

Applications open for Small Business Hardship Fund

Applications are now open for the Eastwood Small Business Hardship Fund.

The \$500,000 hardship fund has been established to assist businesses that experienced severe economic hardship as a result of misinformation and rumours being spread since the first case of coronavirus (COVID-19) was confirmed in Australia in January.

I would encourage all eligible businesses to apply for a support grant of up to \$2,000 under the hardship fund. Applications are open until Thursday 30 April.

For more information about the hardship fund, including the eligibility criteria and the application form, visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/ESBHF.

Further financial assistance measures proposed by Council

In addition to the hardship fund, the City of Ryde is also proposing a range of other financial measures to assist local businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak.

These include waiving outdoor dining fees payable by cafés and restaurants, health inspection and compliance fees, fire safety certification fees and filming application fees.

Council is also proposing to consider all applications for rent deferrals submitted by café and restaurant owners operating from a Council premise.

These additional measures are on public exhibition until Tuesday 28 April. For more information and to provide a submission visit the Have Your Say section of the City of Ryde website at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay.

For ratepayers, Council has agreed to arrange a fast-tracked process for financial hardship applications and look at ways to simplify the process

for our rates hardship policy. We will also consider our budget as well as rates, fees and charges at this month's Council meeting.

Playgrounds, outdoor gyms and Meadowbank Skate Park closed

A reminder to everyone that all City of Ryde playgrounds, outdoor gyms and the Meadowbank Skate Park are closed until further notice.

These closures follow a direction from the Federal Government as a way to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Anyone who sees a member of the public using these facilities should contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or report online at nsw.crimestoppers.com.au.

COVID-19 hub

For the latest up-to-date information on COVID-19 I would encourage everyone to visit the dedicated COVID-19 hub on the City of Ryde website at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/covid19.

This has the most up-to-date information including news, frequently asked questions and status updates on Council services.

You can also follow the City of Ryde on Facebook and Twitter for all the latest announcements.

Happy Easter

On behalf of the City of Ryde, I would like to wish you all a Happy Easter.

While this is a challenging period, I hope everyone can have a happy and fun-filled break.

Sincerely,


Clr Jerome Laxale
 Mayor
 Phone 9952 8222
mayor@ryde.nsw.gov.au



PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Council is proposing to implement measures to support small business and introduce the waiving of fees for some parts of Council.

These initiatives are being publicly exhibited prior to a proposed resolution by Council to grant the following:

Small Business Support - Initiatives to assist small business to continue and recover from the COVID-19 health crisis

In addition to the support and stimulus packages being offered by the Federal and NSW Governments, Council is considering a suite of financial support measures including:

- Waiving fees payable for outdoor dining – cafés and restaurants (in view of the restrictions placed on these operations)
- Waiving certain fees and charges (such as inspection fees) – cafés and restaurants (in view of the restrictions placed on these operations)
- Commercial tenants – cafés and restaurants in Council premises – rent deferral (after discussions with tenants and consideration on a case-by-case basis)
- Other small business initiatives – waiving certain certification fees; waiving filming application fees; consideration of rent deferral from Council tenants.

Waiver of fees - swim schools and carnivals, sportsgrounds and parks, library fines and notice period for venues

Council is proposing to waive library fines and cancellation fees for swim schools, swimming carnivals, sportsgrounds and parks between January and June 2020, while also waiving the notice period for cancellations at Council venues during the same time period.

It is proposed that Council waive the following:

- Cancellation fee for swim schools and swimming carnivals for the period 1 April to 30 June 2020 inclusive
- Cancellation fee for sporting fields or parks for the period 1 March to 30 June 2020
- Notice period required for cancellations for venue hire for the period 1 April to 30 June 2020
- Library fines associated with the late return or loss of items for the period 1 April to 30 June 2020.

How do I make a submission?

Submissions must be made in writing to the City of Ryde and marked as 'Small Business Support' or 'Waiving of Fees' via:

- Email** cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au
 - Post** General Manager, City of Ryde,
Locked Bag 2069, North Ryde NSW 1670
 - Online** www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay
- Closing date for submissions is **Monday 27 April 2020**.

ADVICE ON PROTECTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

For further information on Council's response to COVID-19, visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/covid19.



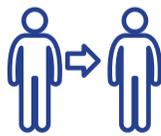
Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based sanitiser.



Cover your sneeze or cough with an elbow or tissue and avoid close contact with people who are ill.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Stay home if you are sick.



Maintain a social distance of 1.5 metres. Limit indoor and outdoor non-essential gathering to 2 people.



Self-isolate if you have COVID-19, have been in close contact with someone who does or arrived in Australia after midnight on 15 March 2020.

LIBRARY ONLINE EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Ryde Library Service will be offering online programs and events for both children and adults during this time, please check website for details at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library