

Monday 27 July 2020

## Working with our business community

It's important to be courteous and mindful of others when you are out shopping locally for your essential items.

As part of Council's Glen Eira Be Kind initiative, we have worked with local traders' associations to rollout footpath decals in our major shopping centres to remind the community to socially distance due to COVID-19. Window stickers have also been developed to help reinforce public health messaging.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Margaret Esakoff said it's important we all continue to do the right thing by our community by ensuring we are physically distancing from others when out shopping for the things we need and practising good hygiene.

"We all need to stay safe and look after ourselves and the people we love and care about," she said.

"That's why it is so important to keep your distance and maintain good hygiene — wash your hands often with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds and cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow."

The footpath decals and window stickers are part of our ongoing COVID-19 Response and Recovery Package for Glen Eira traders. Some of the business-focused initiatives included in the Package for traders to assist them in adapting and developing through COVID-19 now and beyond the pandemic include:

### **The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Small Business Grant**

The Grant offers funds up to \$2,000 per business for online and e-commerce enhancements which could include: hardware; software; services in website design and development; online commerce platforms; online content development; digital marketing and promotion or mentoring; and training in online e-commerce.

### **New online business listing**

A new listing of local traders open for business is now available online at [www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/services/business-support/business-listing](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/services/business-support/business-listing). The listing shows open businesses by suburb and how they can be contacted during COVID-19. If you are a business that is still operating in Glen Eira, please send an email to [cityfutures@gleneira.vic.gov.au](mailto:cityfutures@gleneira.vic.gov.au) and we will add you to the directory.

### **Employee Assist Program (EAP)**

The *Employee Assist Program (EAP)* set up by Council is now available for all Glen Eira traders as part of Council's *COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan*. The EAP is a free, professional and confidential, self-referral counselling service for Glen Eira businesses which provides professional short-term assistance for any personal or work-related problem.



The *Program* provides two sessions in total, of either the Employee Assist or Money Assist streams to any businesses registered and operating in Glen Eira (you must provide proof of business registration and location). The sessions can be accessed by calling 1300 687 327 and making an appointment under Glen Eira Businesses, or you can access by downloading the *EAP Connect* app from the app store.

### **Skills Swap**

The *Skills Swap* initiative is also available to Glen Eira businesses. This initiative provides a platform for traders to help each other out by going online and offering a skill, capacity or function in return for an in-kind service from another — in a bartering arrangement with no payment involved.

For further information, visit [www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/services/business-support/](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/services/business-support/)

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