



SAMANTHA RATNAM MLC

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The Hon James Merlino
Acting Premier
Parliament House

The Hon Tim Pallas
Treasurer
Parliament House

By email

28 May 2021

Dear Acting Premier and Treasurer

Lockdown support for casual workers

We acknowledge the difficult decision the government has made for a further lockdown to manage the recent COVID-19 outbreak.

As you know, lockdowns have a significant impact on many people, with some impacted more than others.

We understand the government is considering further support for businesses impacted by the lockdown. We encourage appropriate business support, particularly to enable businesses to be in a position to pay their workers even when the business is closed.

At the time of the last circuit-breaker lockdown, we also urged the government to provide financial support to casual workers who were left without income for the period of the lockdown, similar to the \$450 payments the Government offers to casual workers who lose work because they're required to isolate or quarantine. With a week-long lockdown now in place, we again ask the government to provide vital support to casual workers.

Without any income for a week, many casuals will struggle to pay their rent or be forced to choose between rent and food and other necessities.

With the rent relief and COVID rental protections now abolished, we are concerned many renters, and particularly those in casual work, will face significant financial pressures with the current lockdown.

We ask that you provide financial support for casual workers who lose income due to the lockdown and rent relief for any renters who will struggle to pay their rent during the lockdown.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Samantha Ratnam
Leader of the Victorian Greens



Ellen Sandell
Deputy Leader of the Victorian Greens



Sam Hibbins
Member for Prahran



Tim Read
Member for Brunswick