

# Media Release

**The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**

Minister for Energy

Minister for the Environment and Climate Action

Minister for Solar Homes



Sunday, 7 August 2022

## TARGETED SUPPORT FOR BILL BUSTING BONUS

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering tailored support through community organisations to ensure that everyone can apply for the \$250 Power Saving Bonus and access immediate bill relief.

Funding for a new phase of the Community Outreach Program will support households who may not have access to a computer or the internet, or who otherwise may struggle to apply for the \$250 payment.

As part of the program, the Labor Government is partnering with community health organisation, Cohealth, to provide on-the-ground support at 17 public housing high rise estates. Residents will receive help to apply for the \$250 payment, but also advice on accessing energy concessions and a better energy deal.

Since 1 July, more than 1.2 million households have had their applications for the one-off payment approved and paid, providing \$259 million in immediate cost of living support at a time many Victorians need it the most.

Over 24,000 applications have already been received through community outreach partners and the VEC helpline on 1800 000 832.

Community organisations participating under the new phase of the Community Outreach Program include Brotherhood of St Laurence, Consumer Action Law Centre, Ethnic Community Council Victoria, Good Shepherd, Neighbourhood House and State Trustees.

All Victorian households are eligible for the \$250 payment, including the more than 410,000 concession card holders who previously claimed under an earlier phase of the program. The payment is available through the Victorian Energy Compare website – the only independent tool to help you find your best energy deal.

The surge in demand for the payment has seen the Victorian Government add another \$205 million to the program, on top of its initial \$250 million funding.

User data shows that seven out of every 10 users saved an average of \$330 by switching energy offers. The \$250 Power Saving Bonus is available until 30 June 2023 and there are no limits on the number of households who can apply.

Other programs helping households and businesses to slash energy bills include Victorian Energy Upgrades, which provides upfront incentives for low-cost-to-free energy efficient products, and Solar Victoria, which offers households and businesses discounted solar panels, hot water, batteries and efficient heating and cooling.

To apply and for more information go to: [compare.energy.vic.gov.au](https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au)

### Quote attributable to Minister for Energy Lily D'Ambrosio

*"The \$250 Power Saving Bonus has been an immediate success, with more than a million Victorians comparing their bills to see if they can get a better deal and tailored outreach support for Victorians that needs it most."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Southern Metropolitan Region Nina Taylor

*"From the Power Saving Bonus to the utility relief grant scheme – we are protecting vulnerable Victorians, helping everyone save money by being more energy efficient and find a better deal on their energy bill."*

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