

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 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 This table is a work in progress, so please report any missing programs that need to be included or out-of-date information to Jens at jens@igea.net.

This table is current as of **September 2021**.

Federal Government

Type	Name/Link	Description
Tax Incentive	Digital Games Tax Offset (DGTO)	As part of the Digital Economy Strategy, the government announced a 30 per cent refundable tax offset for eligible businesses that spend a minimum of \$500,000 on qualifying Australian games expenditure from 1 July 2022. Details TBC.
Tax Incentive	R&D Tax Incentive	The research and development (R&D) tax incentive encourages companies to engage in R&D by providing a tax offset for eligible R&D activities. It has two core components: 1. a refundable tax offset for eligible entities whose aggregated turnover is less than \$20 million, 2. a non-refundable tax offset for all other eligible entities.
Trade Support	Export Market Development Grant	Austrade's Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) program helps businesses grow their exports in international markets. These grants encourage small to medium enterprises to market and promote their goods and services globally. Reforms to EMDG came into effect on 1 July 2021, reorienting EMDG from a reimbursement scheme to a grant program. During the transitional 2021-22 financial year, both the reimbursement scheme and grant program will run concurrently.
Trade Support	Export Finance Australia Loans	Export Finance Australia Loans are available to help small and medium sized businesses secure the finance required to meet specific export contracts or purchase orders when traditional lenders are unable to help.
Trade Support	Export Finance Australia Guarantees	Guarantees are provided to your bank to facilitate the security required for a bank to approve finance for your eligible export-related transactions or overseas expansion.
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 (virtual) trade missions to international gaming expos.
Trade Support	TradeStart	National trade and export market advisory network for SMEs, available in all major Australian cities.
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.

Business Funding	Entrepreneurs' Program	The program transforms Australian businesses with advice and grants and includes a range of initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Growth Accelerator • Accelerating Commercialisation Service (incl. grants of up to \$1m) • Growth Grants (incl. grants of up to \$20k) • Growth Roadmap • Innovation Connections (incl. grants of up to \$50k)
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.
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'.
COVID Programs		
Worker Support	COVID-19 Disaster Payment	This is a lump sum payment to help workers unable to earn income due to a COVID-19 state public health order. This may involve a lockdown, hotspot or movement restrictions.
Business Funding	JobMaker Hiring Credit Scheme	The JobMaker Hiring Credit scheme is an incentive for businesses to employ additional young job seekers aged 16–35 years. Eligible employers can access the JobMaker Hiring Credit for each eligible additional employee they hire between 7 October 2020 and 6 October 2021.
Business Funding	Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements	The Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy supports businesses and Group Training Organisations to take on new apprentices and trainees, to build a pipeline of skilled workers to support sustained economic recovery.
Tax Incentive	Instant Asset Write-Off	Eligible businesses can claim an immediate deduction for the business portion of the cost of an asset in the year the asset is first used or installed ready for use.
Business Funding	Support for Indigenous Businesses	Indigenous Business Australia is offering Indigenous business relief package for eligible Indigenous businesses who have been impacted by COVID-19, including Indigenous business which are not already IBA customers.

Business Funding	SME Recovery Loan Scheme	The Scheme is enhancing lenders' ability to provide cheaper credit, allowing many otherwise viable SMEs to access vital additional funding to get through the impact of Coronavirus, recover and invest for the future.
Business Funding	Banks' COVID-19 Relief Program	The COVID-19 related relief packages allow for temporary and limited coordination between the Australian Banking Association and participating banks to defer loan repayments and waive certain banking fees for small businesses impacted by the pandemic.



New South Wales

Type	Name/Link	Description
Various	Job Plus Program	The Jobs Plus Program is designed to support companies who want to expand their footprint in NSW. It includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payroll tax relief for up to 4 years • Subsidised training package rebates • Enabling infrastructure rebates • Access to subsidised, short-term Government accommodation and spaces • Assistance with the NSW planning approvals
Advisory	Business Connect	Network of local business, management or consulting advisors.
Business Funding	Minimum Viable Product (MVP) Grant	Funding of up to \$25k for start-ups to develop technological solutions from concept to MVP stage.
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.
Trade Support	Export Capability Building Program	Export coaching and workshops.
Trade Support	Invest NSW - Investment Concierge	General advisory service for businesses and investors.
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 contributes towards later stage draft and non-draft costs to complete financing where a strong interest has already been established in the marketplace. You can request any amount up to \$50,000.
Art Funding	Strategic Opportunities Program	The Strategic Opportunities Program supports individual initiatives and events that demonstrate long-term benefits to the NSW screen industry.
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 Grant amount is a maximum of \$10,000 per eligible business. This grant can be used to cover expenses for GCAP and PAX.

Education	Startup Onramp Regional NSW Program	The Founders Course is a practical online course that will show you how to start a high-growth startup and maximise its chances of success. You must reside in regional NSW.
Business Funding	Building Partnerships Grants	Building Partnerships grants help revenue-generating startups and small to medium enterprises (SMEs) scale or grow by acquiring a key customer or channel to market. Eligible businesses can receive up to 35% of the approved project costs up to a maximum grant of \$100,000.
Business Funding	Regional Startup Travel Stipends	Regional recipients of the Minimum Viable Product grant (see above) can now claim up to \$2,000 to help them travel for an innovation-related purpose.
Business Funding	NSW R&D Fund	The R&D Fund supports small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and scaleups to commercialise products that address the health, social or economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding will be in the range of \$250,000 to \$1 million, depending on the product's stage of development.
Business Funding	COVID-19 TechVouchers	The TechVoucher program provides support funding for technology-rich startups, scaleups or SMEs to collaborate with Publicly Funded Research Organisations to accelerate the commercialisation of R&D products and services that address the disruptions caused by COVID.
Art Funding	COVID Development Grants	Create NSW is offering targeted support to individuals and groups of up to \$5,000, and up to \$10,000 for organisations in the small-to-medium sector in NSW in recognition of their role as important generators of cultural and artistic activity.

Victoria

Type	Name/Link	Description
Business Funding	Games Release	Provides up to \$30,000 to support newer and smaller Victorian games studios in delivering a well-planned and marketed release of their project.
Business Funding	Assigned Production Investment - Games	Supports companies and game creators with up to \$80,000 towards a prototype, up to \$150,000 for a vertical slice, or up to \$300,000 for production work.
Investment Support	Victorian Screen Incentive	The Victorian Screen Incentive (VSI) offers grants to encourage producers to bring their film, television and games projects to Victoria across all sectors of the screen industry. Grants of up to 10% of qualifying Victorian expenditure. Projects must spend at least AU\$1 million on digital games production or VFX in Victoria.
Arts Funding	Development Funding	Project Development supports Victorian producers and writers to develop narrative fiction or documentary projects for any release platform including cinema, television, online, and VR.
Business Funding	PAX Rising Grants	Grants assist businesses with the cost of producing, promoting, and managing their pod or booth: \$750 for businesses exhibiting in a PAX Rising Pod, \$1.5k for exhibiting in a PAX Rising Booth.
Business Funding/ Arts Funding	Creative Ventures	Creative Ventures Program provides two years of funding to a diverse cohort of Victorian creative entities (i.e. micro to small creative organisations/businesses and collectives) that reflect contemporary ways of working across the creative industries.
Business Funding/ Arts Funding	Creative Enterprise	Creative Enterprise Program provides four-year funding for medium to large creative organisations and smaller organisations positioned for sustainable growth. The funding invests in the leadership, organisational infrastructure, and capacity of non-government creative industry organisations.
Business Funding	LaunchVic Funding Rounds	Varied grants rounds focused on start-ups, diversity, and capacity-building, including pre accelerator and accelerator programs, mentoring and online learning for startups statewide, investor education, and community-focused programs.
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 North and South America.
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 (virtual) trade missions including business matching and one-to-one introductions.
Business Funding	Small Business COVID Hardship Fund	The program offers grants of \$14,000 to eligible small and medium businesses that have experienced at least a 70% reduction in turnover as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions.
Business Funding	Victorian Business Growth Fund	The Fund has been created to address barriers faced by successful small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that are ready to grow their business but can't access the funds or find the right partner they need to take the next step.
Business Funding	Small Business Digital Adaptation Program	The Small Business Digital Adaptation Program provides \$1,200 rebates so small businesses can access a range of digital business tools, including business management tools.
Business Funding	Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme	The Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme alleviates the financial hardship faced by tenants and landlords as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Scheme will be available to businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$50 million that have suffered a decline in turnover of at least 30% due to COVID-19.
Business Funding	Investment Fast-Track Fund	The aim of the Fund is to attract new investment, create new jobs, and retain existing jobs in regional Victoria.
Talent	Jobs Victoria Fund	The Jobs Victoria Fund financially supports business to employ people who have been most affected by the economic impacts of the COVID pandemic. It is providing \$250 million in wage subsidies to assist Victorian businesses to employ at least 10,000 people who are looking for work.
Business Funding	COVIDSafe Deep Cleaning Rebate	Rebates to help businesses cover the cost of cleaning after closing a worksite due to a suspected or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) case.
Advisory	Business Recovery and Resilience Mentoring	Business mentoring program to help small businesses navigate the economic challenges posed by restrictions to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
Mental Health Support	Wellbeing and Mental Health Support for Victorian Small Businesses	Through this program, Victorians dealing with the challenges of running a small business can get the mental health support they need to navigate through the impacts of COVID-19.
Business Funding	SMART Program	The South Melbourne Arcade Residency Tenure (SMART) Program is an assistive residency placement within The Arcade Melbourne, powered by City of Port Phillip. The SMART Program aims to help early-career individuals have the opportunity to hotdesk out of The Arcade that might not otherwise have the financial means to attend.
Arts Funding	Small Project Grants	Applicants may receive one Small Project Grant up to \$1,000 per financial year.

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. Support includes \$5,000 cash and 6 months of in-kind studio and rehearsal space at Platform Arts.
Business Funding	R&D Cash Flow Loans	R&D Cash Flow Loans offer low-interest loans provided by the Treasury Corporation of Victoria of between A\$250,000 and A\$4 million, for a period between 12-28 months, with total funding capped at A\$50 million.

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.
Business Funding	Screen Queensland Investment	Support of Queensland-created content across three tiers: Ideas, Market, Finance. Includes travel grants of up to \$7,500 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.
Trade Support	Trade & Investment Queensland Australia	Guidance for companies to establish and build their business in Queensland.
Business Funding	Backing Queensland Business Investment Fund	The Backing Queensland Business Investment Fund has been established to provide direct investment into Queensland businesses and create more Queensland-based jobs.
Business Funding	Business Growth Fund	Provides grant funding for small and medium businesses experiencing high-growth, assists the business to buy specialised equipment to unlock growth potential, increase production, expand its workforce, and maximise economic returns.
Business Funding	Queensland COVID-19 Cleaning Rebate	The Queensland COVID-19 cleaning rebate supports small and medium businesses and not-for-profit organisations that have been listed as an exposure venue by Queensland Health.
Advisory	Mentoring for Growth Program	Mentoring for Growth offers eligible businesses free access to volunteer business experts who provide insights, options, and suggestions relating to challenges and opportunities you are experiencing in your business.
Advisory	Innovate Queensland	Free workshops, webinars, and collaboration activities, for Queensland innovators, startups, and small to medium businesses to build commercialisation skills and connections.
Trade Support	Go Global Export Program	The Go Global Export Program provides Queensland's export-ready small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with funding to finalise an export deal in a new market.
Trade Support	New Market Program	Trade and Investment Queensland's (TIQ) New Market Program (NMP) is designed to support established Queensland exporters to explore new market opportunities and expand their export opportunities. Funding from \$2,500 to \$30,000 (excluding GST) is available to support projects.

South Australia

Type	Name/Link	Description
Business Funding	South Australian Rebate for Games	A discretionary rebate equivalent to 10% of Eligible Expenditure on video game development work undertaken in South Australia on an Eligible Project, subject to available funds. A minimum of \$250,000 must be spent and retained in South Australia on Eligible Expenditure on an Eligible Project.
Business Support	Entrepreneur's Programme	Up to \$20,000 in grant funding to support business development (SA Chamber of Commerce).
Investment Support	Sector Specialists	Guidance and support for companies to establish and build their business in SA.
Investment Support	South Australian Landing Pad	The South Australian Landing Pad offers support and assistance in the three key areas most important when establishing in a new jurisdiction. Up to \$80,000 available for international incoming businesses to access co-working 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 for Trade and Investment	Export assistance and guidance for South Australian businesses.
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.
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).
Research	Research and Innovation Fund	The Research and Innovation Fund (RIF) supports researchers, entrepreneurs, and businesses to accelerate their progress with funding from the South Australian Government.

Business Funding	South Australian Venture Capital Fund	\$50 million SA Venture Capital Fund investing in dynamic and innovative early-stage companies to accelerate their growth to a national and global scale.
Trade Support	Export Fundamentals Program	Program provides new or current exporters with the tools, connections, and confidence to successfully target international markets. It integrates online delivery and resources, using tools such as a digital learning platform, webinars, and video conferencing . It also offers access to high quality coaching and mentoring specialists.
Trade Support	National Trade Program	This bespoke 5 month capacity building program will provide assistance to 15 companies to expand their business interstate with a view to exporting overseas.
Business Funding	Jobs and Economic Growth Fund	\$200 million over four years to focus on supporting initiatives that create long-term sustainable jobs and economic growth.
Trade Support	South Australia Export Accelerator	Grant funding is available under three streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Export Accelerator • New Market Entry • Consortium (New funding stream) Funding between \$5,000 and \$200,000.
Training	Building Capability Projects	Building Capability Projects are supporting the SA VET sector to strengthen its training and assessment services and to make them responsive to industry needs.
Training	Training Priority Projects	TPP are tailored, locally developed responses, involving workforce planning, accredited training, non-accredited training or micro-credentials, and project management to provide relevant services or additional supports for participants.
Advisory	SME Business Advisory Services	The SME Business Advisory Services program helps eligible small and medium sized businesses access professional services to grow and transform their business. Open to any business type or industry sector, applicants are eligible to apply for a maximum of \$10,000 (excluding GST) of matched funding.

Northern Territory

Type	Name/Link	Description
Business Funding	Business Innovation Program	Helps businesses develop and commercialise innovation concepts via mentoring and funding of up to \$30,000.
Advisory	Business Growth Program	The Business Growth Program helps businesses access professional services to improve their performance, sustainability, and profitability. It also provides mentoring and coaching support.
Co-Working Space	Darwin Innovation Hub	The Darwin Innovation Hub is a co-working space and innovation ecosystem. Start-ups will be able to collaborate and grow internationally taking advantage of the state-of-the-art facility and a management team able to deliver key services, and world class mentorship.
Advisory	Innovator in Residence Program	Innovators in Residence are experts who bring experience and expertise in innovation, start-ups, development and commercialisation, as well as knowledge of the NT innovation ecosystem. The service aims to increase the survival rate of small businesses, help commercialise research and development, create and retain jobs in the NT, improve the local economy, and increase opportunities for partnerships between the public and private sector.
Training	Industry Partnerships	Screen Territory aims to leverage its professional development funding by partnering with Northern Territory based organisations to create professional development and skills training opportunities for Northern Territory screen practitioners at various stages of their careers.
Business Funding	Travel Support	Travel programs support experienced Territory practitioners to maintain their skills, grow their networks, and develop their project slates by contributing towards the costs of travel to relevant markets, conferences, and skills development opportunities held intra-Territory, interstate or internationally.
Talent	Career Development	Screen Territory aims to identify emerging talent and establish career pathways through internships and mentoring to encourage the next generation to remain in the Northern Territory.

Western Australia

Type	Name/Link	Description
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.
Tax Incentive	Post, Digital and Visual Effects Rebate	The Western Australian Post, Digital and Visual Effects (WA PDV) Rebate is a Western Australian post-production, digital and visual effects sector incentive that compliments the Australian Federal Government's Australian Screen Production Incentive Producer Offset, Location Offset, and PDV Offset streams.
Advisory	Small Business Advisory Service	Free business advice to help current and aspiring small business owners in WA Australia. Assistance with a short-term problem, a longstanding issue, or discussing ideas to help you grow your business.
Advisory	Small Business Workshops	Practical workshops across Western Australia delivered by selected presenters who are specialists in their subject matters with a background in small business.

Canberra

Type	Name/Link	Description
Various	Economic Survival Package	Various economic measures for eligible ACT businesses impacted by COVID-19, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Business Support Grants • COVID-19 Small Business Hardship Scheme • COVID-19 Disaster Payments • Payroll tax exemption for apprentices or trainees employed after 1 August 2020
Business Funding	ACT Screen Arts Fund	The Screen Arts fund focuses on projects, activities, and opportunities that develop Canberra screen artists - moving successful applicants into new stages of their development. Funding is available for production and/or post-production for short films and games, professional development, mentoring, and project development.

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.
Tax Help	COVID-19 Tax Relief Measures	Tax waivers for eligible businesses.
Arts Funding	Conceptual Design	This program supports 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.
Business Funding	Hosting Professional Development Seminars and Events	Funding contributions are available to eligible companies and incorporated organisations for staging a professional development event. Funding is limited to venue hire, equipment hire, and speaker's fees/travel.
Travel	Business Travel - Interstate or International	Funding for up to 50% of the cost of travel, accommodation, and entrance fees (if applicable) to attend business related interstate or international market events, market meetings or festivals, and awards ceremonies with a significant market component.
Travel	Travel to Industry Conferences and Events	Funding for attendance at established Australian screen industry conferences, events, workshops, and matched funding initiatives.
Training	Industry Short Course Fees	Funding for attendance at interstate industry short courses. It is for emerging practitioners to gain specialist skills and knowledge not available in Tasmania.
Talent	Tasmanian Lead Attachment	Funding for a supported attachment of four to twelve weeks in duration. The attachee will be embedded in a company or shadow a relevant key creative or head of department on the production.