

Covid 19 Business Assistance



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Queensland
Government

Contents

Latest Queensland Government Covid-19 Announcements	3
More jobs for Queenslanders	3
Back to Work Program	3
Skilling Queenslanders for Work	3
Reef Assistance Program	4
Works for Tradies	4
ARM Hub	4
Australian Tax Office Compliance Measures	4
Workplace Health Management Plan	4
Latest Australian Government Announcements	5
JobTrainer Skills Package	5
Travelling for work during COVID-19	6
Queensland Government Covid-19 Resources	6
Federal Government Covid-19 Resources	7
Fair Work Australia – Workplace Obligations and Entitlements	7
Centrelink.....	7
Australian Taxation Office	7
Fair Work Ombudsman	7
Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise.....	7
Grants.gov.au	7
Additional wellbeing and support information	8
How to stay connected	9
Useful Websites and further information.....	9

Latest Queensland Government Covid-19 Announcements

The Chief Health Officer updated the **Restrictions on Businesses, Activities and Undertakings Direction (No.4)** on Friday. The main update to the Direction is that restricted businesses hosting a wedding may allow the couple getting married to dance with each other and/or their parents.

The Deputy Premier announced that **interstate travellers and returning Queenslanders must commit to be tested** if they experience any COVID-19 symptoms while in Queensland, or face a \$4004 fine. From 10 July, interstate travellers who have not been to Victoria in the previous 14 days will be allowed to enter Queensland subject to **completion of a Border Declaration**. Also, from 10 July, returning Queensland residents, who have been in Victoria in the last 14 days, will be required to quarantine in a hotel at their expense, as currently Victoria is a COVID-19 hotspot.

The Treasurer announced **new savings measures** that will prioritise Queensland Government functions and, together with the public service wage freeze, enable a savings target of \$3 billion over four years.

More jobs for Queenslanders

The Queensland Government has announced a \$90 million package of additional measures under its economic recovery strategy: *Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs*. Details about all economic recovery initiatives can be found on the **Unite and Recover website**.



Back to Work Program

Back to Work extension in 2020–21 with \$70 million available. Back to work payments are available to Queensland businesses that recruit an eligible worker who has been unemployed for at least four weeks. A new Apprentice and Trainee Boost of up to \$20,000 will be available to employers who employ an eligible apprentice or trainee.



Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Skilling more Queenslanders for work with \$10 million boost. The funding through the **Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative** will support paid Work Skills Traineeships on construction or conservation and land management projects around the state, which will be announced later this month.



Reef Assistance Program

\$10 million Reef Assist program to support 200 jobs. Funding will support jobs on priority environmental projects in Great Barrier Reef catchments.



Works for Tradies

Call out for tradies to join plan to Unite and Recover. Register of interest opens for the \$100 million Works for Tradies boost to build 215 new homes.



ARM Hub

ARM Hub to help manufacturers flex in post-COVID-19 era — Advanced Robotics Manufacturing (ARM) Hub online workshops for Townsville, Rockhampton and Brisbane aim to support manufacturers to build their resilience and improve competitiveness.



Australian Tax Office Compliance Measures

The ATO delivers a range of support for businesses and employers and is working to ensure this support reaches those that are impacted by COVID-19.



Workplace Health Management Plan

A workplace health management plan is mandatory in Queensland for all agribusinesses, commercial fishing businesses or agriculture labour hire companies that employ seasonal workers (including non-permanent residents, temporary visa holders and backpackers). However, if an agribusiness only employs Queensland residents who are working near their home and staying in their permanent residence, it is **not mandatory** for them to submit a workplace health management plan to Queensland Health.

They must manage the risk at their workplace (this is an existing duty under the workplace health and safety legislation) and are still encouraged to develop a workplace health management plan to minimise the impact should a COVID-19 incident occur.

A workplace health management plan template is available and the completed plan must be submitted to Queensland Health at covid.plans@health.qld.gov.au. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries can help in developing a workplace health management plan – referrals can call 13 25 23 or email info@daf.qld.gov.au.

Commencing this week, targeted compliance visits in regional areas will help ensure that all agribusinesses are equipped to deal with COVID-19 should it occur in their workplace.

Latest Australian Government Announcements

The Prime Minister, after the National Cabinet meeting on Friday, announced that:

- National Cabinet agreed that the number of inbound arrivals into Australia will be halved at locations able to accept arrivals. Currently, no flights will go to Melbourne.
- National Cabinet agreed to a nationwide review of hotel quarantine.
- Victoria will receive additional support from the Australian Government and other states for contact tracing, as required (New Victorian COVID-19 case numbers were 288 on Friday.)
- Mr Michael Brennan, Productivity Commission advised that a flexible economy would be the most successful in recovering from the COVID-19 recession. Managing regulation and deregulation is very important to achieving that flexibility.

The national **'Go Local First' campaign has been launched**. The campaign, led by the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA), will feature small businesses across Australia, highlighting their vital role and encouraging Australians to purchase from local small businesses. The 'Go Local First' message will be on TV, radio and online.

Temporary simplified arrangements by the Australian Tax Office for a **working from home deduction rate** of 80 cents per hour has been extended until 30 September 2020.

JobKeeper Announcement

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced an update to the JobKeeper Program:

- JobKeeper to remain until March for those with 30 per cent turnover reduction over the past two quarters.
- JobKeeper 2.0 reduced from end September to \$1200 per fortnight (FT), \$750 under 20 hours (PT). And will be reviewed again for March quarter.

The updates will be available on the following link [ATO-JobKeeper](#)

JobTrainer Skills Package

The Prime Minister announced the \$2 billion JobTrainer skills package, which consists of \$1 billion JobTrainer Fund (\$500 million funding from the Australian Government to be matched by states and territories) and the \$1.5 billion to expand and extend the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees Wage Subsidy (this funding is in addition to \$1.3 billion for the wage subsidy, available to small businesses employers, that was set to conclude on 30 September 2020.)

JobTrainer will:

- provide up to an additional 340,700 training places to help school leavers and job seekers access short and long courses to develop new skills in growth sectors and create pathways to more qualifications
- operate from 1 September 2020 to 30 June 2021
- particularly focus on areas identified by the National Skills Commissioner
- be delivered in partnership with states and territories.

The **wage subsidy** will:

- be extended until 31 March 2021
- be expanded to support small and medium size businesses (SMEs) with less than 200 employees who had an apprentice in place on 1 July 2020
- cover 50 per cent of the wages paid to apprentices and trainees, up to \$7,000 per quarter.

The expanded support is expected to assist businesses employ 180,000 apprentices and trainees (up from 80,000, currently supported).



Travelling for work during COVID-19

The Australian Government Business website has a [travelling for work page](#) with the latest business travel advice, including domestic passenger journey protocols.

Queensland Government Covid-19 Resources



Queensland Government Unite against COVID-19: Covers Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs strategy, Roadmap to easing restrictions and COVID Safe checklists and plans. Current Public Health Directions - Businesses, activities and undertakings



COVID-19 business assistance finder



Current Public Health Directions- Businesses, activities and undertakings



Jobs Finder Queensland: Connecting Queenslanders looking for work with a network of recruitment and employment agencies.



Free online training: Courses available from TAFE Queensland, CQUniversity and through the Skills Focus Queensland library. Also check out the **GO1 Queensland Small Business Skills Hub**.



Queensland Small Business Commissioner: Leasing advice and dispute resolution



Download the **COVIDSafe** app from the [Apple Store](#) or [Google Play](#). Help spread the [#SupportSmall message](#) in your area

Federal Government Covid-19 Resources

Access the [Australian Government's website](#) to see the latest COVID-19 news, updates and advice from Government. The website contains information such as, but not limited to:

- key updates
- health and prevention
- receiving financial support – [Australian Government Economic Response to COVID-19](#)
- information for businesses, employees and jobseekers
- help from other Government agencies.

www.australia.gov.au

The Australian Government has set up a team of dedicated customer representatives to explain the Australian Government assistance available to business. Get in touch with their [Coronavirus business support service](#) across Australia, seven days a week, between 7am and 9pm:



[Fair Work Australia – Workplace Obligations and Entitlements](#)

[Centrelink](#) –

[Australian Taxation Office](#)

[Fair Work Ombudsman](#)

[Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise](#)

[Grants.gov.au](#)

Additional wellbeing and support information



Queensland Mental Health Commission
Help you stay mentally and physically healthy and well



Emergency Relief Program search
Queensland Government



Salvation Army
Disasters and emergencies support – Phone 1300 662 217



Beyondblue
Mental health and wellbeing including **Practical tips to help you run your small business from home** – phone 1300 224 636



Lifeline
Mental health and wellbeing Phone 13 11 14



Headspace
Youth mental health and wellbeing – Phone 1800 650 890.



Care Army
Volunteer to help older people living in the community

How to stay connected

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



Useful Websites and further information



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