

IGEA

interactive games & entertainment association

Government Incentives

For Game Developers in Australia
(Including COVID Programs)

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Government Incentives in Australia

This table seeks to compile key business and investment support programs that may be accessed by game businesses in Australia, with separate tables for the programs available federally, and within each state where IGEA has members. It may be helpful to both small and established studios, as well as international publishers seeking to explore a local presence.

This table includes programs that are specifically designed for, or particularly relevant to, games businesses such as game development and marketing funds. The table also includes key business support programs as part of the government's effort to combat the economic fallout of COVID-19 as well as general tax, funding, research and advisory programs for businesses and start-ups.

The applicability and eligibility of members will vary across the programs listed. Please check carefully before you apply; in doubt, reach out to the government organisation in question or contact us.

Programs omitted from the list include many remote area funds, funds unlikely to be used by members (e.g. hiring of apprentices) as well as funds requiring application by consortiums.

Please note that some programs listed may be temporary or lapsing, in hiatus or not currently open for applications. This table is a work in progress, so please report any missing programs that need to be included or out-of-date information to Jens at jens@igea.net.

Federal Government

Type	Name/Link	Description
Trade Support	Export Market Development Grant	Funding for SMEs to develop export markets through reimbursement of up to 50% of eligible promotional expenses within a \$15,000 - \$150,000 threshold
Business Funding	Australian Business Securitisation Fund	Proposed program to support the securitisation market to enable smaller lenders to provide loans to small businesses on more competitive terms.
Business Funding	Entrepreneurs' program	Accelerating Commercialisation grants of up to \$1 million, Innovation Connections grants of up to \$50,000, business management advice and Business Growth grants of up to \$20,000
Incubator	Incubator support and expert-in-residence	Grants of up to \$500,000 or both new and existing incubators and grants of up to \$100,000 for research
Investment Support	Austrade inbound investment advisory service	Guidance for companies to establish and build their business in Australia. Austrade has offices in Asia, North- and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa
Research	CSIRO Kick-Start	Funding of up to \$50,000 for start-ups and SMEs to access CSIRO expertise and capabilities
Talent	Wage subsidies	Grants of up to \$10,000 for hiring certain categories of new employees
Arts Funding	Post-production, Digital & Visual (PDV) offset	30% rebate for work on PDV in Australia, with minimum qualifying expenditure of \$500,000
Tax Incentive	R&D Tax incentive	A refundable 38.5% or 43.5% (for companies with <\$20m turnover) tax offset for research and development expenditure
Tax Incentive	Small business income tax offset	Tax offset of up to \$1,000 per year for unincorporated small businesses
Tax Incentive	Tax incentives for early stage investors	Tax offset (up to \$200,000) and modified CGT treatment for investors in qualifying 'early stage innovation companies'
Trade Support	Austrade landing pads	Start-ups provided with a workspace and support for 90 days in an innovation hub (SF, Tel Aviv, Shanghai, Berlin and Singapore)
Trade Support	Trade missions	Outbound trade missions to international gaming expos (e.g. China Joy)

Trade Support	TradeStart	National trade and export market advisory network for SMEs, available in all major Australian cities
Business Funding	Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII)	Provides small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) with grant funding to develop innovative solutions for government policy and service delivery challenges. Feasibility studies grants of up to \$100,000, proof of concept grants of up to \$1 million.
COVID Programs		
Business Funding	Boosting Cash Flow for Employers	Businesses with an annual turnover of up to \$50m will receive a payment equal to 100% of your salary and wages taxes withheld with a minimum payment of \$10,000 even if you are not required to withhold tax on salary and wages. A maximum payment of \$50,000 will be available. A second payment will be made in the July to October 2020 period. This payment will be another tax- free, cash payment which is equal to the first payment.
Business Funding	Supporting Apprentices and Trainees	Small businesses who retain an apprentice or trainee. Employers of any size and group training organisations that re-engage an eligible out-of-trade apprentice or trainee will be eligible for the subsidy.
Business Funding	Assistance for Affected Regions, Communities and Industries	\$1b is set aside for distribution to a range of programs. Includes \$4.7m for small regional businesses to access free and confidential financial counselling
Tax Incentive	Instant Asset Write-Off (IAOW)	The instant asset write-off threshold has been increased from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expanded access to include businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million). This applies from 12 March 2020 until 30 June 2020, for new or second-hand assets first used or installed ready for use in this timeframe.
Business Funding	2nd Stimulus Package - SME Guarantee Scheme	Federal Government will guarantee half the value of new bank loans to SMEs to unlock up to \$40b in finance. Loans will be repayment free for 6 months.
Business Funding	Stimulus Package - Relaxation of Insolvency Measures	There will be more flexibility in respect of creditor initiated insolvency and voluntary administration actions. Moving the outstanding amounts limits from \$2,000 to \$20,000 and timing to respond to 6 months instead of 21 days.

Business Funding	Business Wage Subsidies (JobKeeper)	<p>The payment rate of \$1,500 per fortnight for eligible employees and business participants will be reduced to \$1,200 per fortnight from 28 September 2020 and to \$1,000 per fortnight from 4 January 2021.</p> <p>Key changes to JobKeeper include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 3 August 2020 the relevant date of employment will move from 1 March to 1 July 2020, increasing employee eligibility for the existing scheme and the extension • Extension of payment until 28 March 2021 • From 20 July 2020 child care providers are no longer eligible and are instead covered by the Federal Childcare Support Package • From 28 September 2020, eligibility for the JobKeeper Payment will be based on actual turnover in the relevant periods, the payment will be stepped down and paid at two rates.
Trade Support	\$500m Loans for Exporters	The new COVID-19 Export Capital Facility will target loans to established and previously profitable exporters who, due to COVID-19, are unable to gain finance from commercial sources.
Business Funding	\$50M NBN Relief	Relief measures will include waiving wholesale monthly costs paid by internet providers for small and medium businesses facing COVID-19 related financial hardship, and providing internet providers with discounted access to new business-grade services until 31 January next year.
Business Funding	Rental Relief Package	Landlords must not cease the lease, tenants must honour lease, landlords must look to reduce rent in proportion to reduction in business turnover i.e. 50% reduction turnover then 50% rent reduction supported by land tax reduction.
Business Funding	Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Guarantee Scheme	The Australian Government will guarantee 50% of the value of eligible business loans to small and medium enterprises impacted by COVID-19. Maximum loan value is \$250,000 and there will be a repayment-free period of 6 months.

New South Wales

Type	Name/Link	Description
Advisory	Business Connect	Network of local business, management or consulting advisors
Business Funding	Building Partnership Grants	Funding of up to \$100,000 for SMEs to expand or pivot technological solutions
Business Funding	GO NSW Equity Fund	Capital funding in exchange for a percentage of ownership
Business Funding	Minimum Viable Product (MVP) grant	Funding of up to \$25,000 for start-ups to develop technological solutions from concept to MVP stage
Business Funding	Regional Investment Attraction Package	Grants, interest free loans and relocation assistance for businesses moving or setting up in regional areas
Business Funding	Sydney Technology & Innovation Precinct	Incentives and support for businesses to move into the precinct available by consultation
Incubator	Sydney Startup Hub	Start-up support and working space (provided through four incubator tenants)
Investment Support	Invest NSW - Investment	Guidance for companies to establish and build their business in NSW. Invest NSW has offices in Asia, the Middle East Europe and San Francisco.
Talent	Jobs Action Plan	Payroll tax rebate of up to \$6,000 for each new job
Trade Support	Export Capability Building Program	Export coaching and workshops
Trade Support	Invest NSW - Investment Concierge	General advisory service for businesses and investors
Arts Funding	Small Project Grants.	Grants between \$500 and \$5000 to support the creation, development and presentation of new work and professional development or promotion for NSW-based professional artists and arts and cultural workers.
Business Funding	Southern Border Small Business Grant	Businesses in 13 Local Government Areas along the NSW and Victorian border will be able to apply for \$5000 and \$10,000 grants through Service NSW from Tuesday 8 September.
Art Funding	Early Development	Early Development offers support for both pre-draft and early draft costs, for any amount up to \$50,000 for creative interactive screen entertainment

Art Funding	Advanced Development	Advanced Development offers support for both pre-draft and early draft costs, for any amount up to \$50,000 for creative interactive screen entertainment
Art Funding	Strategic Opportunities Program	The Strategic Opportunities Program supports individual initiatives and events that demonstrate long-term benefits to the NSW screen industry.
Art Funding	Small Project Grants (Quick Response)	Small Project Grants support the creation, development and presentation of new work and professional development or promotion for NSW-based professional artists and arts and cultural workers. You can apply for between \$500 and \$5000 towards your project.
Business Funding	COVID-19 Rescue and Restart Package	Funding will be available to NSW not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations across the State on a case by case basis.
Business Funding	NSW Government's Export Assistance Grant	The Grant is intended for export businesses that produce goods and services in NSW to sell to customers internationally. The eligibility criteria below seek to capture export businesses most affected by changes to international trading conditions, and those impacted by drought and bushfires. The Grant amount is a maximum of \$10,000 per eligible business.

Victoria

Type	Name/Link	Description
Arts Funding	Games release	Funding of up to \$30,000 to assist games companies develop and deliver a marketed release of their project
Arts Funding	Assigned Production Investment - Games	Funding of up to \$150,000 to assist games companies produce a game
Advisory	Small Business Mentoring Program	Small business mentoring service, some free and some at a cost
Arts Funding	Development funding	Development funding for narrative VR projects
Arts Funding	Production Incentive Attraction Fund - PDV	Grants for PDV work in Victoria with qualifying expenditure of \$1 million or more
Business Funding	LaunchVic funding rounds	Varied grants rounds focused on start-ups, diversity and capacity-building
Investment Support	Invest Victoria	Guidance for companies to establish and build their business in Victoria. Invest Victoria has offices in Asia, the Middle East Europe and San Francisco.
Talent	Regional Jobs Fund	Strategic projects and infrastructure funding through five program streams: investment attraction, innovation and productivity, market access, employment precincts and skill dev
Trade Support	Trade missions	Outbound trade missions to international gaming expos
Business Funding	Business Support Fund - Expansion	<p>To support businesses impacted by these restrictions, one-off grants will be made available to eligible businesses under the Business Support Fund - Expansion program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,000 for employing businesses in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire in recognition of spending longer under restrictions • \$5,000 for employing businesses in regional local government areas (except Mitchell Shire) • Businesses which have already received a Business Support Fund - Expansion grant, or have applied for one, will not need to re-apply. Successful applicants will automatically receive this additional allocation.

Art Funding	Let's Stay Connected Fund	Grants between \$5,000 and \$200,000 to support community-led initiatives. The program will support innovative, community-led and community-based initiatives that build connection, reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation and can be implemented quickly - providing much-needed support across the state.
Business Funding	VIC Arts Grant	Applications will be accepted for requests between \$5,000 and \$60,000. Solo projects (i.e. one artist working alone) are eligible to apply for up to \$20,000. The program also includes a 2-year funding stream, providing 2 years of continued annual support to a limited number of successful applicants. To discuss appropriate grant requests please contact program staff.
Arts Funding	Small Project Grants	Applicants may receive one Small Project Grant up to \$1,000 per financial year.
Business Funding	Regional Arts Fund Recovery Boost	1. Relief (up to \$5,000): Relief grants are designed to assist regional artists, arts organisations and communities to meet their immediate needs. This could include asset replacement or purchase, support for arts practice (including self-directed residency/research and development), small projects and professional development opportunities. 2. Recovery (up to \$30,000): Recovery grants are designed to meet the medium-term recovery needs of artists, organisations and communities. Projects in this program should focus on activities that assist in recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. Project activities could include creative recovery projects, training programs, operational recovery plans, asset purchase or replacement (up to \$5,000) and the development of risk plans and emergency operating procedures and responses.
Arts Funding	Creative Activation Fund	Applications will be accepted for requests between \$40,000 and \$300,000.
Individuals Funding	Platform Lab	Artists across all disciplines (performance makers, visual artists, sound/lighting designers, writers, multi-artform artists etc.) can apply for a Platform Lab residency. We consider emerging artists to be within their first five years of professional practice and generally aged 18 - 26. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5,000 cash • 6 months of in-kind studio and rehearsal space at Platform Arts

Queensland

Type	Name/Link	Description
Incubator	Sqhub	Screen Queensland incubator hubs in Brisbane and Gold Coast open for 12-month residencies for screen creatives including game developers
Project Support	Screen Queensland Investment	Support of Queensland-created content across three tiers: Ideas, Market, Finance. Includes travel grants of up to \$7500 and finance of up to \$50,00 for games
Talent	SQ Attach	Funding for development studios to engage early to mid-career professionals for attachment opportunities
Arts Funding	PDV Attraction Grant	10% uncapped offset for projects with a minimum Australian PDV spend of \$500,000
Business Funding	Business Development Fund	Funding of between \$125,000 and \$2.5 million for innovative businesses, particularly in emerging industries
Investment Support	Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund	\$150 million Queensland Government strategy to encourage the relocation and establishment of new projects or major expansions in Queensland
Trade Support	Trade & Investment Queensland Australia	Guidance and trade missions for exporters
Business Funding	Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grant Program	The Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grant Program provides small and micro businesses with funding to help them adapt and sustain their operations.

South Australia

Type	Name/Link	Description
Arts Funding	Games Innovation Fund	Grants of up to \$25,000 to support the progress of outstanding, original and creative games for production in South Australia
Business Funding	Research, Commercialisation and Startup Fund	Various funding streams, including grants of \$20,000 - \$100,000 and \$100,000 - \$1 million for start-ups and early stage companies
Business Support	Entrepreneur's Programme	Up to \$20,000 in grant funding to support business development (SA Chamber of Commerce)
Investment Support	Inbound Investment Support	Guidance and support for companies to establish and build their business in SA. They have an international team, with an office opening in the US in the future.
Investment Support	South Australian Landing Pad	Up to \$80,000 for international incoming businesses to access coworking spaces and professional support
Research	Future Industries Accelerator	Includes the infrastructure access scheme (technical equipment access), R&D Voucher Scheme (up to \$100,000) and mobility grants (between businesses and universities)
Trade Support	Department of Trade, Tourism and Investment	Export assistance and guidance for SA businesses
Trade Support	SA Export Accelerator	Grants of up to \$5,000, \$15,000 or \$30,000 (for the emerging exporter, new market entry and export accelerator programs respectively) for marketing, export development and travel
Business Funding	Economic and Business Growth Fund	Financial assistance may be provided through direct expenditure by State government, or grants and (in some instances) loans to external infrastructure providers, industry associations, companies, universities, other research institutions or not-for-profit organisations. Funding will generally be provided for a project from one of the three funds (Research, Commercialisation and Start-Up Fund, the Regional Growth Fund or the Economic and Business Growth Fund).
Arts Funding	PDV Rebate	10% rebate for PDV work undertaken with qualifying expenditure of \$250,000 - Boosted ad extended!
Business Funding	Cash Flow to Pay Bills	If your small or medium-sized business employs staff and has an aggregated annual turnover under \$50 million, you may be eligible for two sets of cash flow boosts up to \$100,000.

Loan	Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme	<p>Eligible lenders are currently offering guaranteed loans up to 30 September 2020 on the following terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available to SMEs, including sole traders and not-for-profits, with a turnover of up to \$50 million. • Maximum total size of loans of \$250,000 per borrower. • Loans will be for up to three years, with an initial six month repayment holiday.
Investment Support	South Australian Landing Pad	Up to \$80,000 for international incoming businesses to access coworking spaces and professional support
Research	Future Industries Accelerator	Includes the infrastructure access scheme (technical equipment access), R&D Voucher Scheme (up to \$100,000) and mobility grants (between businesses and universities)
Trade Support	Department of Trade, Tourism and Investment	Export assistance and guidance for SA businesses

Northern Territory

Type	Name/Link	Description
Business Funding	Aboriginal Business Development Program	Grants between \$1,000 and \$30,000 offered to Aboriginal people to start or expand their business. Grant recipients also get one-on-one support from a small business champion.
Business Funding	Business Innovation Program	Helps businesses develop and commercialise innovation concepts via mentoring and funding of up to \$30,000.
Trade Support	Business Hardship Package NT	The Business Hardship Package provides Northern Territory businesses affected by COVID-19 with financial relief from certain charges by government, local councils and some utility providers.
Arts Funding	Screen Territory Funding	Various funding opportunities. * I don't know if games can apply for these honestly? It's hard to find any information.

Western Australia

Type	Name/Link	Description
Business Funding	Regional New Industries Fund	Funding of up to \$300,000 to catalyse the competitiveness of regional WA by building entrepreneurial and innovation capabilities and trade linkages in the regions
Art Funding	On Demand Content Fund	Aimed at lower to mid-level-budget productions that have market attachment and financing partner/s. Projects will need to have a well-defined narrative that will engage audiences on a broadcast, on-line platform, and/or screen-based device. Projects will also need to have significant market attachment and financing partner/s.
Business Funding	COVID-19 Relief: Payroll Tax WA	Payroll tax support measures and a one-off grant of \$17,500 for small and medium businesses.
Various	Local Government Support	Breakdown of local government COVID support measures

Tasmania

Type	Name/Link	Description
Project Funding	Production Investment	Equity investment into major screen productions, including games and interactive projects seeking investment above \$30,000
Talent	Traineeship and Attachments	4-12-week paid attachments for trainees to work on supported Tasmanian game development projects
Tax Help	COVID-19 Tax Relief Measures	Tax waivers for eligible businesses
Arts Funding	Conceptual Design	This program support the conceptual design of games and includes scoping, character and level design, proof of concept, production of a Games Design Document (GDD), or development of a 'vertical slice' of the project, and a maximum grant of \$10 000 per project for the development of concept/scoping documents and prototypes and/or the production of proof-of-concept or beta content.
Arts Funding	Production and Release	Game development funding is available for the development and marketing of the finished interactive project to launch and beyond. A maximum amount of \$30 000 per project

Canberra

Type	Name/Link	Description
Various	Economic Survival Package	Various economic measures for eligible ACT businesses impacted by COVID-19

