

# Media Release

**The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC**

Minister for Employment

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy

Minister for Small Business



Thursday, 26 November 2020

## BACKING VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL BUSINESSES TO THRIVE

Victorian Aboriginal businesses will get the support they need to recover and thrive with grants of up to \$10,000 unveiled in this week's *Victorian Budget 2020/21*.

Minister for Small Business Jaala Pulford said the \$3 million *First Peoples' COVID-19 Business Support Fund* will benefit eligible Aboriginal businesses that have experienced temporary closures, trading restrictions or other issues relating to the pandemic that have had a significant impact on operations and income.

The economic advancement of Aboriginal Victorians is critical for self-determination – that's why the Andrews Labor Government is providing grants to meet business costs and salaries, develop marketing activities, pivot the business to better suit the current environment or seek financial advice to support business continuity planning.

Victorian Aboriginal businesses could be eligible for a grants of up to \$10,000, with Kinaway Chamber of Commerce to receive \$150,000 to provide certification, taxation and other advice, and to promote the Fund to Aboriginal businesses.

Support for Aboriginal businesses adds to the overall Budget investment in small business, including the \$6 million Small Business Support Toolkit and the \$5 million Ready for Growth Initiative, helping businesses to digitise and innovate, adapt to meet changing customer needs, reach new markets and create jobs.

The Budget also invests \$7.3 million to support opportunity and economic prosperity for Victorian Aboriginal communities through support for bodies including Kinaway and investment in Aboriginal tourism initiatives.

More information on the *First Peoples' COVID-19 Business Support Fund* is available at [business.vic.gov.au](https://business.vic.gov.au).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Small Business Jaala Pulford

*"We are helping Aboriginal businesses thrive, no matter their size – from one-person operations to significant employers."*

*"More than 240 Victorian Aboriginal businesses are certified by the Kinaway Chamber of Commerce and we're helping those hardest hit by the pandemic to recover and return stronger than ever."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gabrielle Williams

*"This is a really important opportunity for our Aboriginal small businesses who have been heavily impacted by the coronavirus pandemic to reach out for support – and we're delighted to play our part in providing it."*

### Quotes attributable to Kinaway Chamber of Commerce chief executive Scott McCartney

*"The First People's COVID-19 Business Support Fund is another example where the specific needs of Victorian Aboriginal business have been taken into account."*

*"The Fund will help ensure Aboriginal businesses remain engaged and on the forefront of the Victorian economic landscape."*

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