## Bulletin Industry Divisions



Reference No. Specialist Advice Grants/ir-8-22

Date: 31/08/2022

Dear member

The Victorian Government has opened a grants program providing \$2,000 to eligible Victorian small businesses to help pay for specialist business advice from an accountant, bookkeeper or lawyer.

The program is for employing small businesses that are established and have been operating since at least 1 July 2020.

To be eligible for a grant under the Small Business Specialist Advice Pathways Program, a business must meet the following requirements:

- Be a legally structured business registered in Victoria with an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN on and from 1 July 2020.
- Be registered with WorkSafe Victoria.
- Employ 1-19 full-time equivalent staff.

You can find the detailed program guidelines, FAQs and application process here: <u>Small Business</u> <u>Specialist Advice Pathways Program | Business Victoria</u>

\$5M was provided in the State Budget to fund this program which equates to 2,500 grants. While the closing date for applications is nominally 30 September 2022, it will close once the funds are exhausted.

It is expected these grants will go extremely quickly and be oversubscribed so if you think you qualify and would benefit, I would encourage you to not delay in making an application **immediately**.

Please note you do not need to have already received the specialist advice before applying and should not wait until then to make an application because you may miss out.

**Dr Imogen Reid** Lead, Strategy and Policy