

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Employment

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy

Minister for Small Business

Minister for Resources



Wednesday, 6 April 2022

IMPROVING THE AIR IN OUR SMALL BUSINESSES

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting small businesses to improve indoor air-quality, keeping Victorians safe and reducing the spread COVID-19.

Minister for Small Business Jaala Pulford today encouraged applications for the \$60 million *Small Business Ventilation Program*.

Eligible businesses can now access between \$500 and \$5000 for air ventilation and filtration equipment, works or professional services that will help improve air quality indoors.

Improving ventilation not only helps reduce the spread of COVID-19 it gives customers confidence businesses are doing everything they can to keep them safe.

Under the program, businesses can apply for two types of support:

- **Ventilation Rebate** – a \$500 rebate to take immediate actions such as purchasing an air purifier or hiring a qualified tradesperson to undertake minor services to improve ventilation.
- **Ventilation Grant** – matched grants between \$1000 and \$5000 to invest in larger projects such as building works or engaging professional services or equipment to improve ventilation.

Good ventilation is important because COVID-19 is airborne and primarily spread between people breathing in very small droplets or aerosols containing the virus. The risk of aerosol transmission is higher in a poorly ventilated space because fine aerosol spray from an infected person can remain circulating, linger and spread more easily.

The Labor Government has released a Small Business Ventilation Guide to help businesses improve ventilation and reduce the spread of COVID-19 by encouraging air flow from outside. Business owners are encouraged to read this guide before applying.

Applications will be assessed for eligibility on a first-come, first-served basis until 11.59pm Friday 24 June 2022 or until funds are exhausted.

The Small Business Ventilation Program is part of a \$200 million stimulus injection to support businesses recover from the pandemic.

The new program builds on the Government's measures improving ventilation to limit the spread of COVID-19. For more information on improving ventilation in the workplace, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au/ventilation.

For more information on the program visit business.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Small Business Jaala Pulford

"COVID-19 is still very much with us, so we are working with small businesses to help make premises safer."

"Improving ventilation will not only help reduce the spread of COVID-19, but it will also give customers confidence when walking through the doors of their local shops, cafes and bars."

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