

## Special Announcement | COVID-19 – Coronavirus.

Monday 16 March 2020

Dear valued clients,

If you are booking an appointment and have been out of the country recently or are feeling unwell please use your own discretion, stay informed and adhere to the guidelines that the government and health officials are providing. If your appointment is urgent or necessary, we will do everything we can to accommodate this just call our office on 9535 5900.

[https://www.wa.gov.au/government/coronavirus-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR1gdVybaCQT1XFndHluEDjP5HgKvxDCNc72o3nPHpxQhJw7Tub4KD\\_NRK4](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/coronavirus-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR1gdVybaCQT1XFndHluEDjP5HgKvxDCNc72o3nPHpxQhJw7Tub4KD_NRK4)

<https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR3fwbS8bYkYxugyASUax8AMAtiVpM09cfjdKX9au8iX2Ui08bliFtxOArA>

As a small business have you started to implement strategies to deal with the effects of the COVID19 - Coronavirus:

- Health & Safety
- Sales
- Staff availability
- Supply chain
- Finance

There is a lot of information circulating and we have provided links below to assist you with any adjustments/decisions you may need to implement within your business.

### **Tips for Small business:**

CPA Australia have provided an excellent synopsis to assist with planning and this includes some great checklists. As always, we are here to assist in any way we can so please contact our office if needed 9535 5900

### **Preparing for COVID-19 CPA Australia**

<https://www.cpaustralia.com.au/-/media/corporate/allfiles/document/training/detailed-tips-for-small-business-on-covid-19.pdf?la=en&rev=a5f962a208754d4cb85473bd24e3215c>

### **List of potential implications on your business**

[https://www.cpaustralia.com.au/~/\\_/media/corporate/allfiles/document/training/example-worksheet-covid-19.pdf](https://www.cpaustralia.com.au/~/_/media/corporate/allfiles/document/training/example-worksheet-covid-19.pdf)

### **Disaster recovery Toolkit**

<https://www.cpaustralia.com.au/-/media/corporate/allfiles/document/professional-resources/business/disaster-recovery-toolkit.pdf>

### **Contingency Plan**

[https://www.cpaustralia.com.au/~/\\_/media/corporate/allfiles/document/training/example-checklist-covid-19-contingency-plan.pdf](https://www.cpaustralia.com.au/~/_/media/corporate/allfiles/document/training/example-checklist-covid-19-contingency-plan.pdf)

**ATO resources**

Emergency Support Infoline 1800 806 218

For large businesses (turnover of \$250 million or more) contact the Services team 02 9685 8735

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Dealing-with-disasters/In-detail/Specific-disasters/COVID-19/>

For employment related questions contact either Fair Work Australia

**Coronavirus and Australian workplace laws**

[https://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/website-news/coronavirus-and-australian-workplace-laws?fbclid=IwAR0jkh-xvIb50tWk2nrJZrJ9CslvgNgVVT6v-CECQRYh\\_z5fRAYtwB6I8m4#stuck-overseas-quarantined](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/website-news/coronavirus-and-australian-workplace-laws?fbclid=IwAR0jkh-xvIb50tWk2nrJZrJ9CslvgNgVVT6v-CECQRYh_z5fRAYtwB6I8m4#stuck-overseas-quarantined)

On 12 March 2020, the Australian Government released its [economic response](#) to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The ATO also released a series of [administrative concessions](#) for taxpayers.

### Key stimulus package measures

#### 1. Instant asset write-off extended and increased to \$150,000

The instant asset write-off threshold will be increased from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expanded to include access for businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million) until 30 June 2020.

A time limited 15-month investment incentive (through to 30 June 2021) will also be provided to support business investment by accelerating depreciation deductions. Businesses with a turnover of less than \$500 million will be able to deduct an additional 50% of the asset cost in the year of purchase.

*Date of effect:*

These measures started on 12 March 2020.

#### 2. Cash flow assistance payments for SMEs

Eligible small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) will receive a boost cash flow of up to \$25,000 (with a minimum payment of \$2,000) equal to 50% of their Pay As You Go (PAYG) withheld amounts. It will be available for businesses who lodge Business Activity Statements (BAS) or Instalment Activity Statement (IAS) for the March and June quarters. The payment will provide cash flow support to businesses with a turnover of less than \$50 million with employees between 1 January 2020 and 30 June 2020. The payment will be tax free.

In addition, there will be a minimum payment of \$2,000 for those with employees who are not required to withhold any PAYG.

*Date of effect:*

Businesses will receive the payments from 28 April 2020, with refunds to be paid within 14 days of lodging BAS or IAS.

### **3. Apprenticeship and trainee wage subsidy**

Small businesses will also receive a total of \$1.3 billion to support the jobs of 120,000 apprentices and trainees. Eligible employers can apply for a wage subsidy of 50% of the apprentice's or trainee's wage for up to nine 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.

### **4. Household stimulus payment of \$750 for pensioners**

A one-off \$750 stimulus payment will be made to pensioners, social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders.

The payment will be tax free and not count as income for Social Security, Farm Household Allowance and Veteran payments. There will be one payment per eligible recipient. If a person qualifies for the one-off payment in multiple ways, they will only receive one payment.

*Date of effect:*

Payments will be made from 31 March 2020 on a progressive basis, with over 90% of payments expected to be made by mid-April.

### **5. Support for impacted sectors, regions and communities**

Support of \$1 billion will be provided for sectors, regions and communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the economic impacts of the coronavirus, including those heavily reliant on industries such as tourism, agriculture and education.

#### [ATO support measures](#)

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) will implement a series of administrative measures to assist Australians experiencing financial difficulty as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Options available to assist impacted businesses include:

- Deferring payments relating to Activity Statements, Income Tax assessments and Fringe Benefits Tax assessments by up to four months

- Allowing businesses who report GST quarterly to swap to monthly reporting to access GST refunds faster than they would usually be able to
- Allowing businesses to vary down their Pay As You Go (PAYG) instalments to zero for the March 2020 quarter
- Allowing businesses to claim refunds for PAYG instalments paid during the September 2019 and December 2019 quarters
- Remitting interest and penalties incurred after 23 January 2020 which had been applied to tax liabilities
- Allowing businesses to enter into low interest payment plans for their existing and ongoing tax liabilities.

Employers will still need to meet their ongoing superannuation guarantee obligations for their employees.

Relief will be provided to businesses on a case-by-case basis. Businesses impacted by the coronavirus are encouraged to get in touch with the ATO to discuss relief options on its Emergency Support Infoline 1800 806 218.