

CORONAVIRUS — LEVEL 2 COVID-19 BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

Statement by Minister for Small Business

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Small Business) [9.14 am]: I would like to bring to the attention of the house that the \$72 million level 2 COVID-19 business assistance grants were opened exactly one week ago. The level 2 package includes a \$66.8 million small business hardship grants program; \$2.8 million of payroll tax relief for large hospitality businesses; and \$2.1 million for the COVID-19 commercial sporting franchises support program. Among other things, the small business hardship grants program will provide a \$3 000 grant for sole traders; a \$7 500 grant for micro businesses, which are those businesses with one to five employees; a \$20 000 grant for small businesses, which are those businesses that employ six to 19 people; and \$50 000 for medium-sized businesses, which is a business with 20 or more employees and an annual payroll of up to \$4 million. Eligible large hospitality businesses with payrolls of between \$4 million and \$20 million can receive a three-month payroll tax waiver if they have experienced at least a 50 per cent drop in turnover over any four-week period between 1 January 2022 and 30 April 2022 compared with last year. This level 2 package provides support to all eligible businesses that meet the criteria, including the hospitality, arts and events industries. Small businesses that apply for and receive funding from other recent business support programs, including the level 1 COVID-19 business assistance package, are also eligible to receive grants from the level 2 package.

It was only two weeks ago that the McGowan government opened up the \$67 million level 1 COVID-19 business assistance package. The package is targeted at supporting businesses that have been adversely affected by the increasing number of cases and the necessary implementation of level 1 public health and social measures. This is the fifth COVID-19 business support package the McGowan government has launched since December. That is because we appreciate and understand that small businesses have been affected by the public health and safety measures introduced to keep the broader community safe, and they have been incredibly successful. We also know that small businesses are helping drive the economy as we move further away from the COVID pandemic. That is why we have committed almost \$1.7 billion in business support over the past two years. I urge all small businesses to check their eligibility regarding this latest package by going to the Small Business Development Corporation website.