

\$50m grant announced for Victoria's Agriculture sector

The Victorian Government has announced \$50m worth of funding to support regional businesses who have been impacted by COVID-19.

Administered through the Department of Agriculture in conjunction with Regional Development Victoria, the Victorian Government has released the \$50 Million *Agriculture Workforce Plan*, designed to support regional businesses across the agriculture sector.

The funding will go directly to businesses who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and assist them to maintain and expand their operations safely and effectively.

Three streams of funding

Three streams of funding are available to support staff employment, training, and general workplace safety in response to COVID-19:



Amount	Details
Stream 1: Worker Relocation and Transport	
Daily allowances of up to \$200/day per eligible new employee	<p>For staff to travel to, or be accommodated in, regional locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist businesses to fill roles in light of the challenges associated with a less mobile workforce Can be used to address the challenges of housing and transporting workers who otherwise wouldn't be able to get to work
Stream 2: Worker Induction and Re-Training	
Grants of up to \$100,000	<p>For businesses to train, induct and upskill existing and new staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can include training with new pieces of equipment, OH&S training, and new worker inductions carried out by third-party providers
Stream 3: Business Adaptation Grants*	
Grants of up to \$300,000	<p>To assist eligible businesses to meet the costs of complying with the complexities of COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be used to improve workplace hygiene, adapt workspaces to improve worker safety, or install temporary facilities in response to the crisis



**Business Adaptation Grants are subject to a 50:50 co-funding requirement (\$1 of business spend for every \$1 of government funding).*

Application process

Victorian businesses that operate in regional and rural areas (including outer Metropolitan) in the Agribusiness sector may be eligible to apply, including primary producers, food processors, assurance testers, distributors and specialist distribution companies.

In addition, businesses must have an expected annual turnover greater than **\$75,000 for the 2019-2020 financial year**. Further stream-specific eligibility criteria also apply.

A full application is required, highlighting previous business performance, the need for funding, and the value proposition of the proposed project.

Applications close **30 September 2020**, or sooner should program funding be exhausted.

How ShineWing Australia can help

ShineWing Australia's Government Incentives and Agribusiness teams can assist throughout the eligibility, scoping, and application processes, working alongside businesses and the program managers to ensure the best funding outcome.



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