

Economic Response to COVID-19 – Financial Support for Businesses

Last updated 13 May 2020

Federal Government

Name	Description	Timing	Need to apply or automatic payment?	Eligibility check and more information
Keeping your employees and trainees				
JobKeeper payment	<p>A wage subsidy of up to \$1500 per fortnight per eligible employee for up to 6 months. Can be used for employees that are working, have been stood down, or to re-hire employees if their employment ended after 1 March 2020.</p> <p>Self-employed individuals will be eligible to receive the JobKeeper Payment where they meet the relevant turnover test and are not a permanent employee of another employer.</p>	Apply now. First payment to be received in May. However, the subsidy starts from 30 March, and ends on 27 September.	Must apply here: https://www.ato.gov.au/general/gen/JobKeeper-payment/	Australian Government: https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper ATO: https://www.ato.gov.au/general/gen/JobKeeper-payment/
Boosting cash flow for employers	Employers will receive a payment equal to 100 per cent of their salary and wages withheld, with the maximum payment of \$50,000 per payment. The minimum payment will be \$10,000. Up to \$100,000 per employer, paid in two stages.	From 28 April 2020 upon employers lodging eligible upcoming activity statements.	Automatic. The payment will be delivered by the ATO as an automatic credit in the activity statement system.	Australian Government https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses
Supporting apprentices and trainees	A wage subsidy for eligible employers equal to 50% of their apprentice's/trainees' Wages, up to a maximum of \$7000 per apprentice per quarter.	Applies to wages paid during the 9 months from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020	Need to apply from early April 2020. Application forms to be made available from your Registered Training Organisation. No further information is available to date.	Australian Government: https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses
Tax deductions				
Increasing the instant asset write-off	The Government is increasing the instant asset write-off threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expanding access to include businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million until 30 June 2020.	Available until 30 June 2020.	Automatic if business and asset meet eligibility criteria but need to claim each eligible asset. Speak to your accountant for further information.	Australian Government: https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses

Economic Response to COVID-19 – Financial Support for Businesses

Name	Description	Timing	Need to apply or automatic payment?	Eligibility check and more information
Backing business investment	Acceleration of depreciation deductions. Benefit: a tax deduction of 50% of the cost of an eligible asset on installation, with existing depreciation rules applying to the balance of the asset's cost	Applies to eligible assets acquired after announcement and first used or installed by 30 June 2021.	Automatic if business and asset meet eligibility criteria but need to claim each eligible asset. Speak to your accountant for further information.	Australian Government: https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses ATO: https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Depreciation-and-capital-expenses-and-allowances/Simpler-depreciation-for-small-business/Instant-asset-write-off/
Business loans and assistance for businesses experiencing financial distress				
Supporting the flow of credit (loans for small and medium businesses)	Provides easier access to credit for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to access additional funding to help support them through the upcoming months, including: Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loans up to \$250,000 per borrower The loans will be up to 3 years, with an initial 6 month repayment holiday. The loans will be in the form of unsecured finance, meaning that borrowers will not have to provide an asset as security for the loan Quick and efficient access to credit for small businesses The Government is providing an exemption from responsible lending obligations for lenders providing credit to existing small business customers. This exemption is for 6 months, and applies to any credit for business purposes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new credit credit limit increases credit variations and restructures 	Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme: Will commence by early April for new loans made by participating lenders until 30 September 2020. Quick and efficient access to credit for small businesses Applies for 6 months.	Need to apply through your financial institution/lender.	business.gov.au: https://www.business.gov.au/Risk-management/Emergency-management/Coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/Coronavirus-SME-Guarantee-Scheme Australian Government: https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/sme-guarantee-scheme
Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses	Initiatives to lessen the threat of actions that could unnecessarily push a business into insolvency. The Government is temporarily increasing the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory	Depends on individual circumstances.	Speak to your accountant. Contact the ATO for assistance on tax-related obligations:	Australian Government: https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses ATO:

Economic Response to COVID-19 – Financial Support for Businesses

Name	Description	Timing	Need to apply or automatic payment?	Eligibility check and more information
	demand on a company and the time companies have to respond to statutory demands they receive. The package also includes temporary relief for directors from any personal liability for trading while insolvent.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Support Infoline on 1800 806 218 https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Dealing-with-disasters/In-detail/Specific-disasters/COVID-19/?page=2#COVID_19_support_available https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Dealing-with-disasters/In-detail/Specific-disasters/COVID-19/?anchor=COVID19supportavailable#We_will_work_with_you	https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Dealing-with-disasters/In-detail/Specific-disasters/COVID-19/?page=2#COVID_19_support_available
Temporary Superannuation guarantee amnesty	<p>If you are concerned that, as a result of COVID-19, your circumstances may change and you will not be able to pay the superannuation liability, contact your tax advisor to discuss this.</p> <p>If you choose to apply for the amnesty, the ATO will work with you to establish a payment plan that is flexible to help you to continue making payments. These arrangements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> flexible payment terms and amounts which we will adjust if your circumstances change the ability to extend the payment plan to beyond 7 September 2020, the end of the amnesty period. However, only payments made by 7 September 2020 will be deductible. 	Available from 6 March 2020 to 7 September 2020	<p>Must Apply by 7 September 2020:</p> https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Super-for-employers/Superannuation-guarantee-amnesty/#Howtoapplyfortheamnesty	<p>ATO :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ph: Emergency Support Infoline on 1800 806 218 https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Super-for-employers/Superannuation-guarantee-amnesty/

Other assistance available:

Name	Description	Timing	Need to apply or automatic payment?	Eligibility check and more information
Small Business Loan Repayment Deferrals	The Australian Banking Association announced Australian banks will defer loan repayments for small businesses affected by COVID-19 for six months.	Apply now.	Must apply to your financial institution.	<p>Australian Banking Association:</p> https://www.ausbanking.org.au/campaigns/financial-hardship/

Economic Response to COVID-19 – Financial Support for Businesses

Victorian Government

Name	Description	Timing	Need to apply or automatic payment?	Eligibility check and more information
Business Support Fund Grant	Grants of \$10,000 per business are available to eligible small and medium businesses with a wages bill less than the payroll tax threshold of \$650,000 that are participating in the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper program, regardless of the sector they operate in. Eligibility criteria apply.	Apply now Applications close on Monday 1 June 2020	Must apply by 1 June 2020: https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-fund	Business Victoria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ph: 13 22 15 • https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-fund • FAQs: https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-fund/business-support-fund-faqs
Payroll Tax Refund	Businesses with annual taxable wages up to \$3 million will have their payroll tax for the 2019-20 financial year waived. Eligible businesses can also defer paying payroll tax for the first quarter of the 2020-21 financial year.	Not specified	Automatic. The State Revenue Office will directly contact eligible businesses to reimburse them for payroll tax already paid in the financial year. More information about the administration of these relief measures will be sent directly to eligible businesses.	See Economic Survival Package Fact Sheet at https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/illness-and-business-management-plan/coronavirus-business-support
Land Tax Deferral	Landowners that have at least one non-residential property and total taxable landholdings below \$1 million have the option of deferring their 2020 land tax payment until after 31 December 2020.	Not specified	The State Revenue Office will contact all taxpayers who are eligible for this deferral	As above
Rent relief for commercial tenants in government buildings	The Government will work directly with commercial tenants in government buildings who can apply for rent relief	Not specified	Not specified	As above

Economic Response to COVID-19 – Financial Support for Businesses

<p>Commercial tenancies relief scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evictions put on hold for 6 months for the non-payment of rent for small to medium enterprises with an annual turnover under \$50 million that have experienced a minimum 30 per cent reduction in turnover due to coronavirus (COVID-19). • Freeze on rent increases • A rental payment waiver or deferral proportionate to commercial tenants' income reduction due to coronavirus (COVID-19), to be negotiated between tenant and landlord • a mediation service for commercial tenants and landlords to support fair tenancy negotiations. • The Victorian Government will also provide land tax relief to commercial landlords that provide rent relief to their tenants (conditions apply) 	<p>Available for six months from 29 March.</p>	<p>Discuss with your landlord/tenant</p>	<p>Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC): E: enquiries@vsbc.vic.gov.au, Ph 13 8722. https://www.vsbcc.vic.gov.au/news-publication/vsbcc-calls-on-landlords-and-tenants-to-do-the-right-thing-where-tenants-cant-pay-rent-because-of-covid-19/ VSBC Advice and Mediation Service: https://www.vsbcc.vic.gov.au/news-publication/our-mediation-service-and-dealing-with-rent-in-response-to-covid-19-coronavirus/ Business Victoria, Commercial Tenancies Relief Scheme: https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/illness-and-business-management-plan/coronavirus-business-support/commercial-tenancies-relief-scheme See also, Mandatory Code of Conduct on Commercial Leasing: https://www.pm.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/national-cabinet-mandatory-code-of-conduct-sme-commercial-leasing-principles.pdf</p>
--	--	--	---	---

Economic Response to COVID-19 – Financial Support for Businesses

Further information

- **Federal ADA website information:** <https://www.ada.org.au/Covid-19-Portal/Dental-Professionals>
- **Business.gov.au:** <https://www.business.gov.au/Risk-management/Emergency-management/Coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business>
- **CPA Australia tips and resources for small businesses:**
 - Tips for Small business to prepare for COVID-19: <https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/-/media/corporate/allfiles/document/training/detailed-tips-for-small-business-on-covid-19.pdf?la=en&rev=a5f962a208754d4cb85473bd24e3215c>
 - COVID-19 information and support: <https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/training-and-events/coronavirus-impact>
 - Information on State and Territory economic responses: <https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/-/media/corporate/allfiles/document/training/state--territory-govt-responses-to-covid-19---summary.pdf?la=en&rev=02897e95b23246b8857cfd8e5cc1f43>
- **Australian Taxation Office (ATO)**

Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can phone the ATO Emergency Support Infoline on 1800 806 218 for help tailored to their circumstances. Further information from the ATO can be found [here](#).

Health and Wellbeing

We understand that COVID-19 is likely to have a significant impact on you, your family and your patients. We'll do everything we can to provide you with all the support we can during this difficult time. The ADAVB offers members free confidential counselling through LifeWorks. For phone counselling 24/7, call 1300 361 008.