

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Monday, 27 September 2021

VICTORIA BOOSTS GPs AND PHARMACIES FOR VACCINE PUSH

The Victorian Government is offering grants of \$4,000 and up to \$10,000 to GPs and community pharmacies in 11 key Local Government Areas across Melbourne, helping them to turbocharge the local rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The *COVID-19 Vaccination Enhancement Grants* will help participating providers use their full vaccine allocations and promote points of access within their local communities, supporting them to fund additional workforce or operational costs associated with the effort.

With this support, primary care providers across Melbourne's outer suburbs have the potential to deliver innovative, large-scale vaccination sessions in central and familiar locations, including with walk-up opportunities.

Grants of \$4,000 will be available to 120 providers who are successful through an Expression of Interest process. Up to 10 grants can be increased to \$10,000 if providers can demonstrate further capacity to deliver.

The first locations for these grants will be suburbs in Moreland – however, the EOI will be open to all GPs and Pharmacies in the priority Local Government Areas of Brimbank, Cardinia, Casey, Darebin, Greater Dandenong, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Melton, Whittlesea and Wyndham.

While general practices and pharmacies will remain funded by the Commonwealth to deliver vaccines, Victoria's grant program is about providing additional support that can make a difference quickly – and reflects the urgent need to increase uptake in Melbourne's young and diverse outer suburban communities.

At the commencement of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 vaccination program, states and territories were slated to deliver around a quarter of all vaccines. Currently, the Victorian Government has delivered around half of all vaccinations across the state, and is proud to work alongside GPs and community pharmacies in a partnership to protect all Victorians.

Almost 80 per cent of Victorians have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Importantly, all providers in Victoria now have more certainty of Pfizer supply in October.

Providers selected for a *COVID-19 Vaccination Enhancement Grant* must demonstrate that they are able to maximise their dose administration in the weeks commencing 4 and 11 October. They must have the infrastructure and workforce available to deliver this supply, with walk-ups permitted if safe and feasible.

The Expression of Interest form is available at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-enhancement-grants. The EOI must be completed by 12pm 3 October, and successful providers will be notified by Monday 4 October and invited to a briefing that evening. Funding will be released as soon as practicable.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"What matters is not the name of the vaccine, or whether it's stored in a fridge at a small clinic or a mass vaccination centre – what matters is getting it into people's arms, and that's what these grants are all about."

"Supply to our GPs and pharmacies is improving, and this is a great opportunity for the Commonwealth to provide even more doses to local settings in areas with the most cases."

For more information call the coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 or visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Health Martin Foley

“It’s now easier than ever to find a vaccine near you – whether at your local GP or pharmacy, at a state-run centre, or at a community pop-up in a church, school or shopping centre.”