

# Media Release

**The Hon Luke Donnellan MP**  
Minister for Child Protection  
Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers



Monday, 7 June 2021

## **NO ONE LEFT BEHIND: MORE SUPPORT FOR VICTORIANS IN NEED**

The Victorian Government is making sure no Victorian is left behind, providing a dedicated boost to hardship payments and emergency food relief for our state's most vulnerable.

The Government today announced an additional \$30 million package to ensure this critical help – including food and financial support – is made available to communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

More support will be delivered to Victorians struggling to put a meal on the table with a \$4.5 million boost to expand the capacity of community food relief organisations – building on the more than \$31 million of additional relief delivered since February 2020.

This includes supporting new partnerships between food relief organisations and local restaurants, cafes and hospitality businesses – enabling them to rapidly purchase raw produce and prepared meals for Victorians in need. Not only will this help our most vulnerable Victorians, it'll also support local businesses and local workers.

The package also expands Foodbank Victoria's mobile food van service across the state, reaching vulnerable groups such as casual workers and students, as well as extending Foodbank's pop-up international student supermarket in the Melbourne CBD until December 2021.

Ensuring multicultural Victorians can continue to access culturally appropriate emergency support and vital public health information, the package delivers \$12.1 million to expand the critical work of the CALD Communities Taskforce.

This includes a \$5 million funding boost to the Priority Response to Multicultural Communities grants program, which helps local organisations deliver emergency relief, including culturally appropriate food.

More than \$7 million will ensure culturally and linguistically diverse Victorians have the information they need to stay safe, with targeted communications, translation and direct engagement, including support for organisations at a local level.

The Extreme Hardship Support Program has also been extended, ensuring continued assistance for Victorians who are not eligible for income support from the Commonwealth Government.

This includes help for Victorians who are often most at-risk from the pandemic, including temporary and undocumented migrants and those on temporary and provisional visas, with a \$13.5 million boost to emergency financial assistance, information, referrals and complex casework support.

This builds on the more than \$49 million the Victorian Government has announced in dedicated support to our state's multicultural and multifaith communities during the pandemic.

### **Quote attributable to Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Luke Donnellan**

*"We're helping put food on the table for Victorians in need – who, until we have widespread vaccine coverage, will continue to be disproportionately impacted by this pandemic."*

**Quote attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence**

*“Victoria’s diverse communities have shown enormous strength and heart throughout the pandemic and we’re making sure they have the support and information they need, when they need it.”*

**Quote attributable to Minister for Health Martin Foley**

*“No Victorian should be left behind as we fight this pandemic – we’re ensuring we all make it through together.”*