

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Training and Skills

Minister for Higher Education

Minister for Agriculture



Monday, 27 March 2023

VICTORIA LEADS THE WAY IN LOCAL DISTILLING BOOM

More than 300 distillers from around the country have come together in Port Melbourne to discuss professional development, industry insights and trade opportunities.

Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney today opened the Australian Distillers Association Annual Conference with the theme "Safe, Smart, Sustainable".

The conference was held in Melbourne for the second year running, a testament to the importance of the distilling industry in Victoria.

Victoria is home to more than 120 distillers, which is more than any other state and the industry employs over 1,000 people in high-quality and rewarding manufacturing jobs.

The Andrews Labor Government is working closely with industry, the Australian Distillers Association and Spirits Victoria Association to develop and deliver the *\$10 million Distillery Door Program*.

To further support industry, the application deadline has been extended for the Distillery Support grants:

Infrastructure Grants of up to \$20,000 are available to support Victorian business operations and efficiency through investment and improvements in on-site infrastructure.

Boosting Visitor Economy Grants of up to \$70,000 are available to establish or enhance a Victorian distillery door and attract more visitors to enjoy unique and innovative experiences.

Both grants are now open for eligible distillers until **Friday 5 May 2023**.

The grants are only one part of the Program which supports distillers to develop skills, boost the visitor economy, develop infrastructure, and increase export capability.

To apply for the grants, visit the Business Victoria [website](#) and for more information on the Distillery Door Program visit the Agriculture Victoria [website](#).

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney

"15 years ago, Victoria had zero distillers, but today some of our distillers are among the very best in the world."

"I am proud of the work that has been done so far and look forward to seeing how, with the Victorian Government's support, the industry can continue to grow and serve as a vital part of our tourism sector."

Quotes attributable to Australian Distillers Association CEO Paul McLeay

"Australia's distillery industry continues to grow and evolve and our governments can play a vital role in supporting the future."

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