



mitchell & co
EXPERIENCE THAT COUNTS

EMDG Update and Seasons Greetings!

This is our December newsletter. The last one for year. Thank goodness, I can hear you saying.

Apart from getting in early to spread some Xmas greetings to all our clients, it's about some key messages that we need to communicate to you before the end of 2021.

Message 1 – You have submitted your 2021 (EMDG Old) application and are waiting to be paid.

This is for clients who have already lodged their application and are waiting to be paid or for Austrade to commence its audit activity.

It is very unlikely that any progress will be made here until well into the New Year.

Austrade have indicated to us that their current focus is on the processing of 2022 and therefore 2021 applications are not being looked at and will not recommence **until post March 2022**.

This not a reflection on Austrade staff, it is a direction given by those managing the program within Austrade.

Your grant payment, even though you did the right thing in getting it in early, is now a “bottom of the basket” job to do.

Bloody government, I say!

This is not acceptable nor fair.

We are onto it already and making our displeasure known, to get your grant application moved to the top of the basket *“pay now with a sense of urgency”!*

Message 2 – You have submitted your 2022 application and what happens next.

Thank you to all our clients who helped us get your 2022 application lodged before the November 30th cut-off.

No real stress, but we are glad it's all done and dusted.

We only lodged two applications on the last day - one client being a real thrill seeker, with only 10 minutes to spare.

This is what happens next:

First, you would have or will receive an email saying that your application has been submitted. It has and we already have the applicable online portal receipt.

Next, could be sooner or later, we will both get an email advising that your application has been **checked for completeness** and is to proceed to the next step. This is procedural advice only. If there is a query with your application, an email will be sent to both of us. We'll deal with things, no action required by you.

Following this, sooner or later, another email will be sent to you advising your application has been **assessed as eligible and is now pending a grant offer** to be made to you in due course. Again, if Austrade has any issue here, contact is made to both of us; however, we'll deal with it, no action required by you. This is good news, your application has been accepted as submitted, most importantly in terms of your Tier status - 1, 2, 3 or 4 (Representative Body).

Then, **later not sooner**, you will be **advised of your grant offer amount**. This will not happen until February 2022; hence the focus of Austrade staff being shifted from 2021 applications until after that time. The 2022 program is oversubscribed.

You will be advised of a reduced grant offer amount to what was submitted.

This is simply the new way to ration available funds to meet the demand on the scheme. We have been banging on about this for a while. You can make a choice to accept the grant offer at this time, or not accept it.

To be paid your grant offer amount, you must then spend at least double that figure.

When your grant offer amount is known, we will be in touch to get your records in order to make the final acquittal (grant payment application) on expenses up to June 30th, 2022.

When is my 2022 grant paid to me? It will be July 2022.

Just remember, EMDG 2022 is a much simpler system than before...I think not!

Message 3 – I am still to lodge my 2021 application.

2022 applications can no longer be submitted.

2021 applications can still be lodged by us up to February 28th, 2022 – strange, but true.

We are already working on some and others are still to come in.

Funds will not flow until March 2022.

However, it is about getting this job out of the way, completed, and submitted before the end of year, so do not send us any cards, just send us your EMDG records!

We will not send you a card back, just the completed application for signature purposes.

Message 4 – Our Xmas shutdown.

Our office will be closed from 21/12/2021, returning on 10/01/2022. Emails will

be checked on a daily basis.

I expect that there could be some audit activity on the 2022 applications from the 2nd week of January. We'll deal with those queries as they arise on your behalf.

To all – have a great and safe Festive Season!

Stuart and the Mitco team.