



COVID-19 Business Support

1 April 2020

The Australian Government is supporting businesses to manage cash flow challenges and retain employees.

Assistance includes:

- Boosting cash flow for employers
- Increasing the instant asset write-off
- Backing business investment
- Supporting apprentices and trainees
- Support for Coronavirus-affected regions and communities
- SA Govt Community and Jobs Fund
- JobKeeper payment
- Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses

Boosting cash flow for employers

The Government is providing up to \$100,000 to eligible small and medium-sized businesses, and not-for-profits (NFPs) that employ people, with a minimum payment of \$20,000. These payments will help businesses and NFPs with their cash flow so they can keep operating, pay their rent, electricity and other bills and retain staff. Small and medium-sized business entities with aggregated annual turnover under \$50 million and that employ workers are eligible.

Employers will receive a payment equal to 100 per cent of their salary and wages withheld (up from 50 per cent), with the maximum payment being increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000. In addition, the minimum payment is being increased from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Eligible entities will receive an additional payment equal to the total of all of the Boosting Cash Flow for Employers payments they have received. This means that eligible entities will receive at least \$20,000 up to a total of \$100,000 under both payments. [Fact sheet](#)

Increasing the instant asset write-off

The Government is increasing the instant asset write-off threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expanding access to include businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million)

until 30 June 2020. In 2017-18 there were more than 360,000 businesses that benefited from the current instant asset write-off, claiming deductions to the value of over \$4 billion. This measure will support over 3.5 million businesses (over 99 per cent of businesses) employing more than 9.7 million employees. [Fact sheet](#)

Backing business investment

The Government is introducing a time limited 15-month investment incentive (through to 30 June 2021) to support business investment and economic growth over the short term, by accelerating depreciation deductions. Businesses with a turnover of less than \$500 million will be able to deduct 50 per cent of the cost of an eligible asset on installation, with existing depreciation rules applying to the balance of the asset's cost. This measure will support business investment and is estimated to lower taxes paid by Australian businesses by \$6.7 billion over the next two years. This measure will support over 3.5 million businesses (over 99 per cent of businesses) employing more than 9.7 million employees. [Fact sheet](#)

Supporting apprentices and trainees

The Government is supporting small business to retain their apprentices and trainees. Eligible employers can apply for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent of the apprentice's or

trainee's wage for 9 months from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020. Where a small business is not able to retain an apprentice, the subsidy will be available to a new employer that employs that apprentice. Employers will be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$21,000 per eligible apprentice or trainee (\$7,000 per quarter). Support will also be provided to the National Apprentice Employment Network, the peak national body representing Group Training Organisations, to co-ordinate the re-employment of displaced apprentices and trainees throughout their network of host employers across Australia. [Fact sheet](#)

Support for Coronavirus-affected regions and communities

The Government will set aside \$1 billion to support regions most significantly affected by the Coronavirus outbreak. These funds will be available to assist during the outbreak and recovery. In addition, the Government is assisting our airline industry by providing relief from a number of taxes and Government charges estimated to total up to \$715 million. [Fact sheet](#)

SA Govt Community and Jobs Fund

Among the measures introduced by the State Government is a fund to support community organisations, sporting, arts and recreational bodies, non-profit organisations as well as some industry sectors whose operations have been impacted by the coronavirus. The fund will also help with training of South Australians seeking new skills and employment and to assist organisations meet increased demand for services including emergency relief. [More info](#)

JobKeeper payment

Businesses significantly impacted by the Coronavirus will be able to access a wages subsidy to continue paying employees. Under the JobKeeper program, businesses will be able to claim a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 per eligible employee from 30 March 2020, for a maximum of six months. This assistance will help retain staff and restart the business when the crisis is over. Employers looking to take advantage of the JobKeeper payment should register for updates at

www.ato.gov.au/JobKeeper and will be contacted when more information is available. [Fact sheet](#)

Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses

The Government is temporarily increasing the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and the time companies have to respond to statutory demands they receive. The package also includes temporary relief for directors from any personal liability for trading while insolvent, and providing temporary flexibility in the Corporations Act 2001 to provide temporary and targeted relief from provisions of the Act to deal with unforeseen events that arise as a result of the Coronavirus health crisis.

The ATO will tailor solutions for owners or directors of business that are currently struggling due to the Coronavirus, including temporary reduction of payments or deferrals, or withholding enforcement actions including Director Penalty Notices and wind-ups. [Fact sheet](#)