

City of Stonnington

Recovery Support Package

Reconnecting community and rebuilding local economy

June 2020



Stay
CONNECTED
STONNINGTON



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Community and Economic Recovery Package

Stay Connected

STONNINGTON

COVID-19 has caused major disruption to the people who live and work in Stonnington.

Local businesses, particularly small businesses, have been severely impacted by restrictions.

As restrictions are gradually eased, we are committed to supporting our local community and businesses to stay safe and **stay connected**.



Community-led recovery

Our businesses and residents have shown resilience and adaptability and we want to harness the knowledge, skills, passion and experience of people living and working in Stonnington to shape our recovery.

Our role will be to facilitate a community-led recovery that asks people for ideas, connects local agency networks, builds local capacity, supports our existing businesses and attracts new investment.

Initial Response

Maintain essential face-to-face support services safely

Delivered

- ✓ Early years centres have remained open
- ✓ In-home care and delivery services have continued for older residents
- ✓ Immunisation program has continued for essential vaccinations

Reorient services to support community health and social connection from home

Delivered

- ✓ Delivered services via phone and videoconference, including Aged Care assessments, Maternal and Child Health, new parent groups and Youth Services
- ✓ Developed digital programs including Check In With Chapel, Alfresco Touching Base, and an Active Stonnington YouTube channel
- ✓ Moved a number of important library programs online to maintain community connection such as Storytime at HOME

Provide community with information and advice

Delivered

- ✓ Website regularly updated with information on Council services and business resources with links to government advice
- ✓ Social distancing signs installed in public spaces
- ✓ Special Stonnington News COVID-19 response edition circulated
- ✓ Developed advice for shared housing/rooming houses and owners corporations in multi-story dwellings

Engage with local relief agencies

Delivered

- ✓ Ongoing liaison with local relief agencies, including receipt of key data on emerging social issues
- ✓ Ongoing coordination of emergency relief (under State Relief Plan)
- ✓ Supported Star Health to open self-testing clinic at Prahran Town Hall

Initial Response

Reduce direct charges for residents Delivered

- ✓ Reduced parking enforcement throughout State of Emergency period
- ✓ Provided free parking at selected carparks until September 2020

Reduce direct charges for businesses Delivered

- ✓ Issued food, health and footpath trading permit refunds for period 1 April to 30 September 2020
- ✓ Provided rental relief for food businesses at Council premises

Support local business owners Delivered

- ✓ Introduced a new 'business hotline' and strengthened our business concierge program
- ✓ Adopted seven day payment terms for suppliers throughout State of Emergency period
- ✓ Provided webinars, online services and information for traders
- ✓ Ongoing liaison with Business Associations
- ✓ Provided additional financial support to our precincts to market themselves as restrictions ease
- ✓ Provided advice for hospitality businesses on safely re-opening as restrictions ease
- ✓ Responded to community reports regarding social distancing compliance and provided education to businesses on enhancing safety measures

Encourage community to continue to support local business Delivered

- ✓ "Open for business" campaign including window decals and website

Support safety of community members accessing businesses and public areas Delivered

- ✓ In partnership with Citywide, implemented large-scale cleaning program in activity centres and parks
- ✓ Successfully advocated on behalf of Stonnington community – consistent social distancing measures in major Supermarket chains

The start of recovery

As we move into a recovery phase, we are working to deliver new support strategies.

- Establish the Community and Economic Recovery Committees.
- Safely reopen community services according to government restrictions.
- Support the return of community sport and encourage physical activity.
- Deliver innovative arts experiences to support community connection.
- Provide grants through Council's Community Grants and Arts & Cultural Grants Programs, aligned with recovery goals.
- Review key strategic documents to develop 2020/21 Action Plans that promote community recovery.
- Deliver local infrastructure projects, including pocket parks, landscape and streetscape improvements.
- Seek Federal and State stimulus funding for larger infrastructure projects.
- Adopt a COVID-19 Hardship Policy to provide assistance to individuals and organisations experiencing financial hardship.
- Develop a 2020/21 budget aligned to community and economic recovery.
- Support local businesses to reopen safely.



Looking to the future

Strategies to achieve these goals will be developed in detail through Community and Economic Recovery Committees. We'll work with local community leaders and experts to make smart decisions with long term benefits. This may include new and re-focused grant streams, targeted programs and campaigns, partnerships and advocacy.

Recovery goals

- Decrease incidence of family violence
- Rebuild strength and social connection for older residents
- Support community to reconnect and safely participate in community life
- Encourage residents to live actively to improve health and wellbeing
- Develop strategies to address homelessness and rough sleeping
- Support community members experiencing financial hardship
- Re-engage young people with school and learning
- Embed tolerance and acceptance
- Decrease harm from alcohol, drugs and gambling
- Increase visitation and encourage return of customers to existing businesses
- Attract new businesses and employees to Stonnington
- Enhance business capability to attract, connect and service customers
- Increase locally based procurement
- Enhance Stonnington partnerships and industry strengths
- Support mental health and resilience of business owners
- Support the arts and cultural industry to provide safe, engaging events and activities