

Economic Development Newsletter



Industry E-Newsletter Summary

Once again we are facing a COVID-19 outbreak and reinstatement of new [COVID-19 safe regulations](#). The Economic Development Team continues to advocate on behalf of, and assist business within our region. Please don't hesitate to contact [Kristy Forche-Baird](#) directly with any issues, concerns or good news stories.

Summary and Quicklinks

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COVID & SUPPORT PROGRAMS

NEW COVID Support Package for Business

On the 13 July 2021 The Prime Minister and NSW Premier announced an expanded support program for NSW business affected by this current lockdown.

- **\$1500 fortnightly grants for micro businesses** with turnover of between \$30,000 and \$75,000 which can demonstrate a 30% reduction in turnover where the business is the primary source of income.
- **A cash boost for businesses across NSW** with an annual turnover of between \$75,000 and \$50 million which can demonstrate a 30% reduction in this turnover during lockdown.
- **A payroll tax deferral** this quarter for all businesses, and a waiver for this quarter if you can demonstrate a 30% reduction in turnover

- **Increase in the payment amount for stood down workers** from \$500 to \$600 per week for those who lost more than 20 hours, and to \$375 for those who lost between 8 and 20 hours, and for it to be available to workers outside of Sydney lockdown areas.

Further information is available [here](#)

For those not eligible for the Small Business Grant, you might be able to now apply for up to \$500 from the Federal Government if you have missed out on work because of the lockdown. [Read more](#)

The NSW Government has announced an extension of the Dine & Discover program to 31 August and the ability for people to use Dine & Discover vouchers for takeaway delivered directly to their home by the venue itself. [Read more](#)

COVID Requirements for Business

The use of the Service NSW QR code is now mandatory at all workplaces and retail businesses as of Monday July 12.

It is now mandated that these additional businesses will display the Service NSW QR code and take reasonable steps to ensure people entering their premises check-in using the Service NSW QR codes or [digital sign-in sheet](#):

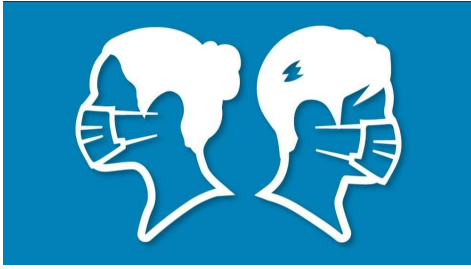
- Retail businesses and supermarkets
- Individual shops within shopping centres
- Shopping centres will also be asked to display QR codes at entry points where practicable
- Gyms
- Offices including call centres
- Manufacturing and warehousing
- Universities and TAFE
- Schools including teachers and visitors (such as parents and contractors) but excluding students.

Businesses such as hospitality and hairdressers that were already using the Service NSW QR code will also need to ensure staff and visitors such as maintenance workers and delivery drivers check-in, when they resume services after the lockdown period.

[See the full list of businesses required to display QR codes](#)

[More information about QR codes](#)

[How to support patrons without smartphones](#)



Service NSW - Small business Fees and Charges rebate

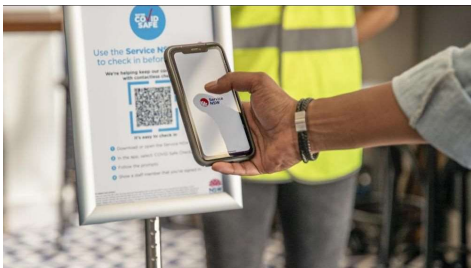
If you are a sole trader, the owner of a small business or a not-for-profit organisation in NSW, you may be eligible for a small business fees and charges rebate of \$1500.

This rebate helps businesses recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and encourages growth by reducing the cost of running a business. Eligible businesses or not-for-profits only need to apply for the rebate once, but can submit multiple claims until the full value of \$1500 is reached.

Funds can be used to offset the costs of eligible NSW and local government fees and charges due and paid from 1 March 2021. These include, but are not limited to:

- food authority licences
- liquor licences
- tradesperson licences
- event fees
- outdoor seating fees
- council rates.

The rebate will be available until 30 June 2022, and more details are available via [Service NSW](#).



WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS

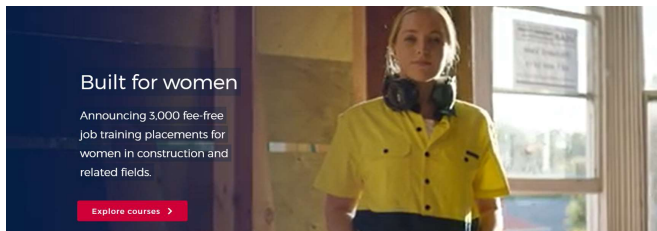
Supply Chain Resilience Initiative

Applications are open for manufacturers under the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative – a part of the Government's \$1.5 billion Modern Manufacturing Strategy.

Matched grants of between \$50,000 and \$2 million are on offer for businesses which can help address supply chain vulnerabilities across medicines and agricultural production chemicals. To find out more or apply for a grant under the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative visit business.gov.au/scri

Built for Women

The NSW Government has just announced 3,000 fee-free job training placements for women in construction and related fields. Further information is available at [Built for women \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.builtforwomen.nsw.gov.au).



Strengthening Business Service

The Strengthening Business Service is a free service to assist bushfire affected businesses to recover, grow and become more resilient, recognising that many businesses have also been devastated by COVID and the recent flood event.

Businesses should be eligible for this service if they were engaged in business with an ABN during the bushfires (1 Aug 19 – 29 Feb 20) and were impacted either directly or indirectly by the fires. If eligible, a Strengthening Business facilitator will work with you to create and help implement a roadmap for your business going forward.

The Strengthening Business Application is done online at: <https://www.business.gov.au/Grants-and-Programs/Strengthening-Business>

Award Wages Increase

The Fair Work Commission (FWC) has announced a **2.5% increase to the national minimum wage and all award wages**. [Read more](#)

Digital Marketing like a pro!

Australia's top Digital Marketing Trainer, Dante St. James will be in Kempsey offering a unique

opportunity to join the workshop, focused on growing the digital marketing know-how of small businesses. **The face-to-face places for this workshop have booked out, but you can still join the online webinar.**

From marketing fundamentals and understanding SEO, creating compelling content to build a fan base, and crafting captivating stories to enhance consumer engagement and conversion, Dante will share tips and techniques to help you get the best from your digital presence.

Kempsey Workshop

Date: 20 July 2021

Location: Online

Time: 10am–3 pm

Register: [Zoom](#)



BUSINESS AWARDS & GALA DINNER

Congratulations! To all the businesses that received awards at the Macleay Valley Business Awards Gala Dinner Event which was held on the 19th June. A list can be found on the [Macleay Valley Business Chambers](#) website.

Make sure to say congrats if you visit any of these businesses.

