



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 6 November 2020

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Inquiry into the Government's financial response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts inquiry into the Government's financial response to the COVID-19 pandemic has today written to the Minister for Small Business, Hospitality and Events in relation to details of the recipients of the Government's Emergency Support, Hardship, Business Continuity and Sustainability and Recovery grants.

The names of the recipients have been provided to the Committee on a confidential basis.

The Committee has carefully considered arguments both for and against releasing this information and is mindful of the mental wellbeing of all recipients. However, the Committee understands that the grant application includes a statement that the Government may publicise details for the purposes of public accountability.

Whilst not a unanimous decision, the Committee believes that, in the interests of transparency and fairness, it is appropriate to publish this information in line with accountability for the disbursement of public funds.

The Committee has therefore written to the Minister for Small Business, Hospitality and Events to request that the Government resubmit the documents to the Public Accounts Committee for the purposes of publishing them along with other transcripts and evidence.

Members of the Committee are:

Legislative Council:

Hon Ivan Dean MLC (Chair)

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC (Deputy Chair)

Hon Josh Willie MLC

House of Assembly:

David O'Byrne MP

Nic Street MP

John Tucker MP

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