

COVID-19 – Government Support

Date: 16 April 2020

Support for individuals

Mental Health

Get help to cope with life's changes.

Visit headtohealth.gov.au/ for links to online counselling or call:

- Lifeline 13 11 14 (24 hours)
- Kids helpline 1800 55 1800

Visit thinkmentalhealthwa.com.au

Superannuation

Individuals can access up to \$10,000 of their super in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020-21.

Apply to the ATO through MyGov (www.my.gov.au) from mid-April

Find out more at Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus

Retirees

Temporary reduction to minimum drawdown requirements for account-based pension.

Find out more at Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus

Financial Support

Expanded eligibility for some payments and moves to make them easier to claim.

Claim online at servicesaustralia.gov.au

Or over the phone on 132 850

Economic Support Payment

\$750 payments for people on certain government payments.

Will be paid automatically to people who are eligible.

Find out more at Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus

Job Keeper

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

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

Find out more at Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus

Relief Services

Expanding access to the No Interest Loans Scheme.

Find out more on at moneysmart.gov.au (search 'No Interest Loans Scheme')

Early Childhood Education and Care Relief

Fee relief while supporting child care services to keep their doors open and employees in their job.

For more information visit australia.gov.au and scroll down to 'Education & child care information'

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*

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

For more information visit commerce.wa.gov.au (search 'COVID-19 Tenancy')

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 www.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 www.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 between 10am to 11am on Sunday

Visit www.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 for more information including eligibility details.

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://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au)

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

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.

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

See mandatory code of conduct for commercial tenancies

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

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://www.business.gov.au) (select Coronavirus information')

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

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

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](#)

For information visit:
[Business.gov.au](#) (select 'Coronavirus information')

Find out more at [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](#) (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

Find out more at
[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](#) or by calling 131 777.