



Australian Federal Government Stimulus



Last Updated: 31 March, 2020

The Australian Federal Government announced a two package stimulus in March 2020 totalling \$189B, along with subsequent measures.

One of their main priorities is supporting businesses and addressing the significant economic consequences of COVID-19.

A summary of initiatives:

- **JobKeeper Payments [announced 30 March]** - Businesses impacted by this pandemic will be able to access a subsidy from the Government to continue paying their employees. Affected employers will be able to claim a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 per eligible employee from 30 March 2020, for a maximum period of six months. [Read the JobKeeper Payment fact sheet.](#)

- **Moratorium on evictions [announced 29 March]** - The National Cabinet agreed to a temporary moratorium on evictions over the next six months for commercial and residential tenancies in financial distress who are unable to meet their commitments due to the impact of coronavirus. [Read the National Cabinet statement.](#)

Announced 12 March:

- **Boosted instant asset write-off threshold** from \$30K to \$150K for businesses with an aggregated annual turnover of up to \$500M from 12 March - 30 June 2020. [Read this fact sheet](#) for more information on eligibility, timing and budget impact.
- **A tax-free cash flow boost** for financially distressed businesses, available to SMBs with an annual turnover of less than \$500M [up from \$50M]. [Read this fact sheet.](#)
- **Support with the flow of credit.** The Federal Government's Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme provides a guarantee of 50% to SME lenders to support new short-term unsecured loans, providing businesses with funding to meet cash flow needs. SMEs with a turnover of up to \$50M will be eligible to receive these loans. [Read this fact sheet](#) for details.
- **Accelerated depreciation.** Businesses with a turnover of less than \$500M will be able to access a 15-month investment incentive by accelerating depreciation deductions. [Read this fact sheet.](#)
- **Subsidised apprentice wages** for small businesses with fewer than 20 full-time workers. They will receive 50% of an apprentice or trainee's wage paid during 9 months from 1 January – 30 September 2020. For each apprentice or trainee, the Federal Government will provide up to \$7K in wage assistance per quarter up to a maximum of \$21K. [Read this fact sheet](#) for more information.
- **Tax Relief:** The Australian Tax Office (ATO) will consider relief for certain tax obligations to eligible businesses, including deferring tax payments up to four months. If disruption to your business operations causes you to fall behind with your tax and super obligations, read the [ATO's information on COVID-19.](#)

Other measures

In addition to this stimulus package, here are the other measures that have been put in place to support businesses:

- The Western Australian Government has announced [\\$114 million in measures to support small business](#) during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

For a more detailed summary on the timing for the roll out of assistance [click here](#) or visit the [Australia Treasury website](#) for greater insights on how you can receive support for your business during this time.