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We know how hard businesses and families have been hit by these lockdowns and are providing support to help get them through these trying times.

Eligible people will be able to get **\$600 per week** if they have lost 20 or more hours of work, and **\$375 per week** if they have lost between 8 and less than 20 hours of work, or a full day of work.

Claiming the individual payment **online via myGov** is the quickest and easiest option, and the payment is now recurring and automatically paid for any future weeks of a lockdown.

More information about financial support available to Victorians, and how to claim is available on the Services Australia website at: COVID-19 Disaster Payment



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NATIONAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE
MINISTER FOR REGIONALISATION, REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS
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The pandemic has also seen a shift in workplace arrangements with more people working from home and relocating to our regions.

I look forward to exploring opportunities on this front for regional Australia.

As a Nationals Senator, I will always be guided by my values and beliefs that Australia must be a secure prosperous and sovereign nation, and all Australians, regardless of where they live, deserve access to equal opportunities that benefit them and their communities.

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Take care and I hope to see you soon!

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Over a dozen services in the electorate of Indi will receive a share in \$2.7 million through the Liberal and Nationals Government's **Community Child Care Fund**.

It helps improve access to child care and increase workforce participation in remote, regional and disadvantaged communities.

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The funds will support services in areas such as:

- Wangaratta
- Benalla
- Tawonga
- Mount Beauty

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The decision to use engineered timber from the German company, Hess Timber **undermines local jobs and the forestry industry.**

This is yet another blow for our local timber industry. We have some of the best timber in the world in our own backyard, such as **Australian Sustainable Hardwoods** based in *Heyfield*, but this State Labor Government is again using an overseas company for timber constructions. **That's just not on.**

We know the forestry industry is sustainable and adheres to very strict regulations, with Australian foresters upholding some of the highest environmental standards in the world. Yet the Andrews State Government is still hell-bent on shutting down Victoria's native timber industry by 2030. It's ludicrous.

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The Liberal and Nationals Government has committed more than **\$2 billion to bushfire recovery support**, but we know disaster recovery is a long haul.

Applications are now open and close on **2 September 2021.**

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- An additional \$8.9 million to Emergency Relief and Food Relief providers across NSW and Victoria.

Affected Victorians are encouraged to contact the Victorian Storm and Flood Recovery Support Program by calling **1800 560 760.**

The phone line will be open from **8am-7pm Monday to Friday**, and **9am-1pm Saturdays.**



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GO LOCAL FIRST

Restrictions often result in significant challenges for our local small businesses. Let's do what we can to help them get through these difficult and challenging times.

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Regional towns are the engine room of our nation's economy and account for over 60 per cent of exports. Recognising this, the Liberal and Nationals Government announced funding for businesses to help strengthen our supply chains.

I encourage local businesses and manufacturers to apply for matched grants of between \$50,000 and \$2 million under the **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative** that's a key part of the Government's \$1.5 billion **Modern Manufacturing Strategy.**

It aims to help address supply chain vulnerabilities across medicines and agricultural production chemicals. Projects could include scaling up existing manufacturing and workforce skills capability or increasing supply chain transparency through technology.

If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it's the importance of having access to critical products and a strengthened supply chain.

The Nationals in Government know that by investing in manufacturing, it will deliver stronger economic growth for our regions.

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