



COVID-19 RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUND

COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund Fact Sheet

The Australian Government has established a \$1 billion COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund to support regions, communities and industry sectors that have been severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Supporting Australia's exhibiting zoos and aquariums

Summary

This initiative provides vital funding to exhibiting zoos and aquariums whose tourism revenue stream has stopped as a result of the travel and social distancing restrictions in place to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Funding will assist these businesses with the fixed operational costs associated with caring for animals, and will help exhibiting zoos and aquariums to remain viable and ready to welcome tourists when restrictions are eased.

Funding

Eligibility

Austrade is working with the Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA) and state and territory tourism organisations to identify businesses that will be eligible for this assistance. These businesses will be exhibiting animal attractions that are important at a national, state or regional level as they contribute to conservation and presentation of animals and drive interstate and international visitation.

Eligible exhibiting zoos and aquariums will have access to a grant that contributes towards up to six months of its animal welfare operating costs. This includes animal feed, veterinarian and other specialised care expenses, and utilities directly related to housing and caring for animals.

The grant will not cover staffing costs as the Australian Government's JobKeeper program already provides support in this area. Capital expenditure or administration costs associated with the general operation of the business are also excluded.

As state and territory governments have primary carriage of animal welfare issues, this program only focuses on exhibiting zoos and aquariums and does not provide assistance to animal refuges and rescue organisations. Nor does it cover nature-based and on-farm experiences, farms, fisheries, reserves and marine-based experiences.

Timing

An initial payment will be made within 10 days of eligible applicants executing a funding agreement. The balance will be paid from 1 July 2020 when the expenses of eligible applicants who can show an ongoing decline in revenue of at least 30 per cent have been established.

Administration

This assistance is part of the Australian Government's \$1 billion Relief and Recovery Fund which is providing assistance to sectors, regions and communities disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Eligible zoos and aquariums identified by ZAA or state and territory tourism organisations will be invited by Austrade to submit an application for a grant.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Austrade will contact all eligible businesses in early May 2020. The Austrade Programs Team can be reached at ZandAGrants@austrade.gov.au or by calling 1800 048 155.