

SUPPLIED IN CONFIDENCE TO THE NSW I.C.A.C.

[Service NSW 2021 COVID-19 Micro Business Grant] **‘Retrospective Clawback and Extortion Scam’**

[2022 - present]



Witness Personal Account and Victim Impact Statement [Complainant #28 ‘Steve Ridd’, Nature Trail]

The following written evidence received from Steven Ridd by email to steve@naturetrail.com.au .

[Emails (most recent at top)]

START OF EVIDENCE

From: Service NSW <noreply@service.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 11 August 2021 12:50 AM
To: steve@naturetrail.com.au
Subject: Your 2021 COVID-19 micro-business grant application has been approved

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

 

Need help? Visit service.nsw.gov.au



Your 2021 COVID-19 micro-business grant application has been approved

Dear STEVEN JOHN RIDD,

We are pleased to inform you that your 2021 COVID-19 micro-business grant application has been approved.

Reference number: COL-8718f31-MBS
Lodgement date: 2021-08-01

A payment of \$1500 will be transferred to the bank details provided in your application within 5 business days.

Thank you,
Service NSW

From: Service NSW <noreply@service.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Sunday, 8 August 2021 12:47 PM

To: steve@naturetrail.com.au

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Finalise your Micro-business grant application

You need to tell us whether to proceed with your application - or cancel it



**Would you like
to proceed
with your
Micro-business
grant?**

Finalise your application



Hello Steven John

We're emailing to ask you to finalise your 2021 COVID-19 Micro-business grant application. We will put your application on hold until you advise us of your preference.

Which COVID-19 support payment is best for you?

There are several COVID-19 financial support packages available to eligible customers.

You may be able eligible for the Micro-business grant from Service NSW, or the COVID-19 Disaster Payment from Services Australia.

It can be confusing to work out which support payment is best for you.

Some of our customers have withdrawn their application for the Micro-business grant because they've decided that the COVID-19 Disaster Payment is more beneficial for their circumstance.

Comparing the Micro-business grant with the COVID-19 Disaster Payment

2021 COVID-19 Micro-business grant

A fortnightly payment of \$1,500 to cover business expenses for the duration of the Greater Sydney lockdown.

Small businesses, sole traders or not-for-profit organisations with aggregated annual turnover between \$30,000 and \$75,000 can apply.

Review the eligibility criteria for the [Micro-business grant](#).

COVID-19 Disaster Payment

A lump sum payment to help workers unable to earn income due to a stay at home order, including lockdown, hotspot or movement restrictions.

How much you can get will depend on your location and your individual circumstances:

- \$325–\$450 for a loss of 8 to 20 hours of work per week
- \$500–\$750 for a loss of more than 20 hours per week.

Review the eligibility criteria for the [Disaster Payment](#).

How to proceed or withdraw your Micro-business grant application

Please confirm your preference by clicking on the button below - it will take you to the Service NSW webpage where you will be asked to log-in.

You'll then see the 'Application details' page. Simply choose either '**proceed with my application**' or '**withdraw my application**'.

If you choose 'proceed with my application' payment will arrive in your nominated bank account within 5 to 7 business days.

[Finalise your application](#)

Need more help?

Call us on [13 77 88](tel:137788) for help to decide which payment is right for you

About this email

This email was sent to steve@naturetrail.com.au by Service NSW, 2-24 Rawson Place, Sydney, NSW 2000.

You are receiving this email because you have applied for the micro-business grant.

To learn how we use and protect your personal information please read the [Service NSW Privacy Statement](#).

Emails from Service NSW will never ask you to reply with your personal information.

Grant Supporting Evidence supplied to Service NSW

-
-  Nature Trail Profit and Loss Comparison FY2020 to FY2019
 -  R1 WWT Profit and Loss by Class FY2020
 -  R1 WWT Profit and Loss by Class FY2021
 -  Statement20191231
 -  Statement20210630
-

2020 Trust Tax Return

2019 Trust Tax Return

-  Nature Trail Bank Statement 2019 none existed
-  Nature Trail Bank Statement May 2021 Part A
-  Nature Trail Bank Statement May 2021 Part B
-  Nature Trail Bank Statement search error
-  Nature Trail Bank Statement
-  Nature Trail Profit and Loss Comparison FY2020 to FY2019
-  Service NSW Grant Assessor Consultation 20230414
-  Statement20191231 (1)
-  Statement20191231
-  Statement20210630

*

Application

Date: 2021-08-01

Verify Identity

How you can identify yourself

You can now verify yourself easily online and save time.

To do this, you'll need to provide **TWO current identity documents**:

- Australian Driver Licence
- Medicare

The names MUST match on your documents.

Note: If your Medicare card has your middle name initial, then other documents with a full middle name will be matched.



I agree for Service NSW to use the details from my documents to verify my identity with the document issuer or official record holder via third party systems.

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Privacy Statement](#)

Provide Driver Licence

Use other documents

Save your details, speed up services



Save time and effort

Fill in what you need to, without repetition.



Your security is our priority

Our encryption and fraud tracking protects your information.



Save all my future identity documents, to verify me again, without the need to re-provide my details.

I understand that consent is **not mandatory**.

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Privacy Statement](#)

Address of your impacted business *

Start typing and select your address from the results that appear. If you are unable to locate your address please enter it manually.

[Can't find the address?](#)

Yes

No

Is your business currently receiving the Australian Government COVID-19 Disaster Payment? *

Yes

No

Does your business have employees? *

Yes

No

Will your business maintain their employee headcount from 13 July 2021 for the period for which your business may be receiving payments under this grant? *

Yes

No

Was your business' national aggregated annual turnover between \$30,000 and \$75,000 for the year ended 30 June 2020? *

Yes

No

~

Was your business' national aggregated annual turnover between \$30,000 and \$75,000 for the year ended 30 June 2020? *

Yes

No

Since 1 June 2021, did your business have business costs (e.g. rent) for which there was no other government assistance available? *

Yes

No

Supporting information

* indicates a required field

During 26 June 2021 to 30 July 2021, did your business experience a decline in turnover of at least 30% due to the Public Health Orders over a minimum two-week period compared to the same period in June and/or July 2019? *

- Yes
- No

What was your business' lowest fortnightly turnover between 26 June 2021 to 30 July 2021? *

Round it to the nearest whole number, using numbers only. The minimum amount is 0.

0

What was your business' turnover for the same period in June and/or July 2019? *

Round it to the nearest whole number, using numbers only. The minimum amount is 0.

6000

Decline in turnover

6000 100%

Important

Based on the decline in turnover, it looks like your business may be eligible for a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 to cover business expenses for the duration of the Greater Sydney lockdown. Please [see the fortnight payment dates](#).

You will need to retain evidence for up to five years, such as tax invoices to demonstrate the grant has been used for eligible expenses.

June 2019 \$3000

July 2019 \$3000

TOTAL = \$6000

Upload file

- Please upload one of the following documents to demonstrate that your business had a turnover between \$30,000 and \$75,000 for the year ended 30 June 2020:
 - your most recent Business Activity Statement
 - a letter from a qualified accountant, OR
 - a business bank account statement (separate from any personal accounts)
 - Australian income tax return (or Notice of Assessment)
- In addition, please upload evidence that your business had a decline in turnover of 30% or more by providing:
 - a letter from a qualified accountant, registered tax agent or registered BAS agent, or business bank account statement (separate from any personal accounts), showing:
 - the turnover for a minimum two-week period (commencing 26 June and due to end 30 July 2021)
 - the turnover for the equivalent period in 2019.

Drag and drop files into this box or use the button to select and upload your files.

Upload another file

You can upload PDF, DOCX, DOC, JPEG, JPG, or PNG files. Each file must not exceed 4MB.

 20201029 WWT Tax Return submitted by post to ATO extract.pdf

 Remove

Drag and drop files into this box or use the button to select and upload your files.

Upload another file

You can upload PDF, DOCX, DOC, JPEG, JPG, or PNG files. Each file must not exceed 4MB.

PDF 20201029 WWT Tax Return submitted by post to ATO extract.pdf

Remove

Step 4 of 5

Payment details

* indicates a required field

Enter the details of the bank account where you would like the 2021 COVID-19 micro-business grant deposited.

Business account name *

Nature Trail

BSB *

Enter your 6 digit BSB with no spaces e.g. 999123

[REDACTED]

Account number *

Enter your 5-9 digit account number with no spaces or symbols e.g. 123456789

[REDACTED]

< Back

Next

Step 5 of 5

Review your application

* indicates a required field

i Important

You are currently applying for the 2021 COVID-19 Micro-business grant to receive a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 to cover business expenses for the duration of the Greater Sydney lockdown.

Please ensure that the details listed below are correct. Any incorrect information may cause a delay in processing your application.

Personal details

Full name: [REDACTED]

Date of birth: [REDACTED]

Contact details

Email address: steve@naturetrail.com.au

Residential address: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Edit...

Review your application

* indicates a required field



Important

You are currently applying for the 2021 COVID-19 Micro-business grant to receive a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 to cover business expenses for the duration of the Greater Sydney lockdown.

Please ensure that the details listed below are correct. Any incorrect information may cause a delay in processing your application.

Personal details

Full name:

Date of birth:

Contact details

Email address: steve@naturetrail.com.au

Residential address:

Phone number:

Edit...

Declaration

Please read the [Terms and Conditions](#) and [privacy statement](#).



I have read and accept the Terms and Conditions. Our privacy statement explains how we collect and use information. *



I am authorised to apply on behalf of this business and I declare that the information I have provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true, accurate and complete. I consent to any information I provide being audited and I understand that I may be required to provide evidence of statements made in this application.*



I consent to Service NSW, DCS, Revenue NSW, Create NSW, the Commonwealth Government and/or NSW Treasury disclosing to each other the information, including personal information I have provided, for the purposes of administering or reporting on the Program.*



I declare that this business or organisation will maintain the current headcount for as long as it receives 2021 COVID-19 Micro Grant Payments and I will advise Service NSW in the event that there is any change to this business's headcount.*



I understand that it's an offence under the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW) to provide false or misleading information to a public authority.*



Warning

Once you submit this application, the information provided will be assessed. Any suspected instances of fraud will be investigated and if necessary, your details will be passed on to the relevant authorities.

Apply for the 2021 COVID-19 micro-business grant

 Your application has been submitted for assessment

We have sent a confirmation email to steve@naturetrail.com.au

Application details

Reference number: COL-8718f31-MBS

Application: Apply for the 2021 COVID-19 micro-business grant

Lodgement date: 2021-08-01T12:41:32.695

End of supplied evidence

This document submitted by Steven Ridd, Managing Director, Wistmans Wood Holdings Pty Limited [ACN 600 331 931] as trustee for Wistmans Wood Trust [ABN 51 965 308 493] trading as Nature Trail. Registered Address: 5 Kundibar Street KATOOMBA NSW 2780.]

By email icac@icac.nsw.gov.au

I·C·A·C

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION
AGAINST CORRUPTION

Level 7, 255 Elizabeth Street
Sydney, New South Wales
Australia