

Single site funding support for COVID-19 impacted areas widened in Victoria

Updated 20/07/21

The Australian Government is closely monitoring the situation across Victoria and New South Wales.

Given the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Melbourne and following the [widened declaration of a COVID-19 hotspot by the Australian Government Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paul Kelly](#) to include the Bass Coast Shire, including Phillip Island, and the Mildura local government area, workers at residential aged care facilities in impacted areas are asked to limit their work to a single facility to reduce the risk of transmission and protect workers and residents.

Australian Government grant funding is now available to support implementation of these arrangements in the Bass Coast Shire and Mildura local government area during an initial two week period, from **17 July to 31 July 2021**. Funding for the existing hot spot areas remains as [announced on 16 July 2021](#).

Based on advice from the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer, and in line with advice from the Victorian Government, these arrangements are limited to residential aged care providers in the areas:

- Greater Melbourne (all Metropolitan Melbourne local government areas),
- Moorabool Shire,
- City of Greater Geelong,
- Borough of Queenscliff
- Surf Coast Shire
- Bass Coast Shire, including Phillip Island, and
- Rural City of Mildura

Providers in these areas are asked to adjust their rosters and ensure staff are only working at one residential aged care facility within this region during this time. Workers are encouraged to speak with their primary employer and look to work all shifts during this period with the residential aged care provider where they were working the most hours prior to the outbreak. To the greatest extent possible, the employer should seek to match any hours no longer being worked with a secondary employer to ensure the worker is not financially disadvantaged. It is important workers also retain the security of any secondary employment.

In addition to funding support, providers can also access guidance on practical implementation of single site arrangements, including employee relations expertise, through the [Guiding Principles Support Hub](#) website or hotline on **1800 491 793**

Where these arrangements result in additional workforce expenses, providers are able to seek reimbursement from the Australian Government through the [Support for Aged Care Workers in COVID-19](#) (SACWIC) Grant. The SACWIC grant opportunity remains open until **31 December 2021**.