

## **COVID-19 BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PACKAGE**

*Statement by Minister for Small Business*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Small Business)** [12.15 pm]: I would like to inform the house that a key component of the McGowan government's level 1 COVID-19 business assistance package opened to small businesses last Thursday. The \$67 million COVID-19 business assistance package will support businesses adversely affected by increasing COVID cases and the necessary implementation of level 1 public health and social measures. This package, which includes eight tailored programs, is in addition to the recently announced \$77 million safe transition support package and the subsequently announced \$72 million level 2 business assistance package.

The small business rental relief package includes: \$42 million for tenant rent relief to eligible small business tenants, and I am pleased to say that businesses can now apply via the Small Business Development Corporation website; the \$10.7 million landlord rent relief incentive to support eligible landlords with \$1 500 grants; and the \$1.5 million tenant rental credit scheme to provide a rental waiver or credit of \$6 000 for eligible small businesses that are tenants of government-owned buildings. This complements the outdoor dining and entertainment support package, which includes \$5 million for the alfresco support program to reimburse small businesses in the hospitality sector; \$3.5 million to waive liquor licensing fees; \$1.8 million for the nightclub assistance program with payments of up to \$50 000 for eligible nightclubs impacted by capacity limits and social distancing; and \$1.3 million for performing arts, theatres and cinemas assistance programs to provide payments of up to \$50 000.

This level 1 COVID-19 assistance package is part of the more than \$1.7 billion that the McGowan government has made available to help small businesses through the pandemic. I urge all small businesses to check their eligibility for this suite of measures.

I am also pleased to inform members that yesterday, an amendment was unanimously passed by this house to allow the Small Business Development Corporation the ability to disburse the funds for applicable grants to small businesses across Western Australia. This will enable even faster provision of relief to small businesses. The bill heads to the Legislative Council today, where I hope it receives the same support so that small businesses can continue to play a vital role in growing the state's economy.