

This funding summary is specifically for grants and funding available to horticultural producers in Southern Queensland. There are many other industry support programs available that offer low interest loans and/or advisory services particularly through the following areas:

- Advance Queensland: <https://advance.qld.gov.au/>
- QRIDA: <https://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/>

COVID-19 SPECIFIC

Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant - Funding: up to \$10,000

- Areas: All areas in Queensland except South-East Queensland (Brisbane, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Noosa, Redlands, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba Regional Council areas).
- Eligibility:
 - have been impacted by covid-19 and demonstrate that your business revenue has had a minimum 30% decline since 23 March 2020 over a minimum 1-month period due to the onset and management of COVID-19
 - employ staff and have fewer than 20 employees
 - have a valid ABN and be registered for GST and is based in Queensland
 - Annual turnover over \$75,000 for the last financial year and payroll of less than \$1.3 million
- Eligible items include: financial, legal or other professional advice to support business sustainability and diversification, marketing and communication activities (eg. new website), digital training, capital costs associated with remaining COVID-safe (amenities, meal rooms etc), specialised digital equipment or software or meeting business expenses including utility expenses and rent.
- Further information: <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/Small-Business-COVID19-Adaption-Grant-Program-QLD>

COVID-19 International Tourism Adaption Grant QLD – Funding up to \$10,000

- Eligibility:
 - Have an established operating base in regional Queensland with an international tourism-related focus
 - Have a valid ABN and be registered for GST
 - Be based in Queensland (and operate outside of the Brisbane City Council, Redlands City Council, Logan City Council, Ipswich City Council and Moreton Bay Regional Council boundaries)
 - Have suffered loss of income due to international travel restrictions and border closures
 - Have fewer than 200 full time equivalent employees as at 1 February 2020
 - Have an annual turnover of more than \$75,000 for the 2018/19 or 2019/20 financial year
- Eligible items:

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- Tourism experience design and development activities including training, which are aimed at enabling the business to respond to a new market (e.g. from an international to a domestic tourism market)
- Pivoting of the tourism business focus from the international market to the domestic tourism market including tourism marketing and promotional activities, tourism trade engagement and retail partnerships
- Contributing towards operational costs to hibernate the tourism business while Australia's borders are closed to international visitors
- Further information: <https://www.ditid.qld.gov.au/our-work/covid-19-international-tourism-adaptation-grant>

Back to Work in Agriculture Incentive Scheme - Payments of up to \$1500

- A pilot scheme to encourage eligible Queenslanders to meet short-term labour shortage demands in agriculture.
 - pilot areas are Wide Bay and Darling Downs regions only
 - Applications will close once all funding has been allocated, or before 29 January 2021.
- The funding is to assist with accommodation and transport costs associated with travelling and staying in remote locations.
- Employment can be with different eligible employers, physical locations or farms in the eligible regions.
- Eligibility:
 - Be a permanent resident of Australia and your principal place of residence is in Queensland;
 - Have relocated from your usual place of residence: being the address in Queensland where you live as an owner, tenant or boarder, or where you reside with your family;
 - Have worked in paid employment in an eligible region for an eligible employer for 2 consecutive weeks (for the initial payment) and an additional 6 consecutive weeks (for the second and final payment) in one of the following roles
 - on-farm planting, maintenance, harvest, grading or packing of crops
 - off-farm grading or packing of horticultural fresh produce
 - on-farm breeding and caring of livestock (including shearing and aquaculture activities)
 - time-critical primary food processing of fresh, perishable produce
- Further information: <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/strategic-direction/economic-recovery-package-queensland-producers/back-to-work-in-agriculture-incentive-scheme>

Relocation assistance to take up short-term agricultural work

- Eligible participants could be reimbursed up to:

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- \$6,000 if you are an Australian worker
- \$2,000 if you are a visa holder
- Relocation assistance will be available to people who are at least 18 years of age and who relocate to a regional, remote, or Harvest Trail Services area to take up short-term agricultural work.
- This includes Australian job seekers; Australians who are not receiving income support such as students and ‘grey nomads’; and those with the right to work in Australia such as working holiday makers and international students. This excludes seasonal workers who are in Australia under the Seasonal Worker Programme or Pacific Labour Scheme.
- Further information: www.jobsearch.gov.au/harvest/workers/ or ph: 1800 062 332

Back to Work Employment Package – Up to \$20,000

Support payments are available to employers who hire a previously unemployed Queenslanders who has experienced a minimum period of unemployment directly prior to commencing work with them.

- The amount of payment offered varies depending on the type of worker employed:
 - job seeker unemployed for between 4 - 52 weeks - \$10,000
 - job seeker unemployed for 52 weeks or more - \$15,000
 - youth (aged 15-24 years) - \$20,000
- “Regional package”: Wide Bay Burnett, North Queensland, Far North Queensland, Mackay/Whitsunday, Central Queensland, North West Queensland and South West Queensland
- “SEQ package”: Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Scenic Rim and Somerset
- Criteria:
 - Ongoing paid full-time (at least 35 hours per week on average) or
 - Ongoing paid part-time (at least 20 hours per week on average) or
 - For a person with a disability who has a workplace assessment to work between 8 and 20 hours per week, hours consistent with their approved benchmark, on average or
 - A registered and eligible Queensland full-time or part-time apprenticeship
- For further information: www.backtowork.initiatives.qld.gov.au/for-employers/employer-support-payment/

Work Start Incentives QLD

- Work Start Incentives provide Queensland employers with an incentive payment if they employ an eligible trainee or apprentice.
- Funding up to \$10,000
- Work Start Incentives provides employers that are ineligible for the Back to Work program with one-off payments when they employ eligible trainees or apprentices. The trainee or apprentice must have previously participated in a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.
- Further information: <https://desbt.qld.gov.au/training/employers/funding/sqw#collapse-2-8482>

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DROUGHT RELIEF

The following horticultural growing areas in Southern Queensland are currently drought declared: Southern Downs, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Gympie, Logan, Redlands, Noosa, Fraser Coast, Bundaberg, Goondiwindi, Western Downs, Toowoomba, South Burnett, North Burnett, Gympie and Balonne.

Farm Household Allowance (Centrelink)

- Funding \$555/fortnight (individual) for up to four years plus supplement twice a year.
- Additionally up to \$4000 for study, training, financial planning or other professional service
- Fine print – under \$5million in net assets (assets after debt), amount depends on taxable income. Other benefits include a health care card. Must be willing to enter a “financial improvement plan with Centrelink.
- Further Information: Rural Financial Counsellor – Derek Abberfield mob: 0428 755 708 email: derk.abberfield@rfcssq.org.au

Salvation Army (funded by the Australian Government’s Drought Community Support Initiative – up to \$3000

- Funding: payment of up to \$3,000
- Very simple application
- Available to farm business owners, workers, suppliers and contractors
- Support with grocery bills, vehicle service and maintenance, school expenses, energy or other utility bills, health expenses etc.
- Further information: call - 1300 551 030 or apply online: Go to salvationarmy.org.au/drought

Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy

The subsidy will provide support in the first three years of an Australian Apprenticeship as follows:

- 75 % of the first year award wage
- 50 % of the second year award wage
- 25 % of the third year award wage.

An employer will be eligible for the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy for one eligible Australian Apprentice.

Further Information: ph:1300 363 831 or email info@apprenticeshipsupport.com.au

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Emergency Bushfire Response in Primary Industries Grants QLD

- Up to \$75,000
- Closes 31/12/20
- Eligibility for items not covered by insurance
 - equipment and materials used in clean-ups
 - additional labour costs

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- repairs to buildings (other than housing)
- fencing repairs
- replacing or repairing essential equipment
- salvaging crops
- purchasing or hiring equipment used to immediately resume business
- replacing essential water used for firefighting
- water cartage
- safety inspections
- To be eligible, you must:
 - be a primary producer
 - have an Australian business number (ABN)
 - be located in a defined disaster area
 - earn more than 50% of your income from primary production
 - spend part of your labour on primary production
 - have been carrying on your business at the time of the fires
- Further information: <https://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/emergency-bushfire-response-primary-industries-grants>

Bushfire Recovery Grants for Apple Growers QLD

- Funding: Matched up to \$120,000 per hectare of apple orchard
- Closes: 31/12/20.
- Eligibility: - only available to Queensland apple growers.
- Overview
- Eligible activities include:
 - replacement of apple trees
 - repair or replacement of damaged irrigation infrastructure
 - repair or replacement of damaged poles, trellises and netting
 - costs directly associated with clean-up of damaged infrastructure and other site preparation
- Further information: <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster/bushfire-recovery-grants-for-apple-growers>

OTHER

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Rural Bank's 2021 Scholarship Program – \$5000 per year for two years

- The scholarships aim to assist outstanding but disadvantaged students from a rural or regional area, who have been offered a full-time place at an Australian university, college or TAFE for the first time in 2021.
- The funding aims to support study-related expenses covering such things accommodation costs, course costs, study-related materials/equipment, textbooks, tutoring and /or education related travel (within Australia).
- Further Information: Natalie Thomas on email: marketing@ruralbank.com.au or phone: 03 54856806

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