



**Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash**  
**Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business**  
**Senator for Western Australia**

**20 March 2020**

**UPDATE ON ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO BUSINESSES**

Please find below an update on the assistance for businesses announced to date as a result of the impacts of COVID-19.

**Credit and Loan Relief Package**

The Australian Banking Association has announced today that Australian banks will defer loan repayments for six months for small businesses who need assistance as a result of the impacts of COVID-19.

This is welcome news for small businesses around Australia.

To view the media release in full, please click [here](#).

This announcement by the Australian Banking Association follows the announcement by the Government on 19 March 2020, together with the Reserve Bank, to inject more than \$100 billion into the Australia's financial system.

To view these media releases in full, please click [here for the Government's release](#) and [here for the Reserve Bank's release](#).

These announcements follow on from the initial \$17.6 Billion stimulus package measures announced by the Government. A summary is below.

They reflect our collective determination to do what it takes to support Australian jobs and Australian businesses as we work together through this complex and rapidly evolving challenge.

As further announcements are made, I will keep you updated.

**\$6.7 billion measure Boosting Cash Flow for Employers**

Tax free payments of between \$2,000 and \$25,000 to eligible business with a turnover of under \$50 million, to provide temporary cash flow support to businesses that employ staff.

This will work by giving eligible businesses that withhold tax to the ATO on their employees' salary and wages receiving a payment equal to 50 per cent of the amount withheld, up to a maximum payment of \$25,000.

Eligible businesses that pay salary and wages will receive a minimum payment of \$2,000, even if they are not required to withhold tax.

This measure will benefit around 690,000 businesses employing around 7.8 million people.

### **\$1.3 billion measure Supporting Apprentices and Trainees**

Employers of apprentices and trainees who employ less than 20 full-time staff can apply for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent, of up to \$7,000 per quarter, for each trainee or apprentice they employ.

This applies to trainee and apprentice wages paid for the period from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020 up to a maximum of \$21,000 per eligible apprentice or trainee.

This will support up to 70,000 small businesses and around 117,000 apprentices.

### **Increasing the Instant Asset Write-Off**

We are increasing the instant asset write off threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000, and expanding access to businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million until 30 June 2020.

### **Backing Business Investment**

Businesses with a turnover of less than \$500 million can, until 30 June 2021, 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.

### **Support For Coronavirus affected regions and communities**

An initial \$1 billion has been allocated to support those 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.

The \$1 billion will be provided through existing or newly established Government programs.

The Australian Tax Office will also provide administrative relief for certain tax obligations (similar to relief provided following the bushfires) for taxpayers affected by the Coronavirus outbreak, on a case-by-case basis.

If you require further information on any of these measures it is available at [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au).

Please also go to <https://www.australia.gov.au>

This site will link you to the latest COVID-19 news, updates and advice from Australian Government Agencies.

Regards



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