

# Covid-19 Support Packages – April 2020



Here's a list of 9 support options for businesses in Australia which are available. This changes daily and much is still to be legislated; so I have included links in many cases so you can stay informed. Stay healthy and well.

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT STIMULUS PACKAGES FOR BUSINESS

**Cash flow Booster for employers** This is based on either your PAYG withheld from wages and a multiplying factor applied. Alternatively if you employ but do not withhold tax (ie you report a figure at W1 on your BAS but NIL at W2) there is a second option with a maximum of \$20K; \$10K the first quarterly BAS and then \$5K for the next two BASes.

The credits are automatically calculated by the ATO and employers will need to lodge their BAS (don't dawdle) to trigger the entitlement; no forms needed. If you're due a refund, it will be done by the ATO within 14 days. Eligibility will be based on prior year turnover. This scheme also supports apprentices and trainees. Fact sheet link:

[https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact\\_sheet-Cash\\_flow\\_assistance\\_for\\_businesses\\_0.pdf](https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Cash_flow_assistance_for_businesses_0.pdf)

**Job Keeper Payments** This includes self-employed people. Turnover less than \$1bn. You must have suffered a 30% or more loss on a period with min 1 month. Comparison to be same period a year ago. You get \$1500 per fortnight per employee (including casuals) (before tax) for 6 months which I believe must be passed onto the employee. This will be operated through Single Touch Payroll (STP) data. Register your interest at:

[https://www.ato.gov.au/general/gen/JobKeeper-payment/?=redirected\\_JobKeeper](https://www.ato.gov.au/general/gen/JobKeeper-payment/?=redirected_JobKeeper)

**Claim PAYG Instalment Refunds** You can vary your PAYG Instalment amount on the March 2020 quarter to NIL, plus then you may be eligible for a refund of any instalment made for the prior two quarters. Fact sheet link:

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Media-centre/Media-releases/Support-measures-to-assist-those-affected-by-COVID-19/>

**Payroll Tax Deferral** Refunds of payroll tax for 2 months and a 'holiday' for the next 3 months and deferrals. Eligible for employers to pay \$6.5M or less in Australian taxable wages. There is a forms/application process. Link:

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/employing/payroll-tax/lodging/coronavirus-tax-relief>

**Negotiate ATO Payment Plans re BAS or Tax** Don't busy your head in the sand; reach out; the ATO want to try and help. Call 1800 806 218. Repayment periods of up to 2 years may be available.

**Apprentice & Trainee Subsidies** If you've less than 20 FTE employees, you may be eligible for 50% of their wage for 0 months from 1.1.20 to 30.9.20 to a max of \$21K per eligible worker. Register from early April. Link:

<https://www.business.gov.au/risk-management/emergency-management/coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/supporting-apprentices-and-trainees>

**Federal Government Backed Loan.** Max of \$250K per borrower; up to 3 years; first 6 months repayment holiday.

Starts April 2020. Link: <https://business.gov.au/Risk-management/Emergency-management/Coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/Supporting-the-flow-of-credit>

**State COVID-19 Jobs Support Loan** Qld Government; up to \$250K with initial 12 months interest free. This is for 10

years @ 2.5%pa. Call 1800 623 946 or link: <http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/current-programs/covid-19-business-support/queensland-covid19-jobs-support-scheme>

**Banks, Leases & Mortgages** Be proactive and initiate contact with your bank, lender or lessor. Claiming 'hardship' or 'mental health' will be more effective. Watch out for Govt. support. Learn more: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-20/coronavirus-banks-customers-small-business-loan-deferral/12073930> and if unsure, seek professional advice.

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