



## 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 Program

#### Summary

In April 2020, the Australian Government announced it would provide \$94.6 million for the Program to run from April to September 2020. This assistance is part of the \$1 billion Relief and Recovery Fund that is helping sectors, regions and communities disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 28 October 2020, the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, extended the Supporting Australia's Exhibiting Zoos and Aquariums Program for a further 6 months to April 2021.

On 11 March 2021, the Prime Minister, Hon Scott Morrison MP extended the Supporting Australia's Exhibiting Zoos and Aquariums Program (the Program) for a further 6 months to September 2021.

This initiative provides vital funding to exhibiting zoos and aquariums whose tourism revenue stream has been affected 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.

#### Eligibility

Austrade worked with the Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA) and state and territory tourism organisations to identify businesses that were eligible for this assistance. These businesses are 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 have access to a grant that contributes towards up to 18 months of their 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 extension to the Program on 11 March also includes animal transfer costs, where the transfer is necessary due to an animal welfare issue.

The grant did not cover staffing costs as the Australian Government's JobKeeper program already provided 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.

For further information please refer to the Program Guidelines at [austrade.gov.au/zoosandaquariums](https://austrade.gov.au/zoosandaquariums)



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### Timing

Payments will be made in 6 parts. Eligible applicants will receive payment within 10 days of entering into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The assessment process for Payment 1 and Payment 2 are now complete. Payment 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be made to eligible applicants who can demonstrate that they still expect to suffer reductions in tourism turnover of at least 30 per cent for the qualifying grant period.

### 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 applicants are exhibiting zoos and aquariums 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. The list of eligible applicants, compiled in consultation with ZAA and state and territory tourism organisations are detailed in the Program Guidelines. Applicants that are eligible to apply for the extension period will remain as per the original guidelines, new applicants cannot apply.

### Further information

For further information contact the Tourism Programs team at Austrade by phone 1800 048 155 or by email [ZandAGrants@austrade.gov.au](mailto:ZandAGrants@austrade.gov.au).