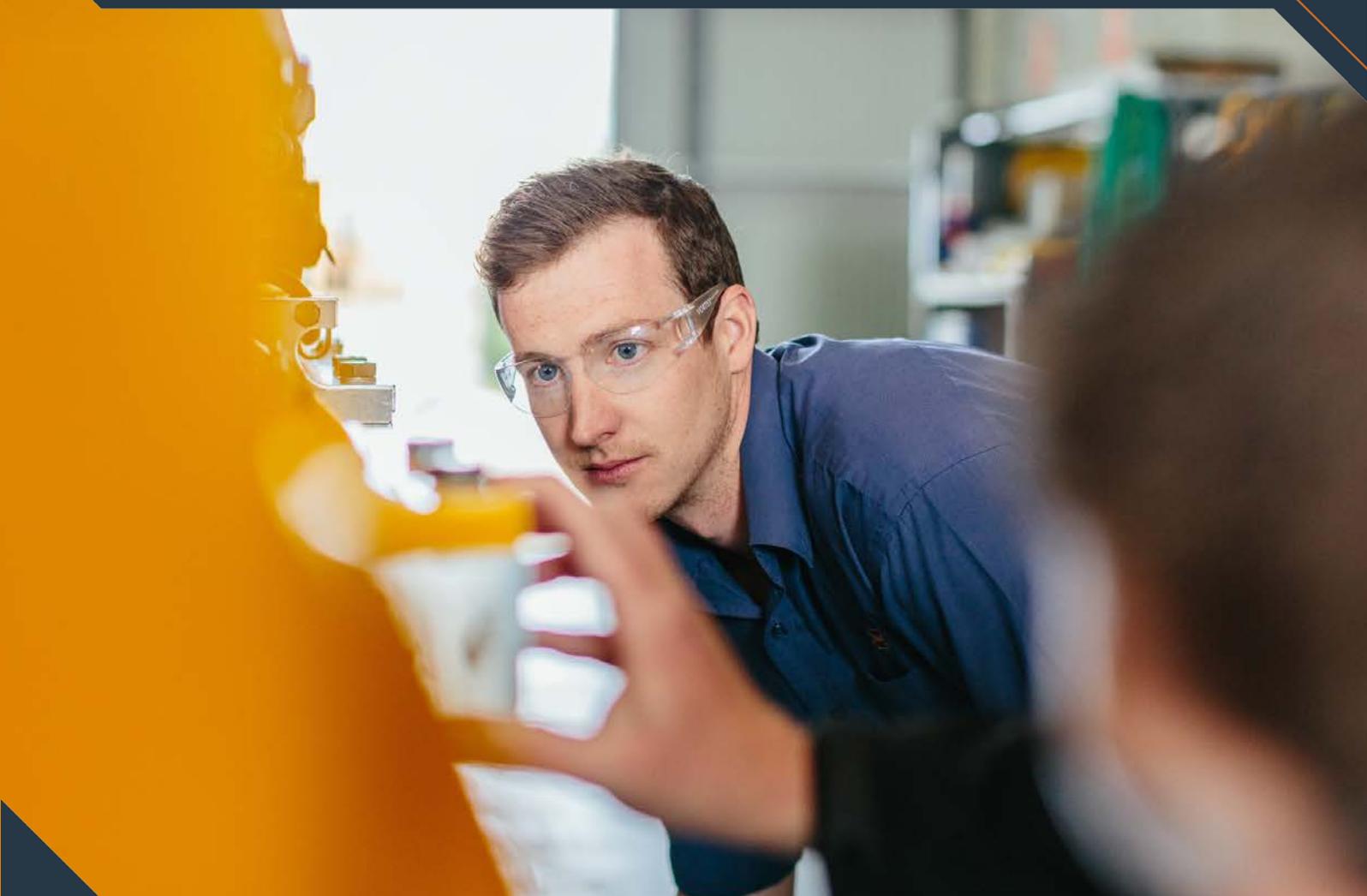


COVID-19 Business Assistance

Support for business as of 14 April 2020



Find out how we're invested in growing Queensland at qld.gov.au/investedinqld

Connect with us @GrowingQld



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Contents

Federal Government Support	4
Boosting cash flow for employers.....	4
Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses.....	4
Increasing the instant asset write-off.....	4
Backing business investment.....	4
Supporting apprentices and trainees.....	5
Support for Coronavirus-affected regions and communities.....	5
Coronavirus Business Liaison Unit.....	5
Early Childhood Education Care Relief Package.....	5
Job Keeper Payment.....	5
Fact sheet – JobKeeper Payment – information for employers	5
Assistance from Banks and the ATO	5
Tax payments.....	5
Business loans.....	6
How can I get assistance from my bank?.....	6
What happens at the end of the deferral period of repayment and interest charges?.....	6
More information contact the Financial Hardships team of your own bank Click here	6
How can businesses keep their costs down?.....	6
Jobs Hub.....	6
State Government Support	7
Immediate Industry Recovery Package.....	7
Jobs Support Loans Package.....	7
Deferring Payroll Taxes.....	7
Business Impact Evaluation.....	7
Manufacturers Supply Matching Request Form.....	7
Queensland Suppliers Database.....	7
Tailored Support for Small Business (up to 20 full-time employees).....	8
Worker Transition and Rapid Response Group.....	8
Market Diversification and Resilience Grants.....	8
Financial Resilience Webinars.....	8
Small Business Financial Counselling Service.....	9
Coronavirus Workplace Policies and Templates.....	9
OTHER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.....	9
How to stay connected	10

Stay connected with the Queensland Government through the department's @Growing Qld through the following social media channels. 10

Useful websites..... 10

Federal Government Support

For more information on financial assistance, eligibility and timing for the new government support for Australian businesses, visit [Business.gov.au](https://www.business.gov.au).

Boosting cash flow for employers

- The earlier \$20,000 Cash Flow for Employers measure has been enhanced
- Up to \$100,000 to eligible small and medium-sized businesses, and not for-profits (NFPs) that employ people (could also be sole-trader), 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. NFPs, including charities, with aggregated annual turnover under \$50 million and that employ workers will now also be 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
- An additional payment is also being introduced in the July – October 2020 period
- Eligible entities will receive an additional payment equal to the total of all of the Boosting Cash Flow for Employers payments received
- This means that eligible entities will receive at least \$20,000 up to a total of \$100,000 under both payments

Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses

- Providing a safety net is to lessen the threat of actions that could unnecessarily push business into insolvency and force the winding up of the business
- 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
- 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 – temporary relief for financially distressed businesses

Increasing the instant asset write-off

- Increasing the instant asset write-off threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000
- Expanding access to include businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million) until 30 June 2020

 Fact sheet – cashflow assistance for business

Backing business investment

- 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

 Fact sheet – delivering support for business investment

Supporting 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 person

Support for Coronavirus-affected regions and communities

- \$1 billion to support regions most significantly affected by the Coronavirus outbreak.
- Funds will be available to assist during the outbreak and the recovery
- Assisting the airline industry by providing relief from a number of taxes and Government charges estimated to total up to \$715 million

 Fact sheet – Assistance for severely affected regions and sectors

Coronavirus Business Liaison Unit

A [Coronavirus Business Liaison Unit](#) has been established within Treasury to engage with business on a regular basis and provide updates to government on crucial issues

Early Childhood Education Care Relief Package

From Monday 6 April 2020 weekly payments will be made directly to early childhood education and care services in lieu of the Child Care Subsidy and the Additional Child Care Subsidy, to help them keep their doors open and employees in their jobs.

Payments will be made until 28 June 2020 and families will not be charged fees during this time. These payments will complement the JobKeeper Payment announced by the Prime Minister on 30 March 2020. Early childhood education and childcare services do not need to apply for the payments, they will be paid automatically.

Job Keeper Payment

If your business has been significantly impacted by the Coronavirus you will be able to access a wages subsidy to continue paying your employees. Under the JobKeeper program, you will be able to claim a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 per eligible employee from 30 March 2020. This assistance will help you keep staff and help businesses restart when the crisis is over.

 Fact sheet – JobKeeper Payment – information for employers

Assistance from Banks and the ATO

Tax payments

These can be deferred, contact the Australian Taxation Office. The ATO will continue to update their [website](#) on advice to business.

Business loans

- An assistance package of more than \$100 billion will be provided
- Australian banks will defer loan repayments. Packages include the pausing of loan repayments and interest charges for six months

How can I get assistance from my bank?

Any business that has not been contacted should call their bank to apply for assistance. Be patient as there could be an influx of people seeking help

What happens at the end of the deferral period of repayment and interest charges?

Businesses will not be required to pay the deferred interest in a lump sum. Either the term of the loan will be extended, or the level of loan repayments will be increased. You can also extend your loan period

More information contact the Financial Hardships team of your own bank [Click here](#)

How can businesses keep their costs down?

Look at costs including staffing levels, electricity bills and rent charges and see if any reductions can be given. Speak to people including your landlord, energy provider and accountant. It is important for businesses undertake a review of their businesses. The following is a guide to help you.

- ✎ Understand your current financial position
- ✎ Check eligibility for government assistance
- ✎ Contact you bank, insurer and accountant for advice on regulatory matters
- ✎ Communicate with your stakeholders
- ✎ Seek professional advice
- ✎ Understand options relating to employees and if required provided additional training or skilling
- ✎ Check licencing requirement
- ✎ Build networks
- ✎ Work through your business continuity plan
- ✎ Ask for help and keep informed

Jobs Hub

With the changing jobs market, the federal government have released a nationwide initiative to connect jobseekers to employment. The service also enables employers to promote job opportunities for those seeking employment. Jobs are available in health and care sectors, transport and logistics, some area of retailing, mining and mining services, manufacturing, agriculture and government services.

To find out more go to: <https://www.dese.gov.au/covid-19/jobs-hub>

State Government Support

For more information on financial assistance, eligibility and timing for the State government support for businesses, visit [here](#)

Immediate Industry Recovery Package

- The State is offering an Immediate Industry Recovery Package, valued at \$27.25 million, will assist local government, business and industry with resilience and recovery strategies to deal with and mitigate impacts of COVID-19 (coronavirus).
- The package includes targeted financial support and advice; promotes Queensland locally and abroad through marketing and media activities; and provides counselling and support to businesses and students
- In addition, there are a range of support measures available for business such as a job support loan package - interest free loans for the first 12 months and deferring payroll taxes

More information [Immediate Industry Recovery Package](#)

Jobs Support Loans Package

- \$500 million concessional loan facility will comprise low interest loans of up to \$250,000 for carry on finance with an initial 12-month interest free period for businesses to retain staff
- The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) is responsible for the administration of these concessional loans and is currently taking expressions of interest in the lead up to rolling these loans out as soon as possible
- **To register your interest [Click here](#)**

with full name, phone number and preferred email address or send your details to contact_us@qrda.qld.gov.au.

- Or
- **Freecall 1800 623 946**
- QRIDA will contact you when the scheme is open to applications shortly.

Deferring Payroll Taxes

- For small and medium businesses and large businesses specifically impacted by COVID-19, will refund two months' worth of payroll tax
- Additionally, for small and medium businesses a three-month payroll tax holiday, and a further six-month payroll tax deferral for any of these Queensland businesses

More information [click here](#)

Business Impact Evaluation

- Businesses are invited to complete an online [Business Impact Evaluation](#) so the State Government can fully capture the actual impact to small business at this point of time

Manufacturers Supply Matching Request Form

- To seek help and find a solution to their supply chain needs, manufacturers can complete a short form at qld.gov.au/qld-supplies

Queensland Suppliers Database

- A dedicated email QldSuppliers@dsdmip.qld.gov.au – has been established as the point of contact for this new service

- As enquiries are received from a company it will be registered, assessed and then assigned to the most appropriate area/agency to undertake some research.

Tailored Support for Small Business (up to 20 full-time employees)

Mentoring for Growth

- [Business Mentoring Assistance - Mentoring for Growth](#)
- Assistance for business to address particular challenges or issues
- Service available remotely

Email enquiries to: m4g@desbt.qld.gov.au

Worker Transition and Rapid Response Group

- provides a suite of information and support services to (companies) and workers who may find themselves without work as a result of business closures or redundancy programs
economicrecovery@dsmip.qld.gov.au
- For the worker, support is available with finance, job seeking or training and career information.

For help in accessing the appropriate service call 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Centrelink Employment Services and Job Network 13 28 50

Jobactive: 13 62 58

Market Diversification and Resilience Grants

This program is designed to help industry to develop alternative markets it is available to the agriculture, food and fishing exporters and their critical supply chain partners, as well as industry organisations working with exporters to build resilience by diversifying into new markets (international or interstate)

The program has two components:

- Equipment purchase grants of up to \$7,500 (excluding GST) are available to support new equipment purchases up to a maximum cost of \$10,000 (excluding GST)
- Project grants of up to \$50,000 (excluding GST) will be available to support project activities including, but not limited to:
 - market evaluation studies
 - market visits
 - staff training
 - new equipment such as refrigeration
 - boat modifications necessary to meet market requirements.

More information [Market Diversification and Resilience Grants](#)

Financial Resilience Webinars

Workshops will be delivered by TAFE in several locations with two available:

- WORKSHOP 1 Managing Cash Flow in Response to COVID-19
- WORKSHOP 2 Business Planning/Strategies in Response to COVID-19
- Provide practical tools and skills to build business resilience

[Register here](#)

Small Business Financial Counselling Service

- Provides free financial advice to primary producers who are suffering financial hardship and have no alternative sources of impartial financial information. **This service has been expanded to support any Small Business impacted by COVID19**
- Any Small Business impacted by COVID19 can now contact the Small Business Financial Counselling Service in the following areas:
 - [Southern Queensland](#) – phone **(07) 4622 5500**
 - [North Queensland](#) – phone **(07) 4652 5669.**

A map of Queensland showing the division of Small Business Financial Counselling Service providers can be found here: [rfcs-qld-map.pdf](#)

More information [Rural Financial Counselling Service](#)

Coronavirus Workplace Policies and Templates

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) has free workforce policies and templates available:

1. Working from home overview
2. Home workplace inspection
3. Working from home agreement
4. Health and safety workplace policy
5. Unpaid leave policy
6. Workplace hygiene policy
7. Business continuity template

More information [click here](#)

OTHER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

- ☞ Variations to liquor licences
- ☞ Inbound tour operators
- ☞ Commercial activity agreements and permits
- ☞ Rebates on marina charges and passenger levies
- ☞ Early release of superannuation – COVID-19
- ☞ Small business hotline – 1300 654 687 is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week
- ☞ Payroll tax relief for pubs and clubs

How to stay connected

Stay connected with the Queensland Government through the department's [@Growing Qld](#) through the following social media channels.



Useful websites

-  Queensland Business Assistance
www.business.qld.gov.au
-  Australian Government
www.australia.gov.au
-  Australian Government Services
www.my.gov.au
-  Centrelink
www.servicesaustralia.gov.au
-  Queensland Government
www.qld.gov.au
-  Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
-  Queensland Health
www.health.qld.gov.au
-  Queensland Treasury
www.treasury.qld.gov.au
-  Sunshine Coast Council
www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
-  Moreton Bay Regional Council
www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au
-  Noosa Council
www.noosa.qld.gov.au/
-  Brisbane City Council
www.brisbane.qld.gov.au



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