



CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS SUPPORT – business.gov.au and 13 28 46

If your business has been affected by the coronavirus, AusIndustry have a team of dedicated customer representatives who can help you on **13 28 46**. Our dedicated team will be available to assist you with extended hours between 7am - 9pm across Australia, Monday to Sunday. Information about the support available to business can also be accessed at business.gov.au which is being continuously updated as new information becomes available.

Stay up-to-date on the latest information for business owners is also available by [subscribing](#) to the [business.gov.au newsletter](#).

In summary, the Australian Government measures to support businesses impacted by the coronavirus include:

- **JobKeeper** payments for [employers](#) and [sole traders](#) and the [Supporting Apprentices and Trainees](#) wage subsidies – helps businesses to retain their staff. *Further information below.*
- **Instant Asset Write-Off** - increase of threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and making more businesses eligible to use it until 30 June 2020. *Further information below.*
- **Backing Business Investment** - support of business investment and economic growth over the short term by accelerating depreciation deductions through to 30 June 2021.
- **Boosting cash flow for employers** - provides \$20,000 to \$100,000 to eligible small and medium-sized businesses, and not-for-profits (NFPs) that employ people. *Further information below.*
- **Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme** - facilitates access to credit by providing a guarantee of up to 50% of the value of an unsecured loan to SME lenders.
- **Financially distressed business relief** - temporary relief under the Corporations Act through various measures to lessen the threats that could unnecessarily push them into insolvency.

Tax Support for Small Business webinar - The [Australian Taxation Office \(ATO\)](#) is also giving taxation relief on a case by case basis. [Register](#) for the ATO's free 60 minute **ATO "Tax Support for small business" Webinar** from Friday 1st May 2020.

ATO Emergency Support Infoline is available on 1800 806 218.

COVID-19 Business and Recruitment Impact Data – The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills & Employment is surveying businesses to collect data on staffing changes, business impacts, actions taken by businesses in response to the pandemic, and future expectations to measure the impact of COVID-19. The key findings from this survey are presented in [weekly reports](#).

[Business.gov.au](#) has information on [Coronavirus and financial assistance](#) for affected businesses.

COVIDSafe app

The [COVIDSafe app](#) is part of the Australian Government's work to slow the spread of COVID-19 and is now available to download. It is designed to assist in finding COVID-19 cases which might be undiagnosed in the community, helping people get earlier treatment and helping people to have an earlier diagnosis – actions that will save and protect lives.

To access this app, download from the [Google Play Store](#), or the [Apple App Store](#), depending on your device. Then, create an account, register and keep the app running on your phone. CovidSafe then recognises other devices with the CovidSafe app installed and Bluetooth enabled. For [more information](#).

JobKeeper Payment

The \$130 billion [JobKeeper Payment](#) is a temporary scheme open to businesses impacted by the coronavirus to help businesses to keep people in their jobs and re-start when the crisis is over. As at 23/4/20, more than 900,000 Australian businesses have registered their interest in accessing the JobKeeper payment and 275,000 businesses have completed formal applications for the payment. Refer to [business.gov.au](#) for details of the package for [Employers and Employees](#) and for [Sole Traders and Self Employed](#).

Enrolments are open from now until the end of May (**31/5/20**) for the JobKeeper Payment through Australian Taxation Office (ATO) online services, the ATO's Business Portal using myGov ID or through your registered tax professional.

You can enrol once you have confirmed you and your employees meet the [eligibility criteria](#) for the JobKeeper Payment.

If you have employees you will need to ask them to complete a [JobKeeper employee nomination notice](#) and return it to you by the end of April if you plan to claim JobKeeper payment for April. Continue to pay at least \$1,500 to each eligible employee per JobKeeper fortnight (the first JobKeeper fortnight is the period from 30 March to 12 April).

Further information is available at [The Treasury](#) including [Frequently Asked Questions](#). The [ATO JobKeeper Guides](#) detail the steps a business is required to undertake. The Australian Government is also working with the big four banks to enable employers applying for JobKeeper payments to access bridging finance to allow them to continue to pay staff and meet the requirement to continue paying staff before being eligible for the payment.

Fair Work Ombudsman

The Fair Work Act has been amended to support the implementation and operation of the JobKeeper wage subsidy scheme in Australian workplaces. These changes are temporary and will end on 28 September 2020.

Learn more about the [JobKeeper changes to the Fair Work Act](#). To understand your workplace entitlements and obligations if you are affected by the outbreak of COVID-19 visit the [Fair Work Ombudsman portal](#) for information on stand downs from work, flexible work arrangements, workplace health and safety, and pay and leave entitlements.

Instant Asset Write-Off

The [Instant Asset Write-Off threshold](#) has been increased from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and has been expanded to include businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million) until 30 June 2020.

The higher threshold provides cash flow benefits for businesses that will be able to immediately deduct purchases of eligible assets each costing less than \$150,000. The threshold applies on a per asset basis, so eligible businesses can immediately write off multiple assets. The instant asset write off applies from 12 March 2020 until 30 June 2020, for new or second hand assets first used or installed ready for use in this timeframe.

You can access the [Instant Asset Write-Off \(IAWO\) measure](#) automatically by applying the deduction on eligible assets during the course of your ordinary business accounting and tax reporting. You should speak to your accountant about how to do this.

You can learn more about the [Instant asset write-off program](#), and the proposed changes as part of the economic response to Coronavirus, at the ATO website.

Boosting Cash Flow for Employers

The Australian Government has passed legislation to provide temporary [cash flow support](#) to small and medium businesses and not-for-profit organisations that employ staff and have been affected by the economic downturn associated with COVID-19.

As at 23/4/20, the ATO has paid out \$3 billion to 177,000 businesses employing 2.1 million Australians as part of the Government's cashflow boost measure to support businesses to keep people employed and meet their fixed costs, by linking payments to payrolls.

Eligible businesses and not-for-profit organisations will receive between \$20,000 and \$100,000 in cash flow boost amounts by lodging their activity statements up to the month or quarter of September 2020. The cash flow boosts will be delivered as credits in the activity statement system, and will generally be equivalent to the amount withheld from wages paid to employees for each monthly or quarterly period from March to June 2020.

You do not need to apply for the cash flow boost. All you need to do is lodge your upcoming activity statements, and if you're eligible, the cash flow boost will be automatically credited to your activity statement account.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) website includes detailed information on [how to determine if you're eligible](#), and provides a variety of situations and examples where a business may not fall within the general eligibility criteria and still be entitled to the cash flow boost.

Unpaid Pandemic Leave

On 8 April 2020, the Fair Work Commission made determinations varying 99 awards. The determinations inserted a temporary new schedule into these awards that provides employees with 2 weeks unpaid pandemic leave and the ability to take annual leave at half pay. For further details refer to: [Unpaid Pandemic Leave in Awards](#).

Jobs Hub

While many businesses have had to reduce staff, there is an increased demand for workers in other areas of the economy. These areas include health care sectors, transport and logistics, some areas of retail, mining and mining services, manufacturing, agriculture and government sectors. The Australian Government's [Jobs Hub](#) will help you find advertised vacancies.

Commercial Tenancies

The Government has announced a range of measures to help renters. This includes a temporary hold on evictions and a [mandatory code of conduct for commercial tenancies](#) to support SMEs affected by coronavirus. These measures will be implemented by your State or Territory Government. [Relief for commercial tenants](#).

IP Australia

From 22 April 2020, customers impacted by COVID-19 can submit a request for [free extension of time](#) of up to three months through IP Australia's eServices. These arrangements will be in place until **at least 31 May 2020**.

COVID-19 Manufacturer Response

The Australian Government funded Advance Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC) has set up a register to capture expressions of interest from Australian based manufacturers and individuals looking to assist with supply of goods, services or knowledge in tackling the current COVID-19 outbreak in Australia. Please visit the portal to register your interest <https://www.amgc.org.au/covid-19-manufacturer-response/>

Exporting and Coronavirus

COVID-19 restrictions are impacting Australian exporters and tourism businesses. Find the [latest advice for exporters](#), overseas market information and available assistance for exporters.

Training and development during COVID-19

COVID-19 has changed the way we work and do business. Consider some of these [online training options](#) to help you operate your business under COVID-19, or to update you and your employees' skills.

Looking after your customers during COVID-19

While this is a difficult time for business, you still need to [look after your customers](#). Know your customer rights and how to keep them supporting your business.

Marketing your business during COVID-19

Effective marketing gives your customers a reason to purchase from you instead of your competitors. Under the challenges of COVID-19, it can also help you to keep your customers loyal to your business.

Find out [how to market your business](#) under COVID-19.

AusIndustry's [Australian Small Business Advisory Services \(ASBAS\) Digital Solutions program](#) provides low cost, high quality advice on digital solutions to meet your business needs. Their advisers can help you with social media and digital marketing, websites and selling online, using small business software, online security and data privacy, and general business help during COVID-19. To [find your local ASBAS Digital Solutions provider](#).

Continuing your business

[Read](#) about reviewing your finances, business continuity plans, marketing your business and other ways to keep your business going during COVID-19. Also, find [information](#) on your business obligations, tax and mental health support.

State and territory information, grants and assistance

Find the latest coronavirus information, grants and [support in your state or territory](#).

Visit business.gov.au for details on the complete **Coronavirus business assistance** available for:

- [Support available for sole traders](#)
- [Support available for employers](#)
- [Support available for companies](#)

Employees on temporary work visas

If you are a Business which has non Australian-resident staff who are employed or sponsored from overseas on temporary visas with a work right - please refer to the following regularly updated websites regarding ascertaining possible eligibility for government assistance.

- [Department of Home Affairs National Coronavirus Helpline 1800 020 080](#)
- [Current Coronavirus Alerts](#)
- [Residence Criteria for Social Security payments](#) also noting relevant information at <https://www.australia.gov.au/>

[Businesses operators](#) or visa holders with questions on their specific circumstances are encouraged to seek advice from an [Australian registered migration agent](#) or the [Department of Home Affairs](#)

Income Support for Individuals

- Over the next six months, the Government is temporarily expanding eligibility to income support payments and establishing a new, time-limited Coronavirus supplement to be paid at a rate of \$550 per fortnight.
- The \$750 cash payments for pensioners, carers, people on the disability support pension and family tax benefits have now gone to 6.8 million people totalling \$5.1 billion.
- **Early access to Superannuation** - Individuals affected by the coronavirus can access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020-21. The ATO has approved 456,000 early access to superannuation applications, totalling \$3.8 billion. You are able to apply for early release of your superannuation from 20 April 2020.
- Visit [Services Australia](#) for further information on assistance for individuals.

GENERAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

R&D Tax Incentive

[R&D Tax Incentive](#) - provides a tax offset for some of the costs of doing [eligible R&D](#) by reducing a company's income tax liability. Registration applications for the 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 income year will now be accepted up until **30 September 2020** (instead of the usual 30th April deadline).

2020 Australian Technologies Competition (ATC)

The [Australian Technologies Competition](#) seeks to identify and accelerate Australian technology 'scaleups' with the greatest global potential. In 2020, the ATC will feature 12 [Award categories](#) - everything from smart cities, to new energy, cyber security and more. Two NEW categories in 2020 include: Space and Disaster & Emergency Tech. The 2020 Australian Technologies Competition is now open, in an all virtual format. Applications **close on 8th May 2020**.

Online Safety Grants Program – Round One

The [eSafety Commissioner's Online Safety Grants Program](#) provides grants of between \$80,000 and \$1 million to non-government organisations (NGOs) that deliver online safety education to children, young people and their communities, or training to those who work with them. Round 1 applications close on **21st May 2020**. [Online FAQs](#) Contact: onlinesafetygrants@esafety.gov.au.

National Careers Institute Partnerships Grant – Round One

The [National Careers Institute Partnerships Grant – Round One](#) provides grants from \$20,000 to \$700,000, for up to 2 years for projects that enhance partnerships with industry, employers, schools and tertiary institutions to deliver innovative career advisory products and services for people at all stages of their careers. Grants are for entities that contribute to career advisory services and careers information, including industry, employers, schools, tertiary providers, local and state governments and researchers. Applications **close on 30th June 2020**.

Energy Efficient Communities Program – Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants 2020

[Energy Efficient Communities Program - Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants 2020](#) - provides community groups with grants up to \$12,500 for energy efficient equipment, energy generation and storage systems, and energy audits.