



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COVID-19 2021 PANDEMIC RESPONSE  
Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by ELIZABETH LEE MLA: To ask the Chief Minister

In relation to business support grants, to date:

1. How many applications were received?
2. How many applications were approved and paid within:
  - a. one week?
  - b. two weeks?
  - c. three weeks?
  - d. four weeks?
  - e. longer than four weeks?from the date the application was submitted?
3. How many applications were rejected and notice provided within:
  - a. one week?
  - b. two weeks?
  - c. three weeks?
  - d. four weeks?
  - e. longer than four weeks?from the date the application was submitted?
4. How many applications were subject to a request for further information?
  - a. how was the further information requested?
  - b. how many applicants submitted the further information?
  - c. how many applications did not submit the requested further information?
  - d. please provide a breakdown of the number of grants that were approved for 4. b. above, within:
    - i. one week?
    - ii. two weeks?
    - iii. three weeks?
    - iv. four weeks?
    - v. longer than four weeks?
5. What is the total cost of the business support grants paid out:
  - a. by the ACT government?
  - b. by the federal government?

In relation to the small business hardship scheme, to date:

1. How many register of interests have been received?
2. What is the total cost of the small business hardship scheme?
  - a. what will be the amount paid per applicant?
  - b. how is the amount to be paid per applicant calculated?
3. When will the scheme open?
4. How long will it take for applications to be processed once open?
5. How will applicants be noticed of their approval or rejection?
6. What review mechanisms will be available for applicants who are not approved?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

#### Business Support Grants

1. In total, 11,691 applications were received for the COVID-19 Business Support Grant program.
2. As per the COVID-19 Business Support Grant Guidelines, payments were to be made “within 30 days (on average) of receiving a correctly-lodged application”.

Applications that have been approved were paid within an average of 23.2 days after they were first lodged. This does not delineate between applications that were correctly lodged, and those which were subject to requests for further information. The time taken to process a correctly-lodged application would be considerably lower, but the system is not configured to report against this metric.

A summary of the average time to process applications from their initial submission is below:

<b>Date submitted</b>	<b>Average days to payment</b>
Applications submitted in week 1 (26 Aug - 1 Sept)	27
Applications submitted in week 2 (2 - 8 Sept)	27
Applications submitted in week 3 (9 - 15 Sept)	24
Applications submitted in week 4 (16 - 22 Sept)	17
Applications submitted in week 5 (23 - 29 Sept)	17
Applications submitted in week 6 & 7 (30 Sept - 7 Oct)	15

3. The average time to decline applications was over 30 days. This is because before any applications are declined, businesses are offered multiple opportunities to clarify or provide additional information that would impact a decision to decline the application.
4. In total, 6,521 requests for further information have been sent.
  - a. The request was sent via email. Phone calls were made following up these requests on many occasions.
  - b. To date, responses have been received to 6,377 of these requests.
  - c. 144 applicants have not yet responded to requests for further information.
  - d. This breakdown is not available. Businesses that had responded to requests for further information have been included in the responses to questions two and three.

5. As at 2 November 2021, \$282,230,000 has been approved for payment. These costs are shared on a 50/50 basis between the ACT and Australian Governments.

#### Small Business Hardship Scheme

1. As at 2 November, 9,027 businesses have expressed interest in the Small Business Hardship Scheme
2. The 2021-22 budget allocated \$46.5 million to the Small Business Hardship Scheme. The amount paid to each applicant, and how this is calculated, will be published through the Small Business Hardship Scheme guidelines.
3. The Small Business Hardship Scheme is open for expressions of interest. Applications will open on 15 November 2021.
4. Information about the indicative timeframe to process applications through the Small Business Hardship Scheme will be published in the guidelines.
5. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email.
6. Information about review mechanisms will be available through the Small Business Hardship Scheme guidelines.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the COVID-19 2021 Pandemic Response

Signature: 

Date: 5.11.21

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA