

BULLETIN: 101/2021

COVIDSAFE OUTDOOR ACTIVATION SUPPORTING A SAFER WAY TO OPEN

The Victorian Government has announced an [Outdoor Economy Package](#) to help businesses and the community breathe new life into local neighbourhoods as vaccination progressively and safely delivers greater freedoms across the state.

Local businesses such as shops, hairdressers, beauty services, dance studios and gyms will join restaurants and cafes as leaders in Victoria's outdoor economy, thanks to a \$54.5 million boost to statewide outdoor facilities. The *Outdoor Economy Package* will help support the costs for thousands of businesses of setting up for street trading, and back councils to provide the necessary infrastructure and support.

The *Outdoor Economy Package* builds on the success of last year's *Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package*, which laid the groundwork for a new, agile world of parklets and pop-up bars, with streamlined council permits.

A \$40 million COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Fund will help councils and businesses transform more outdoor areas so Victorians can enjoy local attractions safely as we reach the key 70 per cent double vaccination threshold, then 80 per cent, with restrictions lifting significantly at those marks.

The Fund will allocate \$20.5 million to councils for temporary physical improvements such as furniture, landscaping, umbrellas, marquees, screens and public art, as well as entertainment to bring our outdoor precincts to life. Councils will also receive a share of \$19.5 million to establish semi-permanent and permanent outdoor precincts.

To receive funding as part of this program, councils must demonstrate that any additional costs or fees councils incur, or loss of revenue, as a result of the activation of outdoor spaces will not be levied on local businesses in order to receive this funding.

Funding guidelines and program templates for the COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Fund have been sent to all councils.

As part of the new support, the \$14.5 million COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Voucher Program will provide more than 7,000 Victorian businesses, community organisations, not-for-profits and trader associations with \$2,000 grants when they spend at least that amount to support initiatives such as outdoor hospitality and entertainment. The vouchers will be valid for expenses including purchasing and hiring marquees, screens and umbrellas, obtaining insurance and promoting outdoor operations. Some 20 per cent of the vouchers will be allocated in regional Victoria. Voucher applications will be available on the Service Victoria website from 26 October 2021.

Victorian Government business support programs have delivered more than \$5 billion into the bank accounts of Victorian businesses since the May/June lockdown. Business support over the course of the pandemic now runs over \$11 billion.

[Subscribe to the Business Victoria newsletter](#) for updates on the *COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Voucher Program* including when the program opens.

Regards,

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