

**INQUIRY INTO INTEGRITY, EFFICACY AND VALUE FOR
MONEY OF NSW GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAMS**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

As a 60 year old female jewellery designer sole trader I have been supporting myself in business for 35 years. Things have been pretty tough since the GFC and last year was very poor for retail trade. My business was then hit by bush fires on the Sth coast NSW. I was given a grant to help survive. Things were starting to improve. Then Covid 19 hit and all my market gigs shut down.

I tried to apply for a grant to help me through but was told I didn't qualify as I wasn't GST registered. That was because my business did not turn over 75K. I questioned this as there was no means test for bushfire grant so why not for Covid grant? The area I live in has been smashed and I need all the assistance I can.

I have lost my own job in my own business for no fault of my own. I can continue to create but I cannot trade at my usual venues. I am now on the dole. Small sole traders have been left out. Many are creative older women who are divorced with no super. We pay our taxes but our businesses are deemed not crucial enough to the economy to support. More will be living in their car. All sole traders should be offered assistance as we creatives are also part of the arts community.