
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 #28g: ‘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: businessinfo1@service.nsw.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 3 May 2024 12:21 PM
To: steve@naturetrail.com.au
Subject: 2021 COVID-19 Micro-business Grant [ref:!00D4a08aWL!500RE05uzty:ref]



Dear Steven,

Thank you for your time on the phone today. As discussed the outcome of your 2021 COVID-19 Micro-Business Support Grant was provided to you as an attachment to an email on 30th April 2024.

As requested I have copied the body of the letter below in *Italic*

RE: Micro-business Grant COL-8718f31-MBS

Dear Steven Ridd, I refer to your correspondence to Mr Greg Wells, CEO of Service NSW in relation to your application for the 2021 Covid-19 Micro-business Grant for your business Nature Trail and subsequent compliance audit. I am responding on behalf of Mr Wells.

Compliance audits play a crucial role in administering the NSW Government's grants and rebate programs. When a customer submits an online application, they must provide supporting documentation and consent to potential compliance audits. Additionally, customers are obligated to adhere to the grant Terms and Conditions, which include retaining documentation for five years. Service NSW regularly completes compliance reviews of NSW Government grant and rebate programs, which ensures responsible use of public funds in alignment with program guidelines.

Applications were accepted and funds paid where customers' responses in their application demonstrated eligibility and adherence to the Terms and Conditions, even if some supporting documentation was incomplete. In these cases, the compliance audit process allows customers to submit evidence of their eligibility.

Service NSW reviewed the application for your business, Nature Trail, for the 2021 COVID-19 Microbusiness Grant and initiated contact to your business due to missing evidence requirements. On 17 November 2023 Service NSW wrote to you advising that the compliance audit for the Microbusiness Grant has been paused pending review of the audit process. This review has now been finalised and the compliance program has resumed.

Upon the resumption of the compliance audit, Service NSW has completed a review of the further documentation you have supplied and has identified that you have not currently provided sufficient evidence to support eligibility of your application. However, after careful consideration of your application and subsequent communications, Service NSW can confirm your application has been withdrawn from any pending compliance review and note no further action is required by you or your business.

Kind regards

Tina Dougherty

*Director,
SNSW Business Bureau
Business Customer Service*

I trust the information provided above is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Sam
Customer Resolution Team
Service NSW Business Bureau
T 137788



----- Original Message -----

From: Businessinfo1@service.nsw.gov.au [businessinfo1@service.nsw.gov.au]

Sent: 30/4/2024, 2:35 pm

To: steve@naturetrail.com.au

Subject: 2021 COVID-19 Micro-business Grant [ref:!00D4a08aWL.I500RE05uzty:ref]



Dear Mr Ridd,

I refer to your correspondence to Mr Greg Wells, CEO of Service NSW in relation to your application for the 2021 Covid-19 Micro-business Grant for your business Nature Trail and subsequent compliance audit.


Please find your written response as attached.

I trust the information provided is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Sam
Customer Resolution Team
Service NSW Business Bureau
T 137788



ref:!00D4a08aWL.!500RE05uzty:ref 

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

ICAC

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION
AGAINST CORRUPTION

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