

# Supporting women and other vulnerable groups during COVID-19

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## FV support for CoM staff

- FV Awareness on-line training offered to all staff via Learning Seat
- FV support during COVID-19 info sheet developed
- People managers and staff were reminded of CoM's Responding to FV in the workplace policy and procedure
- EAP support made available to all staff and their family members 24/7
- Yammer posts shared with staff on the impacts of COVID-19 on women

## Support for women living and working in Melbourne

- Community services hub at Melbourne Town Hall every Wednesday in May and June. Services include Immunisation, Maternal and Child Health, Family Support and Counselling and Family Violence Support and Referral
- FV information made available at all Food Distribution Centers and World Immunology Day (29 April)
- Community Call Club and on line events such as Chair Yoga, Tai Chi and Afternoon Melodies for older residents
- Issued 8000 free temporary parking permits for frontline health and emergency service workers
- COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Community Support Directory.

## Homelessness Support

- 369 people sleeping rough in the municipality
- Approx. 30 per cent of rough sleepers are women
- A number of working groups have been set up to assist with service coordination including CBD Hotels Taskforce, Local Areas Service Networks, Homelessness Emergency Accommodation Response Team
- All rough sleepers have been offered accommodation in hotels during COVID-19
- Nine per cent of people sleeping rough have not taken up the offer of accommodation
- 190 rough sleepers who have been accommodated are also receiving support from a case manager (i.e. FV, AOD, mental health)
- Agencies are providing a mobile health service to those in staying in hotels.

## COVID19 Support Grants

- Funded 57 organisations to foster community connection and support vulnerable people during COVID-19 to the value of \$200,000.
- Three organisations provide services specifically for women:
  - Caroline Chisholm Society
  - Women with Disabilities
  - Women in Film and Television

## International student support

- On-line wellbeing programs
- Resume checking program
- “Our shout” food vouchers
- Supported 10,000 international students with \$200 food vouchers to shop at Queen Victoria Market.
- Approx. 50 per cent of international students are women.

## Support for Businesses

- Grants to develop online and e-services
- One-on-one advice and support through COVID-19 Business Concierge Hotline
- Rent relief for tenants in Council-owned and managed buildings
- Suspending fees for street trading permits for three months
- Reduced registration fee for food businesses
- New Rates Financial Hardship Policy
- New General Financial Hardship Policy
- Virtual business support summit

## Melbourne Global Innovation Program

- An initiative between the City of Melbourne and The Hacker Exchange
- A two-week program for budding entrepreneurs who identify as Aboriginal, first generation, migrant, refugee or female
- Program has shifted from face to face to virtual due to COVID-19
- Eight of the 11 successful applicants are women.



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