

By email: treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au

COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program -

T 08 8303 2026 Toll Free 1800 072 722 F 08 8303 0943 E sasbc@sa.gov.au GPO Box 1264, Adelaide SA 5001

ABN 34 643 517 562 www.sasbc.sa,gov.au

Dear Treasurer

refer to previous correspondence concerning the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Pothe Grant Program).	ogram·
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I have recently brought to your attention a number of small business owners who were unable to complete their application by the closing date of 1 June 2020, either due to technical difficulties with the DTF website, such as the inability to save an application and the DTF website crashing, or because of the difficulty in completing the application as they found the process too complicated.

I ask that you grant an extension of time to submit her application given the enormous as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I can be contacted on 0418 829 964 or <u>john.chapman@sa.gov.au</u> to discuss my request in further detail.



Yours sincerely

John Chapman Small Business Commissioner (July 2020

TRS20D2197

Government of South Australia

Mr John Chapman Small Business Commissioner GPO Box 1264 ADELAIDE SA 5001 Treasurer
Level 8
State Administration Centre
200 Victoria Square
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GPO Box 2264
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 56203 Victoria Square
Tel 08 8226 1866
treasurer.dt@sa.gov.au

john.chapman@sa.gov.au

Tel.,
Dear Commissioner

Thank you for your letter dated 1 July 2020 on behalf of

I am advised by the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) that successfully submitted several Small Business Grant applications prior to the grant closing date of 1 June 2020. Further, I am advised that DTF has no record of contact by prior to application close seeking assistance with technical difficulties to submit the application in question.

I am satisfied that there is no technical basis to accept a late application from

As you will understand grant schemes like this always have a deadline and if an exception was made for one applicant then many other applicants would soon follow.

Both the Commonwealth and State Governments have announced significant COVID-19 response packages with the Marshall Government's response amounting to \$1 billion. New initiatives continue to be developed in response to the changing environment.

More information on the State Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic can be found at <a href="https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au">www.covid-19.sa.gov.au</a>.

The Marshall Liberal Government has a strong and clear plan to keep South Australians safe during this unprecedented pandemic and to support the recovery of South Australian businesses as guickly as possible.

I trust this will assist in you responding.

Yours sincerely

Hon Rob Lucas MLC

Treasurer

13 July 2020



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Government of South Australia

Dear Treasurer

COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program –
I refer to previous correspondence concerning the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program.
They would reach the page with the submit button and then the website would crash, and they would have to start the whole application again because the website did not provide the option to save the application.

This business has undoubtedly been highly adversely impacted by COVID-19 related restrictions.

Had it not been for the difficulties experienced on the website of DTF, this application would have been successfully lodged on time. In my view this is another genuine case which warrants a review given the circumstances.

I can be contacted on 0418 829 964 or john.chapman@sa.gov.au to discuss my request in further detail.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

John Chapman

**Small Business Commissioner** 

/ st July 2020



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Dear Treasurer

COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program –
I refer to previous correspondence concerning the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program.

Given the unfortunate circumstances, I request that you reconsider this particular case and grant an extension of time to assist this small business that has been highly adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



I can be contacted on 0418 829 964 or john.chapman@sa.gov.au to discuss my request in further detail.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

John Chapman

Small Business Commissioner

JULY 2020



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon Rob Lucas MLC Treasurer GPO Box 2264 ADELAIDE SA 5000

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Dear Treasurer

COVID-19 Small Busines:	Grant Program –	<b>经企业的</b> 医基础性 <b>第</b>
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I refer to previous correspondence concerning the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program.

which

clearly demonstrates that his business has been highly adversely impacted by COVID-19 related restrictions.

I note your comments in the article published in The Advertiser on 8 July 2020 that the Government was targeting people who employed others, however, in my view the scheme should be expanded to include sole traders and businesses without employees.



I can be contacted on 0418 829 964 or john.chapman@sa.gov.au to discuss my request in further detail.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

John Chapman Small Business Commissioner

Eth July 2020

## The Hon Rob Lucas MLC

TRS20D2186

Government of South Australia

Treasurer
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Mr John Chapman Small Business Commissioner GPO Box 1264 ADELAIDE SA 5001

john.chapman@sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Chapman

Thank you for your letter dated 16 June 2020, on behalf of about the Government's small business grant.

Only evidence of

enrolment in JobKeeper was required to apply for the grant. The Frequently Asked Questions addressed this:

Q: Does enrolment into JobKeeper constitute evidence of eligibility for this grant?

You may provide confirmation of your enrolment with the JobKeeper program to support your application for a Small Business Grant. Note that you may be requested to provide further evidence (such as evidence of JobKeeper payments) at a later date, and will be subject to the audit provisions of the grant Terms and Conditions. Alternatively, you may choose to wait and submit your application with evidence of JobKeeper payments received prior to the Small Business Grant closing date of 1 June 2020.

The applications for the \$10,000 emergency cash grants for small business closed at midnight on 1 June 2020, and I advise that the Government has not approved any extension to this date.

The South Australian Government is providing a range of other supports to South Australian businesses, including:

 up to a 25% waiver on 2019-20 land tax liabilities for properties leased to tenants that have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Land tax relief will apply to eligible landlords who demonstrate that they will pass on at least the value of the land tax relief to affected tenants:

- an increase to the Land Tax Transition Relief Fund from 50% to 100%; and
- a deferral of outstanding quarterly land tax bills for 2019-20 for up to six months.

Protections have also been included in South Australian legislation to ensure that tenants who are experiencing financial hardship cannot be evicted for failure to pay rent or outgoings.

These measures are intended to help support businesses in relation to their cash flow pressures where they are experiencing a downturn in trade. The South Australian Department of Innovation and Skills Small Business Team provides information and tailored support to small business, assisting small businesses to navigate initiatives that are available to them. The SA Small Business Information Hub, incorporates initiatives from both the State and Commonwealth Government and can be found at <a href="http://www.business.sa.gov.au">http://www.business.sa.gov.au</a>. The Small Business team can be contacted via email: <a href="http://www.business@sa.gov.au">dis.smallbusiness@sa.gov.au</a> or by phone on 8429 3801.

The Commonwealth Government has also provided a range of support packages to help sole traders in South Australia, including the JobKeeper payment of \$1,500 for eligible sole traders, the Boosting Cash Flow for Employers Scheme and the JobSeeker Payment.

The Marshall Liberal Government has a strong and clear plan to keep South Australians safe during this unprecedented pandemic and to support the recovery of South Australian businesses as quickly as possible.

Thank you for writing to the Government on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Hon Rob Lucas MLC

Treasurer

July 2020



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Dear Treasurer

COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program -

I refer to previous correspondence concerning the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program.

has been advised by the Small Business COVID-19 Grant Team that his Small Business Grant application has been assessed an ineligible because the application was submitted after the official closing date of 1 June 2020.

only to find out that the closing date for

applications was 1 June 2020.



In my view this case warrants a review of the decision because of the particular circumstances. I note in previous correspondence you have advised that only evidence of enrolment in JobKeeper was required to apply for the grant. I would like to point out that this is unclear from the information set out in the *Small Business Grant: COVID-19 Assistance Guidelines*. It is unrealistic to expect a small business proprietor to read the Frequently Asked Questions on a separate web page, particularly at a time when the business is facing closure.

I can be contacted on 0418 829 964 or john.chapman@sa.gov.au to discuss my request in further detail.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

John Chapman

Small Business Commissioner

June 2020

The Hon Rob Lucas MLC



TRS20D2105

Mr John Chapman Small Business Commissioner GPO Box 1264 ADELAIDE SA 5001 Treasurer
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john,chapman@sa,gov.au

J ø∖ <sub>∼</sub> Dear Mr Çhápman

Thank you for your letter dated 24 June 2020 on behalf of about the Government's Small Business Grant.

I am advised by the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) that

I am satisfied that DTF fulfilled its obligation to email the applicant that applications were open, and that there is therefore no basis to accept a late application from

As you are aware, applications for the \$10,000 emergency cash grants for small business closed at midnight on 1 June 2020, and the Government has not approved any extension to this date.

As you will understand grant schemes like this always have a deadline and if an exception was made for one applicant then many other applicants would soon follow.

Both the Commonwealth and State Governments have announced significant COVID-19 response packages with the Marshall Government's response amounting to \$1 billion. New initiatives continue to be developed in response to the changing environment.

More information on the State Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic can be found at <a href="https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au">www.covid-19.sa.gov.au</a>

The Marshall Liberal Government has a strong and clear plan to keep South Australians safe during this unprecedented pandemic and to support the recovery of South Australian businesses as quickly as possible.

Thank you for writing to the Government on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Hon Rob Lucas MLC

Treasurer

<sup>3</sup> July 2020



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Dear Treasurer

COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program –
I refer to previous correspondence concerning the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program.
I have been contacted by

says that she did not receive any further information from the Department of Treasury and Finance, and in light of this, failed to submit her application prior to the closing date on 1 June 2020.

I would be grateful if you would reconsider the Government's position in this particular case.

I can be contacted on 0418 829 964 or <u>john.chapman@sa.gov.au</u> to discuss my request in further detail.



Yours sincerely

John Chapman
Small Business Commissioner
244 June 2020

## The Hon Rob Lucas MLC

TRS20D2064, TRS20D2066 TRS20D2067, TRS20D2070 TRS20D2071

Mr John Chapman Small Business Commissioner **GPO Box 1264** ADELAIDE SA 5001

of South Australia Treasurer

Level 8 State Administration Centre 200 Victoria Square Adelaide SA 5000 GPO Box 2264 Adelaide SA 5001 DX 56203 Victoria Square Tel 08 8226 1866 treasurer,dtf@sa.gov.au

john.chapman@sa.gov.au

John

Dear Mr Chapman

Thank you for your letters dated 22 June 2020, on behalf of

As per my previous correspondence, the applications for the \$10,000 emergency cash grants for small business closed at midnight on 1 June 2020, and I advise that the Government has not approved any extension to this date.

As you will understand grant schemes like this always have a deadline and if an exception was made for one applicant then many other applications would soon follow.

Also a key criterion of the grant is that a business must have employed staff as at 1 March 2020. In relation to taxpayer funded assistance the Government has made it clear that it wants to save as many jobs as possible. Therefore the small business cash grant has been targeted to those businesses that employ South Australians because taxpayers cannot afford to assist every small business in the state.

At this time, the State Government has no plans to open a second small business grant. As you will understand it is unfair to expect South Australian taxpayers to solve every problem created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some applicants have indicated to you that they were waiting for proof of eligibility for the JobKeeper payment before applying for the small business grant. Only evidence of enrolment in JobKeeper was required to apply for the grant. The Frequently Asked Questions addressed this:

Q: Does enrolment into JobKeeper constitute evidence of eligibility for this grant?

You may provide confirmation of your enrolment with the JobKeeper program to support your application for a Small Business Grant. Note that you may be requested to provide further evidence (such as evidence of JobKeeper payments) at a later date, and will be subject to the audit provisions of the grant Terms and Conditions. Alternatively, you may choose to wait and submit your application with evidence of JobKeeper payments received prior to the Small Business Grant closing date of 1 June 2020.

The South Australian Government is also providing a range of support to businesses in South Australia. While the \$10,000 Small Business Emergency Cash Grant is not available to sole traders, the Government is providing a range of other supports to South Australian businesses, including:

- up to a 25% waiver on 2019-20 land tax liabilities for properties leased to tenants that have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Land tax relief will apply to eligible landlords who demonstrate that they will pass on at least the value of the land tax relief to affected tenants:
- an increase to the Land Tax Transition Relief Fund from 50% to 100%; and
- a deferral of outstanding quarterly land tax bills for 2019-20 for up to six months.

Protections have also been included in South Australian legislation to ensure that tenants who are experiencing financial hardship cannot be evicted for failure to pay rent or outgoings.

These measures are intended to help support businesses in relation to their cash flow pressures where they are experiencing a downturn in trade. The South Australian Department of Innovation and Skills Small Business Team provides information and tailored support to small business, assisting small businesses to navigate initiatives that are available to them. The SA Small Business Information Hub, incorporates initiatives from both the State and Commonwealth Government and can be found at <a href="http://www.business.sa.gov.au">http://www.business.sa.gov.au</a>. The Small Business team can be contacted via email: <a href="http://www.business@sa.gov.au">dis.smallbusiness@sa.gov.au</a> or by phone on 8429 3801.

The Commonwealth Government has provided a range of support packages to help sole traders in South Australia, including the JobKeeper payment of \$1,500 for eligible sole traders, the Boosting Cash Flow for Employers Scheme and the JobSeeker Payment.

The Marshall Liberal Government has a strong and clear plan to keep South Australians safe during this unprecedented pandemic and to support the recovery of South Australian businesses as quickly as possible.

I trust that this information will assist you in responding to people who have contacted your office about the small business grant.

Yours sincerely

Hon Rob Lucas MLC

Treasurer

July 2020



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Dear Treasurer

COVID-19 Small	Business	<b>Grant Program</b>	-

I refer to previous correspondence concerning the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program.



has discussed her circumstances with the Small Business Grant Team, who advised her that she would be eligible for a non-COVID19 related small business grant, however, these grants are not available at the present time.

She has asked that the Government reconsider its policy position in relation to incline in the i

I would be grateful if you would reconsider the Government's position in this particular case.

I can be contacted on 0418 829 964 or <u>john.chapman@sa.gov.au</u> to discuss my request in further detail.



Yours sincerely

John Chapman Small Business Commissioner

22M June 2020



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Dear Treasurer

COVID-19 Small Business	Grant Program -	k

I refer to previous correspondence concerning the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program.

business has been highly adversely impacted by COVID-19 related restrictions.

Due to the restrictions, was forced to close her business for three months.

points out that the closing date for applications for the Small Business Grant Program in New South Wales is 30 June 2020, which gives small businesses more time to gather the information and documents required to complete the application.

I would be grateful if you would show some leniency in this matter, in the event that is able to meet the eligibility criteria, given the unfortunate circumstances.

I can be contacted on 0418 829 964 or <u>john.chapman@sa.gov.au</u> to discuss my request in further detail.



Yours sincerely

John Chapman
Small Business Commissioner

All June 2020



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Dear Treasurer

COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program –
I refer to previous correspondence concerning the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program.
further advises that he was unable to complete his application for a COVID-19 small business grant before the closing date of 1 June 2020 because

I would be grateful if you would show some leniency in this matter, in the event that is able to meet the eligibility criteria, given his unfortunate personal circumstances.

is currently receiving JobKeeper, which

I can be contacted on 0418 829 964 or john.chapman@sa.gov.au to discuss my request in further detail.



Yours sincerely

John Chapman
Small Business Commissioner
June 2020



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Dear Treasurer

COVID-19 Small business Grant Program -
I refer to previous correspondence concerning the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program.
He then attempted to apply for the Government's COVID-19 small business grant, only to find out that he had missed the closing date.
I would be grateful if you would show some leniency in this matter, in the event that is able to meet the eligibility criteria, given the unfortunate circumstances.

I can be contacted on 0418 829 964 or john.chapman@sa.gov.au to discuss my request in further detail.



Yours sincerely

John Chapman Small Business Commissioner

27 June 2020



By email: treasurer.dtf@sa.gov.au

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Dear Treasurer

COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program –
l refer to previous correspondence concerning the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program.
On 15 June 2020, the Small Business Grant Team advised that his application had been assessed as ineligible because the application was submitted after the closing date on 1 June 2020. The Small Business Grant Team suggested that should contact my office if he wished to appeal the decision.

I can be contacted on 0418 829 964 or john.chapman@sa.gov.au to discuss my request in further detail.

I would be grateful if you would show some leniency in this matter, in the event that

is able to meet the eligibility criteria, given the circumstances.



Yours sincerely

John Chapman
Small Business Commissioner

22 June 2020

## The Hon Rob Lucas MLC



TRS20D1975

Mr John Chapman Small Business Commissioner GPO Box 1264 ADELAIDE SA 5001 Treasurer
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john.chapman@sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Chapman

Thank you for your letter dated 16 June 2020, on behalf of

has indicated to you that she was waiting for proof of eligibility for the JobKeeper payment before applying for the small business grant. Only evidence of enrolment in JobKeeper was required to apply for the grant. The Frequently Asked Questions addressed this:

Q: Does enrolment into JobKeeper constitute evidence of eligibility for this grant?

You may provide confirmation of your enrolment with the JobKeeper program to support your application for a Small Business Grant. Note that you may be requested to provide further evidence (such as evidence of JobKeeper payments) at a later date, and will be subject to the audit provisions of the grant Terms and Conditions. Alternatively, you may choose to wait and submit your application with evidence of JobKeeper payments received prior to the Small Business Grant closing date of 1 June 2020.

The applications for the \$10,000 emergency cash grants for small business closed at midnight on 1 June 2020, and I advise that the Government has not approved any extension to this date.

The South Australian Government is also providing a range of support to businesses in South Australia. While the \$10,000 Small Business Emergency Cash Grant is not available to sole traders, the Government is a providing a range of other supports to South Australian businesses, including:

- up to a 25% waiver on 2019-20 land tax liabilities for properties leased to tenants that have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Land tax relief will apply to eligible landlords who demonstrate that they will pass on at least the value of the land tax relief to affected tenants;
- an increase to the Land Tax Transition Relief Fund from 50% to 100%; and
- a deferral of outstanding quarterly land tax bills for 2019-20 for up to six months.

Protections have also been included in South Australian legislation to ensure that tenants who are experiencing financial hardship cannot be evicted for failure to pay rent or outgoings.

These measures are intended to help support businesses in relation to their cash flow pressures where they are experiencing a downturn in trade. The South Australian Department of Innovation and Skills Small Business Team provides information and tailored support to small business, assisting small businesses to navigate initiatives that are available to them. The SA Small Business Information Hub, incorporates initiatives from both the State and Commonwealth Government and can be found at <a href="http://www.business.sa.gov.au">http://www.business.sa.gov.au</a>. The Small Business team can be contacted via email: <a href="http://www.business@sa.gov.au">dis.smallbusiness@sa.gov.au</a> or by phone on 8429 3801.

The Commonwealth Government has also provided a range of support packages to help sole traders in South Australia, including the JobKeeper payment of \$1,500 for eligible sole traders, the Boosting Cash Flow for Employers Scheme and the JobSeeker Payment.

The Marshall Liberal Government has a strong and clear plan to keep South Australians safe during this unprecedented pandemic and to support the recovery of South Australian businesses as quickly as possible.

Thank you for writing to the Government on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Hon Rob Lucas MLC

Treasurer

Jy June 2020



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Dear Treasurer

COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program –
I refer to previous correspondence concerning the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program.
数据 (E)
has checked the eligibility criteria for the COVID-19 small business grant, and believes she meets the criteria. was of the understanding that she needed to provide evidence that the business was eligible for the JobKeeper payment.
then went to apply for the small business grant on 2 June 2020, only to realise that the time to lodge an application had closed.
has made contact with the Small Business Grant Team, who suggested that she seek assistance from my office.
I would be grateful if you would show some leniency in this matter, in the event that is able to meet the eligibility criteria, given the unfortunate circumstances.



I can be contacted on 0418 829 964 or john.chapman@sa.gov.au to discuss my request in further detail.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

John Chapman Small Business Commissioner /6 June 2020