



Hand Up

COVID-19 Special Edition

This resource is print-friendly and up to date as of 30 March 2020. Please note that this print-friendly version will no longer be updated - to ensure we can provide you with up to date information as it unfolds please visit:

www.biedo.org.au/handup-covid19

Individuals

Coronavirus Health Information Line: 1800 020 080 (Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:30pm AEST)

13 HEALTH: 13 43 25 84 (open 24 hours/7 days), health advice over the phone

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/contacts/advice/13health>

Queensland Health: Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) updates and FAQ, including multi-lingual resources

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19>

Australian Government Department of Health: Health alerts and updates <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Support for Individuals and Households: Information regarding Federal government stimulus supporting individuals

<https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/households>

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636 No matter who you are, or how you're feeling, you can talk it through with Beyond Blue

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

Businesses

BIEDO: COVID-19 resources available here <https://www.biedo.org.au/handup-covid19>

Australian Government (The Treasury): A collection of information from the Federal Government in regards to economic stimulus, businesses investment and support for the regions <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus>

Economic Stimulus Announcement: First package announced 12 March <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/economic-stimulus-package>

Economic Stimulus Announcement: Second package announced 22 March

<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/supporting-australian-workers-and-business>

Queensland Government: COVID-19 Economic Relief Package announced 21 March

<https://www.qld.gov.au/about/industry-recovery/about-this-package>

Business Queensland: Market diversification and resilience grants

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/agribusiness/market-diversification-resilience-grants>

Business Queensland: Novel coronavirus small business support

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/starting-business/advice-support/support/novel-coronavirus>

Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland: Guides and templates for managing Coronavirus impacts on your businesses, plus industry webinars <https://www.cciq.com.au/>

QRIDA: Concessional loans available of up to \$250,000 to assist Queensland businesses to manage rent payments, employee wages and other business expenses. The first 12 months is interest and repayment free

<http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/current-programs/covid-19-business-support/queensland-covid19-jobs-support-scheme>

Community

Institute of Community Directors Australia: Free Pandemic Policy template from Our Community for community groups
<https://communitydirectors.com.au/epidemic-pandemic-download>

Further notes on some key measures...please check our website for up-to-date information.

Small Businesses

The Australian Government announced a range of measures to support small businesses and employees, including apprentices and trainees, to manage the impacts of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak.

Support is available for small and medium businesses with aggregated annual turnover under \$50 million to cover the costs of employee wages and salaries equal to 50 per cent of PAYG withheld for businesses that withhold tax, with a minimum of \$2,000 and a maximum of \$25,000 over six months. Businesses that pay salary and wages but are not required to withhold tax will also receive the minimum payment of \$2,000. This will be a tax-free payment.

Support for 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. The subsidy of up to a maximum of \$21,000 will be available. Where a small business is not able to retain an apprentice, the subsidy will be available to their new employer. The wage subsidy will be claimable for wages paid since 1 January 2020. Employers can register for the subsidy from 2 April 2020. Final claims for payment must be lodged by 31 December 2020.

The subsidy will be available to small businesses employing fewer than 20 full-time employees who retain an apprentice or trainee. Employers of any size and Group Training Organisations that re-engage an out-of-trade apprentice or trainee may be eligible for the subsidy. The apprentice or trainee must have been in-training with a small business as at 1 March 2020.

Support for business investment

Lifting the threshold to \$150,000 (from \$30,000) and expanding access to businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million) until 30 June 2020. The threshold applies on per asset basis, so eligible businesses can immediately write-off multiple assets.

Offering businesses a 15 month investment incentive to support their business, by accelerating depreciation deductions. Key features of the incentive including deduction of 50 per cent of the cost of an asset, with existing depreciation applying to the balance of the asset's cost. This will be available to businesses with aggregated turnover below \$500 million, purchasing certain new depreciable assets.

Support for regions

Support for those sectors, regions and communities that have been disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of the Coronavirus, including those heavily reliant on industries such as tourism, agriculture and education. Full details of the package are available on the Australian Government website at <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus>. You are encouraged to continue to refer to relevant support being offered under the Queensland Government's industry recovery package outlined at www.qld.gov.au/industryrecovery

Further Contacts

Queensland Government: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Small business hotline: 1300 654 687

DAF Customer Service Centre: 13 25 23

Queensland Business Mentoring Sessions: 1300 654 687

Queensland Business Financial Workshops: 1300 654 687

ATO: Businesses impacted by COVID-19 enquiries 1800 806 21

Please Note: All care taken but no responsibility accepted for the information provided in this document. We will now continue to update www.biedo.org.au/handup-covid19 as information becomes available from a range of sources.