

## COVID-19 – Government Support

Date: 05 May 2020

### Support for individuals

<p><b>Mental Health</b></p> <p>Get help to cope with life's changes.</p>	<p>Visit <a href="http://headtohealth.gov.au/">headtohealth.gov.au/</a> for links to online counselling or call:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifeline 13 11 14 (24 hours)</li> <li>• Kids helpline 1800 55 1800</li> </ul> <p>Visit <a href="http://thinkmentalhealthwa.com.au">thinkmentalhealthwa.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>Superannuation</b></p> <p>Individuals can access up to \$10,000 of their super in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020-21.</p>	<p>Apply to the ATO through MyGov (<a href="http://my.gov.au">my.gov.au</a>) from mid-April</p> <p>Find out more at <a href="http://Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus">Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus</a></p>
<p><b>Retirees</b></p> <p>Temporary reduction to minimum drawdown requirements for account-based pension.</p>	<p>Find out more at <a href="http://Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus">Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus</a></p>
<p><b>Financial Support</b></p> <p>Expanded eligibility for some payments and moves to make them easier to claim.</p>	<p>Claim online at <a href="http://servicesaustralia.gov.au">servicesaustralia.gov.au</a></p> <p>Or over the phone on 132 850</p>
<p><b>Economic Support Payment</b></p> <p>\$750 payments for people on certain government payments.</p>	<p>Will be paid automatically to people who are eligible.</p> <p>Find out more at <a href="http://Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus">Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus</a></p>
<p><b>Job Keeper</b></p> <p>A subsidy of \$1,500/fortnight per employee for up to six months. Available to businesses, not-for-profits and sole traders.</p>	<p>Your employer will notify you if they intend to claim the payment on your behalf.</p> <p>Find out more at <a href="http://Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus">Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus</a></p>
<p><b>Relief Services</b></p> <p>Expanding access to the No Interest Loans Scheme.</p>	<p>Find out more on at <a href="http://moneysmart.gov.au">moneysmart.gov.au</a> (search 'No Interest Loans Scheme')</p>
<p><b>Child Care and Education</b></p> <p>Fee relief while supporting child care services to keep their doors open and employees in their job.</p> <p>Primary school-aged children will have access to free influenza vaccinations. The WA government will spend \$43 million to increase cleaning programs across all public schools.</p>	<p>For more information visit <a href="http://australia.gov.au">australia.gov.au</a> and scroll down to 'Education &amp; child care information'</p> <p>Find out more at <a href="http://education.wa.edu.au">education.wa.edu.au</a></p>

## Support for individuals - continued

### Renting

Evictions will be put on hold over the next six months, for those in financial distress.

A prohibition on rent increases during the emergency period and flexibility to fixed term tenancy agreements.

Reduced obligation to conduct ordinary repairs if the reason they cannot do so is COVID-19 related financial hardship or a lawful restriction on movement.

**Grants of up to \$2,000 for residential tenants who have lost their job\***

Updated information relating to these changes is available on the Consumer Protection website.

For more information visit [commerce.wa.gov.au](https://commerce.wa.gov.au) (search 'COVID-19 Tenancy')

For more information visit [dmirs.wa.gov.au/covidrenting](https://dmirs.wa.gov.au/covidrenting)

### WA government support - Household fees & charges

A freeze will be placed on household fees and charges, including electricity, water, motor vehicle charges, the emergency services levy and public transport fares.

No disconnection for power and water.

Visit [wa.gov.au](https://wa.gov.au) (search 'COVID-19 Western Australian Government Response')

### WA government support - Energy Assistance Package

Payment will increase from \$300 to \$600 for eligible concession card-holders.

Visit [wa.gov.au](https://wa.gov.au) (search 'COVID-19 Western Australian Government Response')

### WA Shopping hours

Coles and Woolworths to be granted temporary extended trading hours.

Special arrangements for pensioners, the elderly and people with disabilities to shop from 7am to 8am Monday to Saturday and 10am to 11am on Sunday.

Visit [wa.gov.au](https://wa.gov.au) (search 'COVID-19 Western Australian Government Response')

### Shopping service for vulnerable community members

To support individuals isolated in their homes, including people with disability and mental health conditions, older Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

To be launched Monday April 20, 2020.

Call 1300 103 880 or visit [cahoots.org.au/cahootsconnects](https://cahoots.org.au/cahootsconnects) for more information including eligibility details.

## Support for individuals - continued

### Temporary Visa Holders

Commonwealth funding to Red Cross to deliver emergency relief and casework support for people on temporary visas.

For more information visit [redcross.org.au](https://redcross.org.au)  
(search 'temporary visa holders')

### COVIDSafe

New app to slow the spread of COVID-19 through the digital tracking of contact between confirmed cases and the wider community\*

For more information visit [australia.gov.au/app](https://australia.gov.au/app)

### National Broadband Network (NBN) assistance

Financial relief to internet providers so they can assist families in accessing the NBN. Includes maintaining connections for households that are unable to pay bills\*

For more information visit [nbnc.com.au](https://nbnc.com.au)

## Support for small business and not-for-profits

### Job Keeper

A subsidy of \$1,500/fortnight per employee for up to six months. Available to businesses, not-for-profits and sole traders.

WA businesses are exempt from any payroll tax on the wage subsidy.

Your employer will notify you if they intend to claim the payment on your behalf.

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

### Boosting cash flow for employers

Up to \$100,000 to eligible small and medium-sized businesses and not for-profits that employ people, with a minimum payment of \$20,000.

Automatically applied to the accounts of eligible businesses when they lodge their activity statement for the relevant periods.

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

### Supporting apprentices and trainees

Wage subsidy of up to \$21,000 per apprentice or trainee.

Talk to the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) in your area. Search for your local AASN at [australianapprenticeships.gov.au](https://australianapprenticeships.gov.au)  
Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

One-off payment of \$2,000 to employers of existing apprentices and trainees currently receiving Construction Training Fund (CTF) grant payments\*

Find out more at [ctf.wa.gov.au/](https://ctf.wa.gov.au/)

A new WA monthly payment program worth \$9.5 million to assist employers to retain their existing apprentices\*

### Loan Support

Government will provide lenders with a guarantee for loans, to increase their willingness and ability to provide credit. Loans of up to \$250,000 up to three years, with an initial six-month repayment holiday.

For more information visit:  
[Business.gov.au](https://www.business.gov.au) (select 'coronavirus information')

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

### Renting

Evictions will be on hold for six months by the states and territories, for those in financial distress.

See mandatory code of conduct for commercial tenancies

For more information visit [business.gov.au](https://www.business.gov.au) (select 'coronavirus information')

The WA Government will waive rental payments for small businesses and not-for-profit groups in Government-owned buildings for six months.

Land tax reduction for landlords who provide rent relief for commercial tenants\*

For more information visit [smallbusiness.wa.gov.au](https://www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au)

## Support for small business and not-for-profits - continued

### Temporary relief for financial distress

Increase to threshold at which creditors can issue statutory demand, extra time to respond.

Relief from personal liability for trading while insolvent.

Temporary flexibility in Corporations Act 2001.

You don't need to apply. These relief measures will be in place for six months.

For more information visit:  
[Business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au) (select Coronavirus information')

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

### Backing businesses to invest

Instant asset write-off threshold has been increased to \$150,000. Now includes larger businesses.

A time limited 15-month investment incentive to support business investment and economic growth over the short-term, by accelerating depreciation deduction.

Check your eligibility for the instant asset write-off with the [Australian Taxation Office](https://australian-taxation-office.gov.au)

For information visit:  
[Business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au) (select 'Coronavirus information')

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

### WA Government support for businesses

Payroll tax paying businesses with a payroll between \$1 million and \$4 million will receive a one-off grant of \$17,500.

\$1 million payroll tax threshold brought forward by six months to July 1, 2020. Businesses can now apply to defer payment of their 2019-20 payroll tax until July 21, 2020.

Visit [wa.gov.au](https://wa.gov.au) (Search Payroll Tax Employer Guide)

### Small business support services

The Small Business Development Corporation has created a COVID-19 assistance center to provide dedicated guidance on available support options.

To access the service, contact 133 140 or email [info@smallbusiness.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@smallbusiness.wa.gov.au)

Find out more at  
[smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/coronavirus](https://smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/coronavirus)

### COVID-19 relief fund

Grants are available for eligible not for-profit and community organisations that are experiencing financial hardship related directly to COVID-19.

Temporary powers to enable Lotterywest to provide additional grants and fund other worthy grant programs.

Apply for grant support by visiting [lotterywest.wa.gov.au](https://lotterywest.wa.gov.au) or by calling 131 777.

### Regional Chamber of Commerce

**\$5,000 and \$20,000 to be provided to individual chambers across regional WA to keep their doors open and aid business recovery\***

Find out more at: [regionalchamberswa.com.au/](https://regionalchamberswa.com.au/)