Yesterday Victoria had just over 1,300 international arrivals – we expect this number to drop over the coming weeks.

KEY GRABS: *"Our hotels and motels are struggling – hiring rooms allows us to support them, as well as enforcing the new quarantine rules to keep Victorians safe."*

"This economic package will help businesses and jobs survive, as we do what's needed to save lives."

PICTURES: Standing up at Parliament under the tree. Social distancing will be in place.

ENDORSED:	COS:	DCOS:	DIRECTOR:
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**PREMIER’S PRIVATE OFFICE
POLICY Q&As**



TO: PREMIER
FROM: [REDACTED]

DATE: 27 March 2020
SUBJECT: Update on the Economic Survival Package & on the spot fines

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ENDORSED:	COS:	DCOS:	DEPUTY / DIRECTOR: EB, CH
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Questions specific to today's announcement

1. What are you announcing today?

Government cannot give businesses customers – but it can give them cash. We know businesses are struggling with the impacts of the 'social distancing' measures.

That's why we announced our **\$1.7 billion** Economic Survival Package last Saturday. Today I am announcing that from Monday, over **30,000** grants of **\$10,000** each will be available to eligible businesses affected by social distancing restrictions.

After consulting with the Victorian Chamber, Australian Hotels Association and the Australian Industry Group, the first part of the **\$500 million** Business Support Fund will be these cash grants. Applications will be open from Monday.

Affected businesses include bars, cafes, restaurants, live music venues and many other businesses. These grants are for small businesses only – that's a business with payroll of less than **\$650,000** who weren't eligible for the payroll tax refund and waiver I announced on Saturday.

I can also provide an update on the status of the other elements of the Economic Survival Package:

- Payroll tax refund and waiver: Businesses were emailed on Monday to update their bank details. The cash has started flowing, with **\$52 million** out the door already, and almost all of it completed by Friday next week. Businesses should respond to the SRO's email to submit bank details if they have not yet done so.
- Government invoices: We have smashed our target of **\$750 million** in fast-tracked payments of outstanding supplier invoices, with more than **\$1.1 billion** paid to businesses as of COB yesterday (Friday 27 March).
- Government tenant rental holiday: Government is working with dozens of tenants from right across the State.
- Liquor licencing fees: Cheques will be in the mail to **12,500** businesses from Monday.
- Land tax deferrals: Land tax deferral letters will be in the mail from Monday.

(ONLY IF ASKED)

- Working for Victoria Fund: More than **40,000 workers** have registered their interest and I'll have more to say on this next week.

2. Which small businesses are eligible for the \$10,000 grants? What is an 'affected' business?

Many businesses have already been affected by 'social distancing' measures, whether it's the mass gathering restrictions, the travel ban or the restrictions announced on 22 and 24 March ("Stage 1 and 2" restrictions). These businesses include:

- Mass gatherings and 22 March: Restaurants, cafes, pubs, clubs, nightclubs, licensed venues in hotels, gyms, indoor sporting venues, cinemas, live music and entertainment venues.
- 24 March: Food courts, auctions and open houses, non-food markets, beauty services, massages, gaming venues, community and recreation facilities, health clubs, swimming pools, hotels, caravan parks, galleries.
- Travel bans: Tourist accommodation, travel agents, tourist transport and tour operators.

Businesses that meet all of the following criteria are eligible to apply for a grant through the fund if they employ people:

- Have been directly impacted by shutdown restrictions announced by Government and which have employees;
- Have a turnover of more than **\$75,000** per annum;
- Have a payroll of less than **\$650,000** per annum;
- Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at 16 March 2020 (date of the State of Emergency declaration); and;
- Have been engaged in carrying out the operation of the business in Victoria on 16 March 2020.

3. What about sole traders?

These grants are aimed at businesses that employ staff. Sole-traders are eligible for Commonwealth Government income support - the economic survival package is designed to work in conjunction with the federal packages, rather than duplicating them.

4. How was this eligibility criteria set up?

The grant eligibility criteria were developed in close consultation with business, including the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Australian Industry Group and the Australian Hotels Association.

The eligibility criteria target this support to businesses worst hit by the 'social distancing' measures.

As I've previously stated, we will move to Stage 3 of our coronavirus response at some point in the coming weeks. This is not the last round of support that we will announce for affected businesses as we roll those measures out.

5. How do I apply?

Businesses need to register go to the Business Victoria website, business.vic.gov.au. Businesses will then be contacted on Monday to complete an application form with payments processed within **5 business days** of receipt of the required information.

6. What about other businesses outside the eligibility which have been affected by the coronavirus slowdown?

As I've previously stated, we will move to Stage 3 of our coronavirus response at some point in the coming weeks. This is not the last round of support that we will announce for affected businesses as we roll those measures out.

7. Why are you paying businesses even if they are laying off their staff?

We want to make sure there are there are businesses and jobs for workers to come back to on the other side of this crisis.

Each business' circumstances are different. I know a lot of business owners are facing agonising decisions over how to keep their businesses afloat right now.

Cash is the best way to support these owners right now. Many businesses will be able to keep their employees on. Many will need to reduce hours and pay. And unfortunately many will also need to stand down or lay off workers.

This doesn't mean that a business is undeserving of support. Businesses also have to pay rent, utilities and other business costs.

What is important is that businesses survive through this crisis.

8. How do businesses register their details to get the Payroll Tax Refund?

Businesses should log into their "PTX Express" account at www.sro.vic.gov.au/ptxexpress or call the SRO on **13 21 61**.

9. How long does it take to receive the refund once a business has provided their bank details to the SRO?

The SRO will process the request within **1 to 4 days** depending on the recipient's banking arrangements.

10. When will further support be announced? What will be in it?

We are working on targeted industry support packages with the Victorian Chamber, Australian Hotels Association and Australian Industry Group and will have more to say on this in the coming weeks.

11. What are the other elements of the Economic Survival Package?

The Economic Survival Package announced last Saturday included the following elements:

- Cash for small businesses through a payroll tax refund (\$556 million): Immediate cash and payroll tax relief for small businesses with wages of up to **\$3 million**. 2019-20 year-to-date payroll will immediately be refunded, providing relief directly to businesses. Payroll from now through to the end of June will be waived, and payroll from July to September deferred. This supports **24,000** businesses and up to **400,000** thousand workers, with payments up to **\$113,000** and averaging **\$23,000**.
- Business Support Fund (\$500 million): This is for payments to employers in high impact industries, such as hospitality, restaurants, tourism, the arts and event businesses (non-exhaustive). This will be administered by Government with advice from VCCI, AHA and AIG.
- Working for Victoria Fund (\$500 million): This fund will be used to support workers who lose their jobs due to COVID-19, with everything from job-matching, direct Government employment, retraining and hardship payments. This will be administered by Government with advice from VCOSS and VTHC. As an example, this funding will be used to directly employ displaced casuals in Government jobs, for example to clean Government buildings / transport and rebuild regional infrastructure damaged by bushfires (such as walking trails). It will also help the private sector job-match, for example to get displaced workers into agricultural and horticultural jobs which are vacant given the ban on foreign labour. More details will follow in the coming weeks.
- Rent holiday for businesses in Government buildings (\$100 million): Government is a responsible landlord and will charge no rent for all of calendar year 2020 to business tenants.
- Waiving liquor licencing fees (\$30 million): Restaurants, bars, pubs and clubs are hard hit by social distancing. That's why Government is waiving their liquor licencing fees for **~12,500** venues which were due on 31 March.
- Cashflow through payment terms (no cost): Government has a range of suppliers, including many small and medium businesses. All outstanding invoices totalling **~\$750 million** were paid within 5 business days.
- Cash through deferring land tax for small businesses (no cost): **64,000** taxpayers with properties valued at less than **\$1 million** were due to pay land tax in this financial year. They will have their liability deferred into 2020/21.

12. What support has the Commonwealth announced so far?

The Commonwealth has announced **\$189 billion** in support:

- For workers: Temporarily doubling the Jobseeker Payment to **\$550** per week. Two one-off payments of **\$750** on 31 March and 13 July to welfare recipients. Allowing workers to access **\$10,000** from in the next two financial years.
- For businesses: Up to **\$100,000** as a tax-free cash payment to businesses with a turnover of up to **\$50 million**, available from 28 April. A **50 per cent** loan guarantee on SME loans up to **\$250,000**. Other measures include wage subsidies for apprentices, relaxation of insolvency laws, increasing the instant asset write-off, increasing depreciation deductions and **\$715 million** for the aviation industry.

*On-the-spot fines and enforced quarantine update***13. What happens in the event a person breaches a quarantine direction now – how does the existing law work?**

Under the current legislation (the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*), if a member of the public does not comply with a direction issued by the Chief Health Officer or Deputy Chief Health Officer, they will be liable for fines of up to **\$19,826**. Businesses can be liable for fines of up to **\$99,132**. However, this cannot be issued on the spot (like a parking fine). Instead the person accused of breaching the order must first be charged and then be brought to court.

14. Do the new regulations mean that police can issue on the spot fines?

Yes. The new regulations mean that on the spot fines of up to **\$1,652** can be issued to individuals. Body corporates can also be issued on the spot fines of up to **\$9,913**. This avoids the need to go to court and means non-compliance with any directions can be dealt with immediately by police.

15. What fines are able to be issued, and what level will these fines be?

Offence	Amount
Hindering or obstructing an authorised officer without excuse	\$826 for individual
	\$826 for body corporate
Failure to provide information to Chief Health Officer on their direction	\$1,652 for individual
	\$4,957 for body corporate
Failure to comply with a direction given by the Chief Health Officer or Deputy Chief Health Officer in relation to a public health risk power	\$1,652 for individual
	\$9,913 for body corporate
Failure to comply with a direction given by the Chief Health Officer or Deputy Chief Health Office in relation to an emergency power	\$1,652 for individual
	\$9,913 for body corporate

16. What can the fines be issued for?

Where a person or business fails to comply with the coronavirus State of Emergency directions of the Chief Health Officer or Deputy Chief Health Officer, such as those currently in force for non-essential activities, prohibited gatherings, airport arrivals, cruise ships docking, aged care, hospital visitors, or diagnosis, a fine on the spot can now be issued.

In addition, people can now be issued with on the spot fines for hindering or obstructing authorised officers carrying out their powers under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act*, or where the Chief Health Officer has directed a person to provide them with information and they fail to do so.

17. Can you give some examples of where these fines would be applied?

These fines can be applied where people breach directions made under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, for example:

- where people who have newly returned from overseas, or who have been diagnosed with COVID 19, do not self-isolate for **14 days**;
- if they organise or attend a mass gathering;
- if they organise or attend a wedding that has present more than the two persons being married, the celebrant, and two witnesses, or a funeral that has more than **10 persons**;
- if they organise an auction for the sale of a residential property;
- where a non-essential business continues to operate (for example, a gym or a cinema continue to operate);
- where a person who may have been exposed to COVID019 refuses to provide the Chief Health Officer with information to enable contact-tracing.

18. At what time on what day will police be able to issue these fines?

From this Saturday afternoon Victoria Police will have the power to issue fines to those people that fail to comply with any of the coronavirus State of Emergency directions.

19. Are you closing beaches?

I've been really disappointed at the attitude that some people have taken to the circumstances we're in right now. Yesterday we saw people flouting the directions of the CHO at St Kilda beach and as far as I'm concerned, this sort of behaviour is unacceptable.

We're not going to ask local councils to close beaches today, but we are asking the community to do the right thing. You can go out for a walk or some exercise so long as you keep at least **1.5 metres** away from one another. But you can't hang out on a beach all day.