

26 August 2021

BUSINESS SUPPORT AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The Real Media Collective

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INTRODUCTION

With Australia battling a Delta variant outbreak across several States and Territories as it pushes to increase vaccination numbers, various Business and Individual Support packages have been released across the jurisdictions. These support packages are part of a shared effort across Commonwealth, States and Territories when a lockdown occurs.

New Zealand continues to keep the economy ticking and speed up the delivery of vaccinations throughout the country so as to open its borders at an appropriate rate. Nonetheless, New Zealand has Business and Individual support packages that apply depending upon the particular Alert Level and related restrictions that apply

The following report provides an overview of the current Business and Individual support available to your organisations across Australia and New Zealand. This report will continually be updated so as to reflect any updated announcements to Business and Individual Support packages. The current date of release for this version is: Thursday 26th August, 2021.

BUSINESS SUPPORT SUMMARY - AUSTRALIA

COMMONWEALTH SUPPORT

The Commonwealth has announced it will enhance and expand the support available to States impacted and that experience an extended lockdown beyond three weeks.

Specifically, the Commonwealth will:

- > From implementation of a lockdown because of a Commonwealth declared hotspot, the COVID-19 Disaster Payment will increase from \$600 to \$750 each week if a person has lost 20 hours or more of work a week or \$375 to \$450 each week if a person has lost between 8 and 20 hours of work.
- > Commonwealth payments to impacted individuals will be triggered by hotspot declarations made by the federal Chief Medical Officer.
- > Make the COVID-19 Disaster Payment a recurring payment for approved recipients for as long as the Commonwealth declared hotspot and lockdown restrictions remain in place. This will remove the need for recipients to re-claim for each seven-day period of a lockdown.
- > Amend the COVID-19 Disaster Payment so that a person would be eligible for the payment, including where they are still working, provided they have lost more than 8 hours or a full day of work.

From 19 July 2021 the COVID-19 Disaster Payment has been available to those outside Commonwealth declared hotspots in NSW and other States that meet the criteria for the payment.

This arrangement is available to other States and Territories for future lockdowns caused as a result of a Commonwealth declared hotspot.

Information about how to apply for COVID-19 Disaster Payment can be found on the Services Australia website at [COVID-19 Disaster Payment](#).

NEW SOUTH WALES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND VICTORIAN GOVERNMENTS

The NSW, SA and VIC Governments have announced they will fund any individual payments outside a Commonwealth continuing to fund payments to recipients in a Commonwealth declared hotspot.

BUSINESS SUPPORT SUMMARY - AUSTRALIA

SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESS SUPPORT PAYMENTS

From week two of the lockdown, the Commonwealth will fund 50 per cent of the cost of a new small and medium business support payment to be implemented and administered by Service NSW.

Eligible entities will receive 40 per cent of their payroll payments, at a minimum of \$1500 and a maximum of \$10,000 per week.

Entities will be eligible if their turnover is **30 per cent lower than an equivalent two-week period in 2019**.

The new small to medium business support payment will be available to non-employing and employing entities, including not for profits, with an annual turnover between \$75,000 and \$50 million.

To receive the payment, entities will be required to maintain their full time, part time and long-term casual staffing level as of 13 July 2021.

For non-employing businesses, such as sole traders, the payment will be set at \$1,000 per week.

Businesses can register their interest from 14 July 2021 at [Service NSW](#)

The assistance will cease when current lockdown restrictions are eased or when the Commonwealth hotspot declaration is removed.

BUSINESS SUPPORT SUMMARY - AUSTRALIA

JOBMAKER HIRING CREDIT

Registrations for the JobMaker Hiring Credit remain open until 6 October 2021. Eligible businesses can register using the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) online services, the Business Portal, or through your registered tax or BAS agent, at any time until the program closes. This scheme is an incentive for businesses to employ additional jobseekers aged between 16 – 35 years of age.

Eligible employers will receive payments of:

- > up to \$200 a week – for each eligible employee aged 16 to 29 years old
- > up to \$100 a week – for each eligible employee aged 30 to 35 years old

Not-for-profit organisations can receive payments for new positions they create between 7 October 2020 and 6 October 2021, provided both the employer and employee meet eligibility criteria.

The positions must increase both the organisation's:

- > total employee headcount from 30 September 2020, and
- > payroll for the reporting period, compared to the three months to 6 October 2020.

The amount of JobMaker Hiring Credit claimed cannot exceed the amount that the organisation's payroll increases for the reporting period.

Where all employer and employee eligibility criteria are met, new employees taken on until 6 October 2021 will attract the JobMaker Hiring Credit for up to 12 months from their employment start date. Claims can be made every three months from 1 February 2021.

Employers cannot receive the JobMaker Hiring Credit and JobKeeper payments at the same time. If you're receiving a wage subsidy under another Commonwealth program for an employee, you cannot claim the JobMaker Hiring Credit for that employee.

BUSINESS SUPPORT SUMMARY - AUSTRALIA

COMMONWEALTH BUSINESS TAX RELIEF

The Commonwealth will also provide additional support through the tax system, by:

- > Making state small business grants, including the new small business payments, tax exempt.
- > Providing administrative relief to State taxpayers facing hardship, including reduced payment plans, no interest charged on late payments and varying instalments on request.
- > Continuing programs across the Jobmaker Hiring Credit scheme.
- > HomeBuilder, expanded instant asset write-off, additional support for retaining and training apprentices as well as record support for mental health and women's safety announced in the recent Budget.

HELP FOR INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS

Businesses with impacted employees can direct them to the following government websites to apply for individual benefits:

- > [Services Australia](#)

Businesses may also wish to discuss with employees the potential for making an agreed arrangement to take accrued annual leave or long service if eligible to cover any lost income due to the reduced hours of work. As usual, such agreements should be formalised in writing and appropriate records kept.

NEW SOUTH WALES

UPDATED 28 JULY - NSW LOCKDOWN EXTENDED + ADDITIONAL SUPPORT MEASURES ANNOUNCED

The NSW government announced that effective 31 July and due to the ongoing and high numbers of new COVID infection cases within the Greater Sydney region (including the Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour regions), the current lockdown conditions will be extended by four (4) weeks, until 28 August 2021.

Additionally, the local government areas that are currently under additional restrictions (Fairfield, Canterbury-Bankstown, Blacktown, Liverpool and Cumberland LGA's) has been expanded so that from midnight 28 July 2021 the Parramatta, Georges River and Campbelltown LGA's are also be included. As previously advised, only authorised employees in those eight LGA's are permitted to leave their LGA for work.

WORKPLACE RELATED ISSUES

In addition to the current workplace restrictions and requirements, from Saturday 31 July 2021:

- > All authorised workers who reside in the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA and leave those LGA's for work purposes, will be required to undertake a COVID surveillance test every three (3) days. Although enforceable from 31 July, impacted workers will have from 28 July to get their first test.
- > Direction regarding surveillance testing has been clarified with NSW Health. For our industry sector workers, i.e. not health and aged care workers, no three (3)-day testing is required for those from the other LGAs with tighter restrictions from 31 July. These LGAs include: Fairfield, Liverpool, Cumberland, Parramatta, Georges River and Campbelltown.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR BUSINESSES

The NSW Treasurer has announced several expansions to the JobSaver business support payment scheme. Backdated to Monday this week (26 July 2021):

- > The current aggregated turnover threshold limit will be expanded from \$50M to \$250M, for those businesses that have experienced a turnover decline of 30% or more.
- > The maximum weekly payment has also been increased, with employing businesses that maintain their employee headcount now able receive between \$1,500 and \$100,000 per week, up from \$10,000, with payments based on 40 per cent of their weekly NSW payroll.
- > Non-employing businesses remain eligible for a maximum of \$1,000 per week.

Applications for this support are made at [Service NSW](#)

NEW SOUTH WALES

KEY POINTS TO ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT ANNOUNCED 28 JULY:

Further to the announcement made by the NSW government, the Prime Minister has also announced an expansion and additional measures to the individual COVID-19 Disaster Payment scheme for impacted residents. Payments to eligible impacted employees will increase:

- > From \$600 per week to \$750 per week for those who have lost 20 or more hours work per week; and
- > From \$375 per week to \$450 per week for those who have lost between 8 hours but less than 20 hours work per week.

Please point your impacted employees to the appropriate federal government links – [Services Australia / NSW](#).

Liquid assets tests, fortnightly delays and other eligibility criteria has been waived which provides greater opportunity for all impacted. It sets payment arrangements to the same level as they were for JobKeeper in December last year.

NEW SOUTH WALES

SMALL BUSINESS COVID SUPPORT PACKAGE ANNOUNCED

The NSW Government has announced it will provide financial assistance, support measures and tax relief to help businesses and people across the state impacted by the current COVID-19 restrictions.

COVID-19 BUSINESS GRANTS

A one-off payment to help businesses with cashflow support for the first 3 weeks of lockdown.

- > \$7,500 to \$15,000 depending on the decline in turnover

Eligibility

- > A revenue decline of 30% or more
- > Annual turnover above \$75,000
- > Payroll up to \$10 million

Applications are now open - Register your interest with Service NSW

JOBSAVER

Fortnightly payments to help maintain employee headcount (as at 13 July) and provide cashflow support to businesses

- > Employing businesses: 40% of weekly payroll, with a minimum payment of \$1,500 per week and a maximum payment of \$100,000 per week
- > Non-employing business: \$1,000 per week

Eligibility

- > A revenue decline of 30% or more
- > Turnover between \$75,000 and \$250 million

Applications are now open - Register your interest with Service NSW

NEW SOUTH WALES

COVID-19 MICRO BUSINESS GRANTS

A fortnightly payment for businesses with a turnover between \$30,000 and \$75,000

- > \$1,500 per fortnight

Eligibility

- > A turnover between \$30k and \$75k
- > A revenue decline of 30% or more
- > Businesses that provide the primary income source for a person associated with the business.

Applications are now open - Register your interest with Service NSW

PAYROLL TAX DEFERRALS

Businesses can opt in to defer payments on the 2020-21 annual reconciliation return and wages paid in July and August. Interest free repayment plans for up to 12 months will be available.

- > Deferral of 2020-21 reconciliation (due 28 July) and payments due on 7 August and 7 September until 7 October 2021.

Eligibility

Any business paying payroll tax - **For more information visit** [Revenue NSW](#)

PAYROLL TAX CONCESSIONS

Concessions to help reduce overheads for eligible businesses with a 30% decline in turnover.

- > 25% reduction in 2021-22 payroll tax where there is a 30% decline in turnover

Eligibility

- > A revenue decline of 30%
- > For NSW businesses with Australian wages up to \$10 million

For more information visit [Revenue NSW](#)

NEW SOUTH WALES

TENANTS IN COMMERCIAL OR RETAIL PREMISES

Protection will be offered for impacted tenants in commercial and retail tenancies in NSW.

Landlords will not be able to lock out or evict impacted tenants without first going to mediation.

Eligibility

- > Tenants must have an annual turnover of \$50 million or less
- > Tenants must be eligible for either the Micro-business COVID-19 Support Grant, the COVID-19 NSW Business Grant, or the JobSaver Scheme

[Contact the Small Business Commissioner](#)

LANDLORDS LEASING COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

For landlords with tenants in financial distress. Landlords with commercial properties may be eligible for a land tax concession if they provide rent reductions to their tenants.

- > Payment up to 100% of 2021 land tax

Eligibility

- > For landlords who provide at least that much rental relief to tenants who are eligible for the Micro-business COVID-19 Support Grant

2021 COVID-19 NSW Business Grant and/or

JobSaver scheme

- > Available for rent reductions made from now until 31 December 2021

For more information visit [Revenue NSW](#)

NEW SOUTH WALES

LANDLORDS LEASING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

For landlords with tenants in financial distress. Landlords with eligible properties may be eligible for a land tax concession if they provide rent reductions to their tenants.

Either

- > \$1500 grant to residential landowners to pass onto their tenants, or
- > Concession of up to 100% of 2021 land tax

Eligibility

- > For landlords who provide at least that much rental relief
- > Tenants must have lost 25% or more of their income
- > Available for rent reductions made from now until 31 December 2021

For more information visit [NSW Fair Trading](#)

HELP FOR INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS

NSW businesses with impacted employees can direct them to the following government websites for further information on related application processes:

- > [COVID-19 disaster payment](#)
- > [Pandemic leave disaster payment](#)
- > [Protection against eviction for residential tenants](#)

As discussed previously, businesses may also wish to discuss with employees the potential for making an agreed arrangement to take accrued annual leave or long service if eligible to cover any lost income due to the reduced hours of work. As usual, such agreements should be formalised in writing and appropriate records kept.

NEW SOUTH WALES

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The Commonwealth and NSW governments will deliver a \$17.35 million mental health support package for NSW including:

- > A boost for crisis and mental health services including for Lifeline, free 24-hour support via Sonder and counselling for perinatal depression and anxiety
- > Funding for mental health support for vulnerable and culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- > Assistance for young people through headspace, Kids Helpline and the Butterfly Foundation

We are also pointing all our Members to a wonderful organisation, [Man Anchor](#), who are providing information and useful information. [The COVID Lockdown blog](#) is full of ideas and we encourage our Members to share across their teams and networks during this time.

VICTORIA

A stylized map of the state of Victoria, Australia, is shown in the background. The map is white and set against a light blue background. The word "VICTORIA" is written in large, blue, sans-serif capital letters across the top left of the map.

The Prime Minister and Premier of Victoria, supported by their Treasurers, agreed to the new COVID Disaster Payment arrangements with a further enhancement that where a lockdown has been imposed by a State or Territory Government for a period of less than seven days, (as was originally announced by the Victorian Government in July 2021), the Commonwealth will provide income support through the COVID-19 Disaster Payment as follows:

1. A Commonwealth Hotspot has been declared by the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer.
2. The Commonwealth Government will provide income support for those who work or live in the areas declared as a Commonwealth Hotspot. The provision of income support outside of these areas will be provided where requested and at the cost of the State or Territory Government.
3. Individuals will be eligible for the COVID-19 Disaster Payment if they have lost between 8 and less than 20 hours of work for a payment of \$375, and for 20 or more hours of work for a payment of \$600, during the period of the lockdown. There will be no liquid assets test applied to eligibility for these payments.
4. A commitment has been made by the State or Territory Government to provide significant economic support, for the same lockdown period, to ensure cost sharing between the Commonwealth and the State or Territory Government.

The outcome of this arrangement will have the following implications for the state-wide lockdown announced by the Premier of Victoria effective at 11.59pm this evening and the declaration by the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer of Greater Melbourne, Moorabool Shire, City of Greater Geelong, Borough of Queenscliff and Surf Coast Shire as a COVID-19 Hotspot for the purposes of Commonwealth support, for an initial period of 5 days from 11.59pm 15 July 2021 until 11.59pm 20 July 2021.

Key information:

- > Eligibility for the COVID-19 Disaster Payment will be made available for the period of the Victorian lockdown as it applies to each area of the State.
- > The Commonwealth will fund the payment for those who live and/or work in the areas declared as a Commonwealth Hotspot and the State Government will fund payments provided to the balance of the State.
- > Payments will be made in arrears on application to Services Australia 7 days after the commencement of the lockdown (that is from Friday 23 July 2021).
- > Payments of \$600 will be made to Individuals that lose 20 hours or more of work during the period of the lockdown.
- > Payments of \$375 will be made to Individuals that lose between 8 and up to 20 hours of work during the period of the lockdown (the next five days).
- > No liquid assets test will be applied to the payment at any time.
- > Information about the [COVID-19 Disaster Payment](#) can be found on the Services Australia website.
- > In addition, the Victorian Government has agreed to provide significant additional economic support to businesses, from day one of this lockdown period, satisfying the Commonwealth's cost sharing requirements for this arrangement.
- > Should the Victorian lockdown be extended, the additional features of the upgraded and revised economic support arrangements proposed by the Commonwealth will be activated by agreement.

As discussed previously, businesses may also wish to discuss with employees the potential for making an agreed arrangement to take accrued annual leave or long service if eligible to cover any lost income due to the reduced hours of work. As usual, such agreements should be formalised in writing and appropriate records kept.

BUSINESS COSTS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ROUND 3

Under the new State-Commonwealth business support package, additional support to eligible small to medium businesses in sectors affected by the current restrictions in metropolitan and regional Victoria. Successful recipients of the Business Costs Assistance Program Round Two and the Business Costs Assistance Program Round Two July Extension will receive an additional \$2800.

As stated in previous versions of this document, those businesses that are continuing to operate during the restrictions are not eligible to apply for the grant. This may include many members of our industry sectors. However, those businesses in eligible sectors continuing to operate but unable to carry out their usual business activity can apply and may be eligible for a grant. We therefore recommend checking your four-digit ANZSIC class code to determine if you fall into the list of potentially eligible and impacted businesses.

Further information can be found on the [Business Victoria](#) website.

SMALL BUSINESS COVID HARDSHIP FUND

The Victorian Government's Small Business COVID Hardship Fund assists small to medium businesses whose operations have been severely impacted by COVID restrictions that have been in place between 27 May 2021 and August 2021 (COVID-19 restrictions) and;

- > have experienced at least a 70 per cent reduction in turnover as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, and
- > are ineligible for other key COVID-19 Victorian Government business grant programs that have been announced since 27 May 2021.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Program, a business must:

- a) be located within Victoria; and
- b) as a direct consequence of COVID-19 restrictions since 27 May 2021 (Impacted Period), have experienced a reduction in turnover of at least 70 per cent for a minimum consecutive two-week period comparable to a Benchmark Period in 2019 (note alternative arrangements are available for businesses who do not have a trading history in 2019); and
- f) have an annual Victorian payroll of up to \$10 million in 2019-20 on an ungrouped basis; and
- d) be registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST) on and from 28 July 2021; and
- e) hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN on and from 28 July 2021;

and

- f) be registered with the responsible Federal or State regulator; and

Additional eligibility requirements for employing businesses:

- g) be registered with WorkSafe Victoria; and
- h) attest that the business is supporting its workers to access any paid leave entitlements, or > that if a person can work from home, to work from home during the COVID-19 Restrictions, and supporting their casual workers, where possible.

Grant funds must be used to assist the business, for example on:

- > Meeting business costs, including utilities, wages or rent;
- > Seeking financial, legal or other advice to support business continuity planning;
- > Developing the business through marketing and communications activities; or
- > Any other supporting activities related to the operation of the business.

Applicants may be required to produce evidence of how the COVID restrictions caused a reduction in turnover and how the reduction in turnover between the Impacted and Benchmark Periods was determined.

Businesses may not be eligible if they have been able to receive support from other Victorian Business Costs Assistance Programs.

Additional information and applications

Additional information and applications are made through the Business Victoria website – business.vic.gov.au

Applications are open from Thursday 12 August 2021 until program funds are exhausted or 11:59 pm on Friday 10 September 2021, whichever is earlier.

VICTORIAN STATE GOVERNMENT BUSINESS SUPPORT PACKAGE ROUND 2.1

The Victorian government Business Costs Assistance Program is being reinstated and expanded. Round Two was issued in the May Lockdown and provides the framework for the program being offered for this lockdown period. This new program round will offer a \$2000 grant to eligible businesses.

A final notice from government is pending, however automatic payments are being prepared for those previously successful in receiving a grant.

For those who did not receive payment from the May Lockdown, you can re-apply and consider the previous eligibility criteria while we await notice from the government. Previous eligibility criteria includes:

- > Be located within Victoria; and
- > Be registered as operating in an eligible industry sector identified in the List of Eligible ANZSIC classes (as defined by the ANZSIC class linked to the business' ABN); and
- > Have incurred direct costs as a result of the circuit breaker action and the business cannot predominantly operate remotely; and
- > Have an annual Victorian payroll of up to \$10 million in 2019-20 on an ungrouped basis; and
- > Be registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST) on 27 May 2021; and
- > Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at 27 May 2021.

Unfortunately, and according to the Victorian government's eligibility criteria, those **businesses that are continuing to operate during the restrictions are not eligible to apply for the grant**. This may include many members of our industry sectors. However, those businesses in eligible sectors continuing to operate but unable to carry out their usual business activity can apply and may be eligible for a grant. We therefore recommend checking your four-digit ANZSIC class code to determine if you fall into the list of potentially eligible and impacted businesses.

If you were successful historically please look out for your automated payment, if you wish to make an application, or if you do not receive contact: [Business Victoria](#) or review the current status of your application via the [Business Victoria Grants Portal](#).

COMMERCIAL TENANCY RELIEF SCHEME AND LANDLORD HARDSHIP FUND

To support Victoria's small and medium-sized commercial tenants and their landlords, **the Victorian Government is making it a requirement from 28 July 2021 for commercial landlords to provide** rent relief that matches their tenants' fall in turnover in response to COVID-19, where the tenant is eligible for this support.

- > The \$80 million package will be fully funded by the Victorian Government.
- > The Scheme will be available to businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$50 million and have suffered a decline in turnover of at least 30% due to coronavirus.
- > Landlords will be required to provide proportional rent relief in line with a business's reduction in turnover. For example, a business with a turnover of 40 per cent of pre-pandemic levels can only be charged 40 per cent of its rent. Of the balance, at least half must be waived, with the remainder to be deferred.
- > The Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC) is encouraging impacted tenants and landlords to negotiate a rent relief agreement between themselves, in good faith. Where this isn't possible, the VSBC can provide free and impartial mediation to help parties reach a fair and satisfactory agreement.
- > Landlords will not be able to lock out or evict tenants without a determination from the VSBC.
- > Tenants and landlords can contact the Victorian Small Business Commission for further information on 13 87 22 or visit vsbc.vic.gov.au.

"The Scheme will apply retrospectively from 28 July 2021 and will run until 15 January 2022."

COVIDSAFE DEEP CLEANING REBATE

The COVIDSafe Deep Cleaning Rebate is available for small and medium-sized businesses, where anyone suspected or confirmed to have coronavirus (COVID-19) has been on the premises or worksite when they may have been infectious.

- > The rebate will help eligible businesses cover the cost of hiring professional cleaning services to conduct a 'deep clean' or 'decontamination clean' of their premises or worksite. This will help businesses prevent further transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), and reduce their out-of-pocket cleaning expenses.
- > The rebate will cover up to 80 per cent of the cleaning costs at each worksite, capped at a grant of \$10,000 (for a total cleaning cost of \$12,500).
- > Businesses that have received funding from other initiatives under the Victorian Government's Economic Survival Package and Business Support Package are also eligible to apply for this program.

Eligibility for the rebate:

- > Operate from a worksite or premises in Victoria where a person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19
- > Have undertaken a 'deep clean' or 'decontamination clean' of the affected worksite
- > Have evidence of the expenditure
- > Hold a valid ABN
- > Be registered as a trading business with the responsible federal or state regulator
- > Have an annual payroll of less than \$3 million in 2019-2020 on an ungrouped basis
- > Be registered with WorkSafe if employing people

The full list of eligibility and evidence requirements for this rebate can be found on the [Business Victoria](#) website.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANTS

Given the current seven-day lockdown in place across South Australia from Tuesday, 20 July 2021, the South Australian Government has announced a \$100 million support package for business during the state's lockdown. \$3,000 cash grants will be available to small and medium businesses that suffer significant loss of income and small businesses can apply for a \$1,000 grant. To be eligible for the one-off \$3,000 emergency cash grant, a business must, as at 12:01am Tuesday 20 July 2021:

- Be located within South Australia

- Have an annual turnover of \$75,000 or more in 2020/1 or 2019/0, and be registered for GST

- Employ people in South Australia

- Have an Australia-wide payroll of less than \$10 million in 2019-20

- Have a valid Australian Business Number (ABN)

- Experienced at least a 30 per cent reduction (compared to the week prior) in turnover due to the restricted trading conditions

To be eligible for the one-off \$1,000 emergency cash grant, a non-employed business must meet the criteria listed above excluding the requirement to employ people.

Registration of interest for these Business Support Grants can be made at the [SA Treasury](#) website and we understand applications open within the next two weeks.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

Federal COVID-19 Disaster Payment

The Australian Government has announced extra support for people affected by South Australian COVID-19 hotspots and restrictions. Claims for the federal Government COVID Disaster Payments in South Australia will open on 28 July 2021 and can be made through the federal [MyGov](#) website.

Impacted individuals outside declared hotspots in SA

The South Australian Government has also announced fully-funded income support payments of up to \$600 per week for eligible workers in **regional SA**, who live or work **outside of the Commonwealth-declared 'Hotspot'** local government areas (and, therefore, not entitled to the Federal Government's \$375 or \$600 per week support payments). The details of this assistance will be available on the SA Treasury website in the coming days.

COVID related business support in other states and territories

The Commonwealth government support packages will, as and when necessary, be made available for other states and territories. However, we provide the following insights into current business support programs available in those other states and territories.

QUEENSLAND



2021 COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANTS FOR LOCKDOWN-IMPACTED BUSINESSES IN QUEENSLAND

Businesses may be eligible for financial support through the 2021 COVID-19 Business Support Grants. \$5,000 grants will be made available to small and medium businesses across Queensland affected by the COVID-19 lockdown that commenced on Saturday 31 July 2021 and lockdowns in other states.

The Queensland Government recognises the short interval between lockdowns in South East Queensland, and the unique circumstances faced by regional economies who are impacted by multiple border closures. These \$5,000 grants will provide cash flow support for businesses to help them adapt to evolving circumstances.

Available funding

Depending upon the size and type of your business eligible businesses may receive a grant between \$1,000 and \$15,000 (excluding GST).

Eligibility criteria

The grant provides support to employing small and medium businesses across Queensland impacted by the South East Queensland lockdown that commenced on 31 July 2021. Your business doesn't have to be located in South East Queensland, but you must have experienced at least a 30% reduction in turnover as a result of the lockdown.

Grants are also available for large businesses in the hospitality and tourism sector operating in the 11 local government areas in the lockdown, subject to meeting eligibility criteria.

Small and medium businesses are defined as having:

- > a turnover of more than \$75,000 per annum
- > an annual payroll in Queensland of up to \$10 million.

More information on eligibility criteria will be available in the coming days.

How to apply

Applications will open in mid-August via the [Business Qld](#) website

- > Businesses will need to apply online with supporting evidence. Grants will be processed in the order we receive them.

A light blue map of Queensland is positioned in the top left corner of the page. The word "QUEENSLAND" is written in large, blue, uppercase letters across the top of the page, partially overlapping the map.

QUEENSLAND

The Queensland Department of Employment, Small Business and Training administers grants and programs to help Queensland small business continue to recover by committing grant funds for businesses to increase key capabilities, embrace innovation, and assist high-growth businesses to capitalise on opportunities.

Current opportunities available under this scheme:

The Business Boost Grants Program

The Business Boost grants program provides support to businesses to advance improvements in their efficiency and productivity. This support includes funded activities in **3 project areas**:

1. Future planning
2. Specialised and automated software
3. Staff management, development and planning

Eligible grant recipients may receive a grant of up to \$15,000 on completing a proposed agreement. Successful applicants must co-contribute at least 30% of the total project costs. Grant funding will be paid only after compliant acquittal documentation is received.

Potential projects eligible for the funding include those relating to implanting specialised and automated software, compliance and employee management, development and planning. Applications open on Friday, 30 July 2021, and further information can be accessed via the [Business QLD](#) website.

QUEENSLAND

Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grant Program – Regional Queensland

This program is still accepting applications from regional Queensland businesses. The objective of this program is to support small businesses subject to closure or highly impacted by COVID-19 shutdown restrictions announced by the Queensland Government. To be a 'regional business', your principal place of business must be in a local government area within Queensland that is not identified as a South East Queensland.

The program aims to see small and micro businesses:

- > prepare for the safe resumption of trading in the post COVID-19 recovery
- > continue to meet operating costs
- > access digital technologies to rebuild business operations and transition to a new way of doing business
- > respond to online opportunities, where possible, to sustain employment and maintain potential for longer-term growth
- > upskill and reskill business owners and staff to benefit from new technologies or business models
- > embrace business diversification to adapt and sustain operations
- > create or retain employment.

The available grant amount is a minimum of \$2,000 and up to a maximum of \$10,000 per eligible small or micro business.

Applications remain open at this time, and further eligibility requirements and application process can be found at the [Business Qld](#) website.

OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES LESS IMPACTED

TASMANIA

REGISTRATION FREEZE FOR LIGHT AND HEAVY VEHICLES

Small businesses looking to suspend activity due to the COVID-19 business downturn and trading restrictions can apply to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to freeze their business vehicle registrations for both light and heavy vehicles. Registrations can be reactivated at no cost when the business restarts. The maximum period that a registration can be frozen is 12 months.

IMPORTANT NOTE: once frozen the registration you can no longer use or park the vehicle on a public street

Applications can be made via the [Transport Services](#) website.

ACT

COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT

The ACT COVID-19 Business Support Grant will deliver grants of \$3,000 for employing businesses and \$1,000 for non-employing businesses. The grants will be available to local businesses that have experienced at least a 30 per cent reduction in turnover in the week defined as Friday 13 August - Friday 20 August 2021 (compared to the prior 7-day period) due to restricted trading conditions. This program is jointly funded by the ACT and Australian Governments. Eligibility for this grant will include:

- > Being registered in the ACT as verified by an ABN and able to demonstrate primary operation in the ACT as at 1 April 2021;
- > Have an annual turnover of more than \$75,000 (excluding GST);
- > Be registered for GST as recorded on the Australian Business Register before April 2021; and
- > Have total Australian payroll of less than \$10 million.

COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS HARDSHIP SCHEME

Eligible small businesses will be able to apply to the ACT Government to receive credits for payroll tax, utility charges, rates and other selected fees and charges up to a maximum of \$10,000 per operator. To be eligible for credits the applicant must be able to demonstrate 30 per cent loss in revenue.

This scheme is for small businesses with a turnover between \$30,000 and \$10 million per annum.

Small businesses can apply for up to \$10,000 of support in the form of credit.

Although the finalised details of both these support initiatives are yet to be finalised, businesses can express their interest via the ACT governments [Access Canberra](#) website.

OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES LESS IMPACTED

Apprentice wages

Wages paid to apprentices or trainees employed after 1 August 2020 are exempt from payroll tax for the period from the start of the employment until 30 June 2022.

To ensure this applies only to new employees, the apprentice or trainee cannot have been employed by the business (or another business within the payroll tax group) at any time during the previous month from when the employment commenced. This measure was originally until 30 June 2021 but has been extended for another year. Businesses are expected to self-assess their eligibility for these exemptions and lodge their payroll tax returns accordingly.

Payroll tax deferrals

If part of a group all ACT businesses with group Australia-wide wages of up to \$10 million can defer their 2020-21 payroll tax, interest free until 1 July 2022. All ACT businesses that are not part of a group with Australia-wide wages of up to \$10 million can defer their 2020-21 payroll tax, interest free until 1 July 2022.

More information on these schemes can be found at the [ACT Revenue Office](#) website and you should speak with your financial accountant on your possible eligibility.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Nothing notable at this time.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Nothing notable at this time.

IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

It must be noted this information is current as at 29 July 2021. Information across criteria, funding, grants and other opportunities for businesses is continually evolving and being confirmed across State and Commonwealth governments. At each release this document will be updated and re-released. Continue to register or keep aware of government websites for information for your business:

[Commonwealth](#) / [New South Wales](#) / [Victoria](#)

CONTACT

Members with any related queries can contact The Real Media Collective:

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NOTE: The information in this Advisory is general and was correct at the time of writing. However, this information can change quickly and further travel related restrictions may be imposed. TRMC recommends members ensure any related decisions are made on current and up to date information. The Real Media Collective, 14th July, 2021.



NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand government and various agencies have a range of financial support programs currently available for businesses impacted by COVID-19. The approach taken by the NZ government and the support made available is based around the particular Alert Level that is currently activated and if that alert level is raised for a 7-day period.

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

The **Small Business Cash Flow Loan Scheme (SBCS)** is a government loan to small businesses to support their cash flow after having been impacted by COVID-19. The scheme will provide eligible businesses with loan assistance of up to \$100,000 to businesses employing 50 or fewer full-time employees. Applications remain open until 31 December 2023.

Details of the loan include:

- > \$10,000 to be provided to eligible businesses.
- > an additional \$1800 per equivalent full-time employee.
- > interest free if the loan is paid back within two years.
- > an interest rate of 3% for a maximum term of five years.
- > repayments not required for the first two years.
- > you must show at least a 30% drop in revenue due to Covid-19, measured over a 14-day period in the past six months.
- > maximum amount you can borrow depends on the number of full-time and part-time employees.

Potential eligibility can be determined using a [tool](#) on the NZ governments Business website and applications can be made via the [Inland Revenue](#) website.

NEW ZEALAND

The **Business Debt Hibernation** initiative aims to assist impacted businesses make a proposed arrangement with their creditors to put debts on hold for a period of up to six-months. The scheme was due to expire on 24 December 2020 but is now going through to 31 October 2021. The program is available to companies and trusts, but not sole traders.

If entering into such an arrangement a business must consider, understand and establish a range of factors, including:

- > there must be an 80% approval from board members.
- > the debts remain to be paid off in full.
- > the business must be ongoing and viable in the medium to long term as long as the business gets help from such an arrangement.
- > eligible business need to have been established before 3 April 2020.

Various notices must be filed with the NZ Companies Office, notification of the proposal and the proposed terms will need to be provided to creditors. The proposal to creditors will need to be a better deal than the alternative of recovery if the business fails. Creditors will take a vote and the proposal will need over 50% to vote in favour before it can be approved.

Given the complexities and legal obligations associated with such a scheme it is recommended you seek advice from your accountant. Further information including eligibility and application processes for this program can be found on the NZ governments [Business](#) website.

The **Loss Carry Back Scheme** allows businesses who make a loss in either 2020 or 2021 offset profits made in the year preceding the income year for which the return is being filed. Eligible businesses will need to have:

- > incurred, or expect to incur a loss in the 2020 or the 2021 tax year
- > made a profit in the year before the loss was made.

Where profits have been distributed by way of shareholder-employee salaries, paid out as a dividend, or if a subvention payment has been made, then they cannot be reversed to take advantage of a loss carry-back. Further information can be found at the [Inland Revenue](#) website.

The **Accident Compensation Corporation** have advised that businesses having difficulty making levy payments due to the effect of COVID-19 can contact them to discuss options. Further information can be obtained via the [ACC](#) website and they can be contacted on 0800 729 538.



NEW ZEALAND

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

The **COVID-19 Short-Term Absence Payment** is potentially available at all Alert Levels for employers to pay workers who follow public health guidance and are staying home while waiting for a COVID-19 test result. It's also available to eligible self-employed workers. To be eligible, workers need to be unable to work from home and need to miss work while waiting for the test results. The payment is \$350 for each worker. Employers or the self-employed can apply for any worker once in any 30-day period.

Businesses can apply for the Short-Term Absence Payment if they've been advised that their worker, or a self-employed person, is:

- > staying home while waiting for a COVID-19 test result, in accordance with public health guidance, or are
- > the parent or caregiver of a dependant who is staying home while waiting for their COVID-19 test results, in accordance with public health guidance, and the dependant needs support to do so safely, or are
- > a household member or secondary contact (as described in public health guidance) of someone who is a close contact of a person with COVID-19, and the worker has been advised to stay at home while waiting for the close contact's test results.

The **COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme** is potentially available at all Alert Levels for employers to pay workers who have COVID-19 or are identified as someone in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and required to isolate. Businesses are not required to show an actual or predicted revenue drop or that their ability to support an employee was negatively impacted by COVID-19, to be eligible to access the payment.

The Leave Support Scheme is paid as a 2-week lump sum per eligible employee and paid at a flat rate of:

- > \$585.80 a week for full-time workers who were working 20 hours or more a week
- > \$350 a week for part-time workers who were working less than 20 hours a week.
- > Averaging applies of an employee works variable hours.

Further details on eligibility criteria and application processes for these assistance types are available on the NZ governments [Work and Income](#) website.

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