

Government COVID-19 Economic Assistance

Version 14 September 2020

Federal

Reference:

<https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus>

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020L00461>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-03/federal-government-to-create-disaster-payment-coronavirus-leave/12518580>

RENTAL RELIEF

Evictions put on hold for commercial tenants for six months. Note the rent payments remain due.

Most states will waive rents for Government-owned properties for six months.

JOBKEEPER (ends on 27 September 2020):

- Conditions:
- All employers with an annual turnover of less than \$1B per annum;
 - Reduction in turnover of 30%+ compared to the previous year;
 - Where annual turnover is higher than \$1B and has a reduction in turnover of 50%+ compared to the previous year;
 - Employers elect to participate in the scheme and demonstrate compliance with conditions above, Register with the ATO;
 - Employers must report the eligible number of employees employed by the business monthly;

The business may still apply for the support even it does not have a clear comparison with the prior year. The following condition(s) applies:

- The business started after the comparison period
- Part of the business has disposed of part of the business in the prior period
- There has been a restructure
- Turnover has increased significantly
- The business is impacted by drought or natural disaster
- There was a large irregular variance in the prior period
- Where sickness or injury have affected the business if it is a sole trader or small partnership

Job Keeper is a three-stage application process. If you are unclear on the rules, you should engage your accountant for assistance.

- Benefits:
- Paid \$1,500 per fortnight for each employee on the books as of 1 March 2020 and being paid \$1,500 per fortnight from 1 March 2020.
 - All money paid to employers must be paid to employees, even if those employees were paid less than \$1,500 per fortnight.

- Employees that have been stood down since the 1 March can be re-employed, and the benefit claimed.
- Superannuation payments don't have to be paid on top of the \$1,500 payment.
- The subsidy starts on 30 March 2020, with first payments to be received by employers by the first week of May 2020.

JOBKEEPER EXTENSION (28 September 2020 to 28 March 2021):

Changes to Jobkeeper Payments include:

- Conditions: - Businesses to demonstrate an ongoing significant decline in turnover
- Benefits: - Employees who worked more than 20 hours per week in February will receive \$1,200 per fortnight from 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021, falling to \$1,000 per fortnight afterwards.
- Less than 20 hours, \$750 per fortnight for the three months, falling to \$650 per fortnight afterwards

HOMEBUILDER

- Conditions: - Australian citizen aged 18 or older
- Meet two income gaps – individual earning under \$125k and couples earning under \$200k
- Build a new home as a principal place of residence, where the property value does not exceed \$750k or substantially renovate the existing home as a principal place of residence, where the renovation contract is between \$150k and \$750k, and where the value of the existing property does not exceed \$1.5 million
- The contract is signed between 4 June 2020 and 31 December 2020
- Work must commence within three months of the contract date
- Benefits: - A grant of \$25k to build a new home or substantially renovate an existing home

GRANTS

- Cash grants of \$10k - \$50k, \$10k and up to \$50k with an additional \$10k-\$50k available in the July-Oct period, for businesses with annual turnover less than \$50m.
- Paid as a 100% refund of PAYG Tax paid each month for employees in that business between April and September 2020. For businesses which do not pay PAYG, the payment is capped at \$20k.
- Applications can be made from 2 April, for deduction to be paid before 1 July 2020.
- *Victorian workers without sick leave eligible for a \$1,500 disaster payment from 5 August 2020*

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- Instant asset write-off increased to \$150k for businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$500m.
- 50% subsidy to employers of apprentices and trainees, paid for the period 1 January to 30 September 2020. May only apply to businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$50m.
- \$1m loans for five years to SMEs with six months interest-free and 50% guaranteed by Government. The loan can be used for both working capital and investment purpose. (revised CORNOVIRUS SME GUARANTEE SCHEME, 1 October 2020 to 30 June 2021)

NSW:

Reference:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/news/health-boost-and-economic-stimulus/>

<https://preview.nsw.gov.au/news/10000-grants-to-provide-fast-relief-for-nsw-small-businesses-battling-covid-19>

PAYROLL TAX

- Businesses with annual wages up to \$10m can have payroll tax waived for months of April, May and June.

GRANTS

- \$10,000 grant to small businesses with between 1-19 employees with a total payroll less than \$990K per annum, annual turnover greater than \$75K, have an ABN as at 1 March and based in NSW with NSW based employees, who have been highly impacted by COVID-19 Restrictions on Gatherings and Movement Order issued 30 March.
- Some liquor license fees waived.

ACT:

Reference: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/economic-support/support-for-business>

PAYROLL TAX

- Businesses with annual wages up to \$10m can defer, interest-free, 2020-21 payroll tax payments to the 31 July 2022.
- Cafes, Hotels, Clubs and Restaurants can have all payroll tax waived for the months of April to September 2020.

GRANTS

- Rebate to Landlords of Commercial Rates Fixed Charges of \$2,622 where they have a total unimproved value less than \$2m.
- Electricity rebates - \$750 automatically applied to next electricity bill in around June or July 2020
- 12-month waiver of their food business registration and on-licence liquor licencing fees from 1 April 2020 and outdoor dining fees for 2020-2021 will be waived.

VIC:

Reference:

<https://www.smartcompany.com.au/coronavirus/victoria-stimulus-refund-payroll-tax-covid-19/>

<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/illness-and-business-management-plan/coronavirus-business-support>

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/employee-isolation-payment-covid-19>

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/1500-coronavirus-covid-19-worker-support-payment>

<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund>

<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/supporting-victorian-businesses-our-road-covid-normal>

PAYROLL TAX

- Businesses with annual wages up to \$3m can have payroll tax waived for the period April - June 2020.
- Those same businesses can defer payroll tax for the period July – Sept 2020 until Jan 2021.

GRANTS

- \$300 COVID-19 test isolation payment for Victorian workers
- If test positive, a one-off \$1,500 worker support payment is available
- \$10,000 grants (metropolitan Melbourne) and \$5,000 grants (regional Victoria) business support fund, for businesses receiving Job Keeper and annual payroll less than \$3m
- Grants up to \$20,000 for business with payroll less than \$10m
- Grants between \$10,000 to \$30,000 for licenced venues
- Grants up to \$20,000 for business in Alpine resorts

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- Liquor License Fees (LLF) paid in 2020 will be refunded. LLF is waived for 2021.
- Commercial Land taxpayers with land under \$1m can defer 2020 payment to 31 December 2020. Retailers, please check with your landlord to see if they are entitled to this incentive.

TAS:

Reference: http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/ministerial_statement_covid-19_response_measures

https://www.business.tas.gov.au/covid-19_business_support_packages

PAYROLL TAX

- Businesses with annual wages up to \$5m, impacted by COVID 19, can have payroll tax waived for months of April, May and June 2020.

GRANTS

- \$5k grant to businesses that hire apprentices.

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- Loans for Hospitality businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$5m to purchase equipment or restructuring costs.
- 50% discount for fees on liquor license fees backdated to 1 January 2020.

QLD:

Reference:

https://www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0024/119364/covid-19-industry-recovery-overview.pdf

<https://www.qld.gov.au/about/industry-recovery/business-and-industry-support>

<http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/current-programs/covid-19-business-support/queensland-covid19-jobs-support-scheme>

PAYROLL TAX

- Businesses with annual wages up to \$6.5m can get two months payroll tax refunded and waiver of further three months payroll, and a deferral of all payments for the rest of 2020.

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- Loan facility for businesses impacted by COVID 19 to ensure retention of staff. Loans up to \$250k, with a 12-month interest-free period.
- Waiver of application fees for some variations of liquor licenses
- Businesses consuming up to 100,000 kilowatts hours per annum, can receive a rebate of \$500.

SA:

Reference: <https://www.treasury.sa.gov.au/Growing-South-Australia/stimulus-measures-to-support-businesses-and-the-community-impacted-by-covid-19>

PAYROLL TAX

- Business with annual Australian wages of up to \$4m will receive a six-month payroll tax waiver. Above \$4m, defer payroll tax payments for the six months from April to September 2020 upon application

GRANTS

- Relaxing the existing Job Accelerator Grant (JAG) criteria
- Some liquor license fees waived for 2020-21
- A once-off boost of \$500 and bring forward the 2020-21 Cost of Living Concession for households who are receiving the Centrelink JobSeeker Payment

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- Businesses and individuals paying land tax quarterly in 2019-20 will be able to defer payment of their remaining 2019-20 land tax payments for six months

NT:

Reference: <https://business.nt.gov.au/support-for-business/recovery>

<https://nt.gov.au/property/home-owner-assistance/buildbonus-grant>

PAYROLL TAX

- The payroll tax exemption for hiring Territory employees has been extended to 30 June 2021.

GRANTS

- Grant of \$10k to eligible businesses. Matching dollar for dollar investment up to \$20k.
- Grant of \$20k to buy or build a new home.

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- Matching grant of up to \$10k for eligible businesses who invest in new equipment
- Territory hospitality businesses can access grants to undertake works to premises to comply with 100 people rule

WA:

Reference: <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/COVID-19-economic-response-Relief-for-businesses-and-households.aspx>

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/McGowan%20Government%20brings%20forward%20housing%20funds%20to%20support%20jobs%20in%20building%20industry.aspx>

PAYROLL TAX

- Businesses with annual wages of \$1m - \$4m, who pay payroll tax, to receive a \$17k grant.
- Businesses with annual wages less than \$7.5m, who are directly or indirectly affected by COVID 19, can defer payroll tax until 30 July 2020.

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- \$150 million housing investment package brought forward from 20 July

Other Assistance:

Australian Banking Association:

<https://www.ausbanking.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ABA-Financial-Difficulty-Fact-Sheet-A4.pdf>

NAB

<https://www.nab.com.au/personal/customer-support/covid19-help>

Westpac

<https://www.westpac.com.au/business-banking/small-business-relief.html>

CBA

<https://www.commbank.com.au/latest/coronavirus.html>

ANZ

<https://www.anz.com.au/promo/covid-19/>