

Australia backs local distillers with \$200,000 growth grants

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The Australian Government is boosting Victoria's distillery sector, announcing a new round of funding to help local producers expand operations, innovate and reach new markets.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence visited Bakery Hill Distillery in Kensington to launch applications for the Business Growth Fit-for-Purpose Grants, delivered under the Distillery Door Program.

Grants of up to \$200,000 are available to support tailored projects such as new equipment purchases, technology upgrades and promotional initiatives designed to drive business growth. The funding aims to encourage investment that expands distillery capacity, strengthens the industry and creates new opportunities across Victoria.

Bakery Hill Distillery, internationally recognised for its premium single malt whiskies, has previously benefited from the program, receiving \$63,180 to establish a tasting room bar at its new distillery through the Boosting Visitor Economy and Infrastructure stream. The family-owned business has been operating for more than 20 years.

Since its launch, the Distillery Door Program has delivered more than \$7 million in direct funding to Victoria's distillery industry, supporting job creation and business expansion.

Victoria is home to more than 180 distilleries, employing over 9,000 people across regional and metropolitan areas, cementing the state's reputation as Australia's distillery capital.

Applications for the latest funding round will be open for six weeks and close on 25 March. Further information and application details are available at agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Ros Spence, Minister for Agriculture, said, "Victoria is home to some of the finest distilleries, producing world-class spirits that showcase local craftsmanship, create jobs, and position the state as the Australian leader of premium, homegrown

spirits.â?•

â??These grants will provide significant support to help Victorian distilleries expand, upgrade their equipment, and bring more locally made products to market.â?•