



The Hon Daniel Andrews MP

Premier of Victoria

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Dear Victorian Business Owner

ECONOMIC SURVIVAL PACKAGE

The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is having an unprecedented impact on our community and our economy.

That's why the Victorian Government is taking **emergency steps to support Victorian businesses – including your own.**

As part of the \$1.7 billion *Economic Survival Package*, we're providing your business with a full payroll tax refund and waiver for the 2019-20 financial year. Your payroll tax payment for the first three months of the 2020-21 financial year will also be deferred until 1 January 2021.

You play an important role in keeping Victorians in work – and we want to help you, your staff, and your families, get to the other side of this crisis.

The Payroll Tax refund and waiver is one of many measures we are delivering to support small businesses.

A fact sheet is attached that outlines other initiatives, including the \$500 million Business Support Fund, which will help our hardest hit sectors, including hospitality, tourism, accommodation, arts and entertainment, and retail.

The \$500 million Working for Victoria Fund will help workers who have lost their jobs find new opportunities, while renewable liquor licence fees for 2020 will be waived and commercial tenants in government buildings will be given rent relief.

Our support complements the work of the Federal Government, a summary of which is also included. Please take the time to review this information as you may be eligible for additional assistance.

The Victorian Government will continue to work closely with businesses and industry in the coming weeks and months.

This will be tough – but we will get through it together.

The Hon Dan Andrews MP
Premier

23/03/2020

Economic Survival Package

The Victorian Government has established an economic survival package to support Victorian businesses and workers through the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$1.7 billion *Economic Survival Package* complements the work of the Federal Government.

The package includes the following key programs.

Payroll Tax Refund

Businesses with annual taxable wages up to \$3 million will have their payroll tax for the 2019-20 financial year waived. This will support 24,000 businesses and up to 400,000 workers.

The State Revenue Office will directly contact eligible businesses to reimburse them for payroll tax already paid in the financial year.

Eligible businesses must continue to lodge returns but do not need to make further payments for this financial year.

These businesses can also defer paying payroll tax for the first quarter of the 2020-21 financial year.

More information about the administration of these relief measures will be sent directly to eligible businesses.

Visit www.sro.vic.gov.au

Liquor licence fees waived

Renewable liquor licence fees for 2020 will be waived. Businesses that have already paid will be reimbursed.

The State Revenue Office will administer the reimbursement, regardless of whether the licence fee was paid to it or the Victorian Commission for Gaming and Liquor Regulation.

Visit www.sro.vic.gov.au

Business Support Fund

The \$500 million Business Support Fund will support the hardest hit sectors, including hospitality, tourism, accommodation, arts and entertainment, and retail.

The Government will work with the Victorian Chamber, Australian Hotels Association and Australian Industry Group to deliver the Fund, which will help these businesses – which may not be eligible for payroll tax refunds due to their size – survive and keep people in work.

Visit www.business.vic.gov.au

Working for Victoria Fund

Under the \$500 million Working for Victoria Fund, displaced workers will be eligible to apply for different types of work. This presents opportunities for paid work and an opportunity to contribute to Victoria's ability to manage this event and support the community.

Some displaced workers will have skills that can be readily transferred to new roles. The Government can also assist skills development or help people in obtaining immediate accreditation to commence work.

The Government will work across the public sector, local government, the not-for-profit sector and key private sector employers to facilitate job matching.

Visit www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria

Land tax deferral

Landowners that have at least one non-residential property and total taxable landholdings below \$1 million have the option of deferring their 2020 land tax payment until after 31 December 2020.

The State Revenue Office will contact all taxpayers who are eligible for this deferral.

Visit www.sro.vic.gov.au

Fast tracking outstanding supplier invoices

The Government will pay all outstanding supplier invoices within five business days – releasing up to \$750 million into the economy earlier. The private sector is urged to do the same where possible.

Rent relief for commercial tenants in government buildings

The Government will work directly with commercial tenants in government buildings who can apply for rent relief. Private landlords are also being encouraged to provide rent relief or holidays to help businesses.

Business Victoria HOTLINE

Businesses across the state can now access information on dealing with COVID-19 by calling the Business Victoria hotline on **13 22 15**.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates

For the latest updates and advice on the novel coronavirus in Victoria, visit the DHHS website:

www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Commonwealth Government

The Commonwealth Government has also announced its economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The support for business includes:

- Boosting cash flow for employers
- Increasing the Instant Asset Write-off
- Backing business investment
- Supporting apprentices and trainees
- Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses
- Supporting access to credit

Visit www.business.gov.au/coronavirus

Mental health and wellbeing during the Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak

The outbreak of the coronavirus COVID-19 has impacted people in varying ways on an international scale. It is understandable during times like this that people may be feeling afraid, worried, anxious and overwhelmed by the constantly changing alerts and media coverage regarding the spread of the virus.

While it is important to stay informed, lifeline.org.au and beyondblue.org.au have some mental health and wellbeing tips and strategies to continue looking after ourselves and each other during these difficult times.

We would like to reassure Victorians that Lifeline and Beyond Blue services will continue as normal throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.

To contact Lifeline:

Phone:

13 11 14 (24 hours/7 days)

Text:

0477 13 11 14

(6pm – midnight AEDT, 7 nights)

Chat online:

www.lifeline.org.au/crisis-chat
(7pm - midnight, 7 nights)

To contact Beyond Blue:

Phone:

1300 22 4636 (24 hours/ 7days)

Chat online:

www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/get-immediate-support (3pm - 12am, 7 days)

Email:

online.beyondblue.org.au/email/
Get a response in 24 hours