

Federal Government Support – <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus>

Support for Individuals

Since our previous publication on 30 March 2020, the Federal Government has not announced any additional financial support packages.

No.	Support	Description	Hyperlink Reference
1.	JobKeeper payment for employees	<p>Businesses significantly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak will be able to apply to the ATO and access a subsidy to continue paying their employees. The government will provide \$1,500 per fortnight (before tax) for 6 months to eligible employers for each eligible employee (including full-time, part-time, casual and stood down employees). Employers who receive the subsidy must then ensure that their employees are paid \$1,500 per fortnight (before tax).</p> <p>Eligible businesses will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a business with a turnover of \$1 billion or less, where the turnover has decreased by at least 30%; or - for all other businesses, the turnover has decreased by at least 50%, <p>but excludes a business that is subject to the Major Bank Levy (Commonwealth Bank, Westpac, ANZ, NAB and Macquarie). It is unclear how the decrease in turnover will be assessed.</p> <p>The subsidy will start on 30 March 2020, with the first payments to be received by employers in the first week of May. Businesses may register their interest in receiving the subsidy from 30 March 2020 on the ATO website. Refer</p>	<p>For employees</p> <p>https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact sheet Info for Employees 0.pdf</p> <p>For businesses and employers</p> <p>https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact sheet supporting businesses 1.pdf</p> <p>https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact sheet Info for Employers 1.pdf</p>



		to the fact sheets for more information.	
2.	Income Support for individuals	The government will temporarily expand the eligibility to income support payments and will establish a supplement of \$550 per fortnight for the next 6 months. Refer to the fact sheet for more information.	https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Payments_to_support_households_0.pdf
3.	Payments to support households	The government will provide two \$750 payments to social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders. The first payment (as announced on 12 March 2020) will be available to people who are eligible payment recipients and concession card holders at any time from 12 March 2020 to 13 April 2020 inclusive. The second payment will be available to people who are eligible payment recipients and concession card holders on 10 July 2020. A person can receive both a first and second support payment, but will only receive one payment in each round even if they qualify in each round of the payments in multiple ways. Refer to the fact sheet for more information.	https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Payments_to_support_households_0.pdf
4.	Early access to superannuation	The government recognises that for individuals significantly affected by the coronavirus, accessing some of their superannuation today may outweigh the benefits of maintaining those savings until retirement. Eligible recipients will be able to withdraw \$10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 from 1 July 2020 for a period of approximately three months until 24 September 2020. Refer to the fact sheet for more information.	https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Early_Access_to_Super_2.pdf
5.	Providing support for retirees	The government will temporarily reduce superannuation minimum drawdown requirements for account-based pensions and similar products by 50 per cent for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 income years. The government will also reduce both the upper and lower social security deeming	https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Providing_support_for_retirees_to_manage_market_volatility.pdf



		rates by 0.25 percentage points in addition to a 0.5 percentage point reduction announced on 12 March 2020. Refer to the fact sheet for more information	
--	--	--	--

Support for business

No.	Support	Description	Hyperlink Reference
1.	Cash flow assistance for businesses	The government is seeking to assist small and medium sized businesses, and not-for-profits (including charities) manage cashflow challenges and retain their employees. Eligible entities will receive a payment equal to 100 per cent of their salary and wages withheld with a minimum payment of \$10,000 and a maximum payment of \$50,000. An additional payment equal to the first payment will be introduced in the July – October 2020 period. This results in a minimum payment of \$20,000 and a maximum payment of \$100,000. Eligible employers can also apply for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent of an apprentice’s or trainee’s wage for 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020. Refer to the fact sheet for more information.	https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Cash_flow_assistance_for_businesses_0.pdf
2.	Temporary relief for financially distressed business	The government is seeking to lessen the threat of civil actions that could push businesses into insolvency or wind up. From 25 March 2020 to 24 September 2020, the government temporarily increased the threshold at which a creditor can issue a statutory demand on a company from \$2,000 to \$20,000 and temporarily increased the timeframe for a company to respond to the statutory demand from 21 days to 6 months. Similarly, the threshold for the minimum amount of debt required for a creditor to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against a debtor temporarily increased from its current level of \$5,000 to \$20,000 and the timeframe to respond temporarily increased from 21 days to 6 months.	https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Providing_temporary_relief_for_financially_distressed_businesses.pdf



		<p>In addition, directors will be temporarily relieved from any personal liability for trading while insolvent. Refer to the fact sheet for more information.</p> <p>The 6 month temporary period for these amendments will run from 25 March 2020 to 24 September 2020 and applies to all statutory demands served, and all bankruptcy notices and creditor petitions initiated, between these dates.</p>	
3.	Delivering support for business investment	<p>The government endeavours to back business invest during this challenging period. Until 30 June 2020, the government will increase the instant asset write-off threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expand access to the threshold to include all businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million) until 30 June 2020. Additionally, the government will introduce a 15-month investment incentive by accelerating depreciation deductions for businesses with an aggregate turnover below \$500 million by allowing an up-front deduction of 50 per cent of the cost of an eligible asset upon installation (by 30 June 2021). Refer to the fact sheet for more information.</p>	<p>https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_Sheet-Delivering_support_for_business_investment.pdf</p>

Supporting the flow of credit

No.	Support	Description	Hyperlink Reference
1.	Coronavirus SME	Small and medium sized businesses are facing reduced cash inflow but retain fixed expenses. The government will establish the Coronavirus	https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-



	Guarantee Scheme	SME Guarantee Scheme to provide a guarantee of 50 per cent to SME lenders for new unsecured loans to be used for working capital. SMEs with a turnover of up to \$50 million will be eligible to receive loans of up to \$250,000. The loans will be up to three years duration with an initial six month repayment holiday. The loans will be in the form of unsecured finance. Refer to the fact sheet for more information.	Supporting the flow of credit 1.pdf
2.	Quick and simple access to credit for small businesses	The government will provide an exemption from responsible lending obligations for lenders providing credit to existing small business customers. This exemption is for six months, and applies to any credit for business purposes, including new credit, credit limit increases and credit variations and restructures. Refer to the fact sheet for more information.	https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Supporting the flow of credit 1.pdf
3.	Reserve Bank of Australia – Supporting the flow and reducing the cost of credit	The Reserve Bank of Australia announced a term funding facility for the banking system under which banks will have access to at least \$90 million in funding at a fixed interest rate of 0.25 per cent. The Reserve Bank of Australia has announced a further easing in monetary policy by reducing the cash rate to 0.25 per cent. Refer to the fact sheet for more information.	https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Supporting the flow of credit 1.pdf
4.	Supporting non-ADI and smaller ADI lenders in the securitisation market	The government is providing the Australian Office of Financial Management with \$15 billion to invest in structured finance markets used by smaller lenders. This will assist smaller lenders in maintaining access to funding and support competition in the lending market. Refer to the fact sheet for more information.	https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Supporting the flow of credit 1.pdf
5.	Ensuring banks are well placed to lend – Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority has announced temporary changes to its expectation regarding bank capital ratios. This will allow banks lending to customers to take advantage of the new facility established by the RBA. Refer to the fact sheet for more information.	https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Supporting the flow of credit 1.pdf

State Government Support

Since our previous publication on 30 March 2020, State governments have announced a number of additional measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on businesses and households. A summary of the actions taken by the various State governments is as follows:

- the New South Wales government announced additional grants to small businesses of up to \$10,000 upon satisfying the eligibility criteria, and 21 free TAFE short courses for workers to upskill;
- the Western Australian government announced a \$1 billion economic and health relief package which includes further relief to households, \$500 million to assist small businesses with their electricity bills, licence fees and payroll tax, and \$500 million allocated to the health sector;
- the ACT government announced a second stimulus package of \$214 million which includes \$126 million to support the health sector, \$39 million set aside for land tax and rate rebates, support to public servants, and waiving liquor and business licencing fees for the next 12 months;
- the South Australian, Tasmanian and Northern Territory governments have not announced additional stimulus packages having recently increased their assistance on 26 March 2020; and
- the Queensland and Victorian governments have not announced additional stimulus packages to their already sizeable assistance.

State	Description	Hyperlink Reference
New South Wales	<p>On 17 March 2020, the New South Wales government announced a \$2.3 billion stimulus package which included the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$1.6 billion in tax cuts and job creation measures; - tax cuts including more than \$500 million in payroll tax relief; - waiving fees and charges worth \$80 million for small businesses including cafes and bars; - deferring payroll tax payments for the rest of 2019-20 for small business with payrolls of less than \$10 million; - bringing forward the payroll tax threshold to \$1 million to 1 July 2020; - committing \$250 million to employ additional cleaners of public infrastructure; - \$500 million to bring forward capital works and maintenance; - \$250 million to accelerate maintenance and repairs on public assets. <p>On 27 March 2020, the New South Wales government announced further</p>	<p>Useful links:</p> <p>https://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/NSW-stimulus-package</p> <p>https://preview.nsw.gov.au/news?page=3</p>



	<p>measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a \$1 billion Working for NSW fund comprising of \$250 million to employ additional cleaners (as announced on 17 March 2020) and \$750 million in new funding to sustain businesses, create jobs and retrain employees; - deferring payroll tax for 6 months for businesses with payrolls over \$10 million (up to \$4 million deferred), - providing businesses with payrolls of less than \$10 million with an additional three month waiver on payroll tax; - deferring rent for six months on commercial and not-for-profit tenants with less than 20 employees in all government properties; - \$34 million to boost funding to prevent homelessness; and - \$10 million to support charities for food security. <p>On 3 April 2020, the New South Wales government announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - grants to small businesses of up to \$10,000 if it has between 1-19 employees, a turnover of more than \$65,000 and a payroll of up to \$900,000; and - 21 free TAFE short courses to assist unemployed workers upskill. 	
<p>Queensland</p>	<p>The Queensland government established a \$4 billion stimulus package with a suite of financial support measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$1.2 billion to double Queensland’s intensive care capacity and triple its emergency department capacity; - \$500 million for loans of up to \$250,000, interest free for 12 months, to support businesses retain employees and maintain operations; - \$500 million to provide workers who lose their jobs or income with retraining, job-matching and other transitional assistance; - \$950 million to enable all businesses to defer their payroll tax for 6 months; - \$1 billion Industry Support Package to assist large businesses; - a \$30 million extension to an existing agricultural industry loan scheme of over \$100 million for 2019-20; - \$500 rebate off energy bills for eligible small and medium businesses 	<p>Useful links</p> <p>http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2020/3/2/palaszczuk-government-steps-in-to-help-small-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus</p> <p>http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2020/3/18/queensland-supports-agricultural-jobs-with-30m-loan-scheme-extension</p> <p>https://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/employing/payroll-tax</p> <p>https://www.business.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/290715/coronavirus-covid-19-business-support.pdf</p>



	<p>consuming less than 100,000 kilowatt hours; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$300 million to provide homeowners with up to \$200 off their utility bills. 	
Victoria	<p>The Victorian government has announced a three stage assistance package worth \$1.7 billion which will comprise the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$550 million to 24,000 small and medium-sized enterprises with a payroll of less than \$3 million as a payroll tax refund; - \$500 million into a fund for hardship payments, small grants and tailored support; and - \$600 million set aside for a range of other measures. 	<p>Useful links</p> <p>https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/illness-and-business-management-plan/coronavirus-business-support#</p> <p>https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-20/victorian-government-to-pay-back-business-payroll-tax/12076956</p>
South Australia	<p>On 11 March, the South Australian (SA) government announced a \$350 million stimulus package which included the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - major infrastructure maintenance projects including road and hospital upgrades; - new tourism infrastructure; and - increasing funding to the Economic and Business Growth Fund to support local industry sectors. <p>In addition, the SA government will also initiate the “Skills for Business” scheme which offers \$5,000 to small businesses for every new apprentice or trainee hired in SA on a paid training contract.</p> <p>On 26 March, the SA government increased its stimulus package to \$1 billion which will include the following additional measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$60 million in payroll tax relief whereby all businesses with an annual payroll of up to \$4 million are eligible to a 6 month waiver; - \$13 million in land tax relief whereby individuals and businesses with outstanding quarterly bills for financial year 2019-20 are able to defer payments for 6 months; - waiving liquor licence fees for financial year 2020-21 for hotels, restaurants, cafes and clubs forced to close as a result of new social distancing restrictions; - \$300 million Business and Jobs Support Fund to support businesses; 	<p>Useful links</p> <p>https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news/media-releases/news/unprecedented-response-and-economic-stimulus-to-drive-sa-jobs,-economy-in-wake-of-bushfires,-coronavirus2</p> <p>https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news/media-releases/news/funding-boost-for-businesses-to-continue-skills-training-in-challenging-times</p> <p>https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news/media-releases/news/\$1-billion-stimulus-package-to-save-sa-jobs,-businesses</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$250 million Community and Jobs Fund to support community organisations including sporting, arts and recreational bodies and non-profit organisations; and - financial and non-financial support to households who have lost jobs. 	
<p>Western Australia</p>	<p>The Western Australian (WA) government has announced a \$607 million stimulus package which will include the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a freeze on household fees and charges, including electricity, water, motor vehicle charges, the emergency services levy and public transport fares with an allocation of \$402 million in the 2020-21 budget to pay for the freeze; - an increase in the payment to eligible concession card-holders under the Energy Assistance Package (EAP) from \$300 to \$600 with \$91 million allocated in 2020-21 to pay for the increase; - an allocation of \$114 million in measures to support small and medium businesses; - businesses paying payroll tax with a payroll between \$1 million and \$4 million receiving a one-off grant of \$17,500; - the \$1 million payroll tax threshold being brought forward by six months to July 1, 2020; and - small and medium sized businesses being able to apply to defer payment of their 2019-20 payroll tax until July 21, 2020. <p>On 31 March, the WA government unveiled a \$1 billion economic and health relief package which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expanding the eligibility of the EAP announced in the first package; - ensuring no household or business will have their power or water disconnected and no interest will be charged on deferred bill payments; - reducing electricity bills for small businesses consuming less than 50 megawatt hours per annum; - \$100.4 million to waive a wide range of licence fees for the next 12 months for small and medium sized businesses ranging from building services, tourism businesses, fisheries and liquor fees; - expanding payroll tax waivers to small-to-medium sized businesses 	<p>Useful links</p> <p>https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/coronavirus-covid-19-western-australian-government-response#government-stimulus</p> <p>https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/COVID-19-economic-response-Relief-for-businesses-and-households.aspx</p> <p>https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/\$1-billion-COVID-19-economic-and-health-relief-package-unveiled-.aspx</p>



	<p>with Australia-wide annual wages of less than \$7.5 million in 2019-20 for a four month period;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a further \$500 million to the health sector and frontline service to boost capacity, supplies and equipment for staff and patients. 	
<p>Tasmania</p>	<p>On 17 March, the Tasmanian government announced a \$420 million support package which included the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$20 million for the provision of interest free loans ot business in the hospitality, tourism, seafood and exports sectors and which have a turnover of less than \$5 million; - waiving of payroll tax for the rest of the 2019-2020 financial year for hospitality, tourism and seafood industry businesses and other small to medium businesses upon application; - reducing the normal terms of trade for payments by government agencies from 30 days to 14 days, thereby increasing turnover of cash; - \$50 million in interest free loans to local governments to upgrade and improve local tourist facilities; and - \$2.1 million for one-off \$5,000 grants for businesses that hire an apprenticeship or trainee. <p>On 26 March, the Tasmanian government announced a second stimulus package of \$565 million which will include the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provision of \$150 million to the health sector to purchase essential equipment, supplies and provide additional staff; - the previously announced interest free scheme being extended from \$50 million to \$150 million; - \$40 million small business grants program; - a cap on electricity prices and freeze water bills for 12 months at an estimated cost of \$20 million; - waiving school levies this calendar year at a cost of \$13 million; - increasing the Small Business Interest Free Loan Scheme from \$20 million to \$50 million and broadening its availability to businesses with turnovers less than \$10 million; and - \$6 million in aggregate to support the fisherees, creative and cultural, 	<p>Useful links</p> <p>http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/supporting_businesses_and_keeping_tasmanians_in_work</p> <p>https://www.theadvocate.com.au/story/6698537/second-stimulus-package-announced/</p> <p>http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/unprecedented_new_social_and_economic_support_package_released</p>



	and air freight industries.	
ACT	<p>The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) government has announced a \$137 million economic survival package which will include the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all ACT businesses Group Australia-wide wages of up to \$10 million can defer their 2020-21 payroll tax, interest free until 1 July 2022; - hospitality, creative arts and entertainment industries will receive a one-off, six-month waiver of payroll tax from April to September 2020; - small business owners with electricity usage below 100 megawatts per year will receive a rebate of \$750 automatically applied to their next electricity bill in around June or July 2020; - licenced venues will receive a 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; - increasing subsidies for apprenticeships and traineeships and other vocational education and training sector students to access nationally recognised training in areas linked to skills needs across a range of industries; and - commercial rate payers owning a property with an average-unimproved-value below \$2 million automatically receiving a credit of \$2,622 to their 2019-20 general rates. <p>On 1 April, the ACT government announced a second stimulus package of \$214 million which includes the following additional measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$126 million into the ACT’s health system to provide extra beds and purchasing additional equipment for staff and patients; - \$39 million set aside to give land tax and rate rebates to residential landlords who reduce rent by at least 25% for tenants; - \$20 million “Jobs for Canberran’s Fund” to allow ACT public servants to employ additional workers on short-term contracts; - liquor and business licencing fees waived for 12 months; and - households with an income of less than \$160,000 eligible to defer rates for 12 months if they have suffered at least a 25% drop in their income. 	<p>Useful links</p> <p>https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/covid-19-economic-survival-package</p> <p>https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/covid-19-economic-survival-package/local-business-and-industry</p> <p>https://the-riotact.com/act-announces-200-million-to-keep-businesses-job-seekers-afloat/367982</p>



Northern Territory	<p>On 18 March, the Northern Territory (NT) government announced a \$65 million “Jobs Rescue & Recover Plan” which included the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- a “\$20 million Business Improvement Scheme” under which all businesses will receive \$10,000. If the business invests \$10,000 of their own funds to upgrade their business (using sources from NT suppliers), the NT government will provide an additional \$10,000 grant;- a “\$5 million Business Structural Adjustment package” to assist businesses that need to adjust to the 100 person rule or to adjust to changing consumption behaviours by establishing or upgrading their online presence;- a “\$5 million Immediate Works Grants Package” providing grants of \$50,000 to incorporated not-for-profit and community organisations to undertake repairs, renovations and upgrades of their premises or facilities, with an additional grant of up to \$100,000 on a dollar-for-dollar co-contribution by the entity- a “Freezing Government Fees and Charge and Electricity Prices” where all government fees and charges, including electricity, water and car registrations will be frozen until 1 July 2021 (with no increase due to indexation); and- a “\$30 million Home Improvement Scheme” granting \$4,000 or \$6,000 to NT homeowners and landlords if they contribute \$1,000 or 2,000 respectively of their own money. <p>On 26 March, the NT government increased the jobs rescue plan to \$120 million which will include the following additional measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- launching the Territory Jobs Hub Platform which will provide a platform to connect employers with jobseekers; and- a \$50 million small business survival fund to support the retail, hospitality, tourism and entertainment industries where eligible businesses will be able to apply for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o an Immediate Survival Payment of between \$2,000 and \$50,000 to help offset the immediate costs pressures; ando a Rapid Adaption Payment of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to assist	<p>Useful links</p> <p>http://newsroom.nt.gov.au/mediaRelease/32101</p> <p>https://www.miragenews.com/jobs-rescue-connecting-territorians-to-work/</p> <p>https://www.miragenews.com/jobs-rescue-50-million-small-business-survival-fund/</p> <p>https://businessrecovery.nt.gov.au/businesses</p>
---------------------------	---	---



	businesses make the necessary changes to adapt to the new operating environment.	
--	--	--

Please note: the timing could be impacted by COVID-19 and “working from home” or “shut-down” arrangements