

TipUs

Digital Tipping Platform for Australian Hospitality

Project Status Report | 16 February 2026

1. Executive Summary

TipUs is a digital tipping platform designed for Australian hospitality venues. It allows customers to tip staff by scanning a QR code at a venue, selecting an amount, and paying instantly with their card or digital wallet (Apple Pay / Google Pay).

Tips are collected through the venue's Stripe account. Venue owners can then distribute tips to their employees either manually or on an automatic recurring schedule. Each employee's share is calculated proportionally based on their active days during the payout period and sent directly to their bank account.

Overall Completion	~97%
Core Features	All implemented and tested
Payment Processing	Fully working (Stripe)
Deployment	Live on Netlify + Supabase
Mode	Test mode (ready for live switch)

2. What's Working

Every core feature has been built, deployed, and tested end-to-end. Here is a complete list:

- ✓ **Venue Owner Onboarding** — Sign up, create venue, connect Stripe account
- ✓ **Employee Management** — Add/edit/deactivate employees, send email invitations
- ✓ **Employee Onboarding** — Employees receive invite, create account, enter bank details
- ✓ **QR Code System** — Generate, download, and manage QR codes per venue or per employee
- ✓ **Customer Tipping** — Scan QR, choose amount, pay with card/Apple Pay/Google Pay
- ✓ **Payment Processing** — Stripe handles payments with 5% platform fee, auto-transfer to venue
- ✓ **Tip Recording** — Webhook automatically records each successful payment in the database

- ✓ **Dashboard (Venue Owner)** — Overview stats, tip history with filters, employee management
- ✓ **Dashboard (Employee)** — Personal stats, tip history, payout history, bank detail management
- ✓ **Manual Payouts** — Calculate splits by active days, review, and execute with one click
- ✓ **Automatic Payouts** — Configure weekly/fortnightly/monthly schedule, runs automatically
- ✓ **Bank Transfers** — Employee payouts go directly to their Australian bank account via Stripe
- ✓ **Role-Based Access** — Venue owners and employees see different dashboards
- ✓ **Email System** — Invitation emails sent via Resend with branded templates
- ✓ **Mobile Responsive** — Full mobile experience with bottom navigation
- ✓ **Security** — Row-level security, no secrets in frontend, encrypted data at rest

3. How the Money Flows

Here is a simplified view of how a tip moves from a customer to an employee's bank account:

- 1 Customer Scans QR Code**
The customer scans a QR code at the venue with their phone camera.
- 2 Customer Pays**
They choose a tip amount and pay with their card, Apple Pay, or Google Pay.
- 3 Stripe Processes Payment**
Stripe takes the payment. A 5% platform fee is kept by TipUs. The remaining 95% is held in the venue's Stripe account.
- 4 Venue Owner Distributes**
The venue owner triggers a payout (or it runs automatically on schedule). The system calculates each employee's fair share based on days worked.
- 5 Money Reaches Employees**
Each employee's share is transferred to their bank account. Stripe handles the bank transfer (typically arrives in 1-2 business days).

4. What's Remaining for Production

The platform is fully functional in **test mode**. To go live with real money, the following items need to be completed:

Must Complete Before Launch

- **Switch to Stripe Live Mode**

Replace test API keys with live keys in both the backend (Supabase) and frontend (Netlify). Create a new live webhook endpoint in Stripe. Redeploy all backend functions.

- **Employee Identity Verification**

Currently, employee Stripe accounts use placeholder data (test mode only). For production, we need to either: (A) switch employees to Stripe Express accounts so Stripe handles identity verification directly, or (B) collect real identity details from employees. Option A is recommended as it's simpler and more secure.

- **Stripe Account Verification**

The Stripe account needs to be verified with real business details: ABN, business address, and a connected bank account. Stripe Connect must be enabled with a completed platform profile.

- **Custom Domain + CORS**

Set up a production domain (e.g., app.tipus.com.au). Update backend security to only accept requests from this domain instead of allowing all origins.

Nice to Have (Can Be Added After Launch)

- Analytics dashboard with charts and trends
- Bulk employee invite (add multiple employees at once)
- Email notifications when payouts are processed
- Rate limiting on backend functions for security

5. Next Steps

Here is the recommended order of actions to bring TipUs live:

1	Complete Stripe account setup Verify business details, enable Connect, complete platform profile
2	Decide on employee verification approach Express accounts (recommended) or collect identity data
3	Implement chosen verification approach Code changes to employee Stripe account creation
4	Register production domain Set up app.tipus.com.au or similar, configure SSL
5	Switch to live Stripe keys Update all environment variables and redeploy
6	Configure live webhook New endpoint in Stripe Dashboard for production
7	Test with a real payment Make a small real tip (\$1) and verify the full flow
8	Launch Share QR codes with venues and start accepting real tips

6. Technical Overview

Component	Technology
Frontend	React 19, TypeScript, Tailwind CSS
Backend	Supabase (PostgreSQL, Auth, Edge Functions)
Payments	Stripe Connect (Express accounts)
Email	Resend (transactional email service)
Hosting	Netlify (frontend) + Supabase (backend)
Security	Row-level security, encrypted at rest, role-based access