

**DIVISION 15: JOBS, TOURISM, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION — SERVICES 1 AND 3, VETERANS
ISSUES; ASIAN ENGAGEMENT —**

[Supplementary Information No B13.]

Question: Mrs L.M. Harvey asked for information on the Access Asia grants and the Asian engagement business initiatives that have been expended to date and the total value of the program.

Answer: Access Asia Business Grants (AABG) program

- The AABG budget for 2019–20 was \$250,000 for two grant rounds of \$125,000.
- Round 1 of the AABG program was launched on 30 August 2019.
 - There were 14 AABG recipients who received a total of \$121,889.10. Three have acquitted their projects successfully and a fourth acquittal is in progress.
 - The remaining 10 projects were granted extensions due to travel issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Information regarding the recipients and grant amounts is provided at Attachment 1.
- Round 2 of the program opened on 28 February 2020 but was postponed due to COVID-19.

Asian Engagement Business Initiatives

- Asian Engagement Business Initiatives are specific projects that receive funding to support Western Australia's priority sectors and trade and investment outcomes.
 - There have been four funding recipients to date who each received funding of \$10,000. One acquittal is in progress and the three other projects are underway.

Current Situation

- The AABG budget for 2020–21 was set at \$250,000 for two grant rounds of \$125,000.
- Treasury has approved the carryover of \$128,000 from 2019–20, taking the total AABG budget for 2020–21 to \$378,000.
- Round 2 was reopened on 13 October 2020 and will focus on helping Western Australian businesses build and/or maintain competitiveness in Asian markets to contribute to Western Australia's economic recovery.
 - Funding of \$200,000 has been allocated for Round 2 for up to 20 grants.
 - The application process is underway and successful recipients will be announced in December 2020.