

WELCOME



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WEBINAR

COVID-19 Stimulus Packages - Delta Variant

Tuesday 17 August | 11am to 12pm



Today's webinar



- **1 Hour CPD** available – AFA will send details within the next week.
- As a webinar attendee you are on 'mute' during the webinar
- Questions will be answered at the end of the presentation. Please use the Zoom QA function (not the Chat function) to ask your question.



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Next level adviser education

COVID-19

Stimulus Packages:

Delta Variant

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Important information

This information, dated 17 August 2021, is derived from sources believed to be accurate as at this date, which may be subject to change. It should not be considered to be a comprehensive statement on any matter and should not be relied on as such.

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The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present new challenges and the Government's economic support continues to evolve

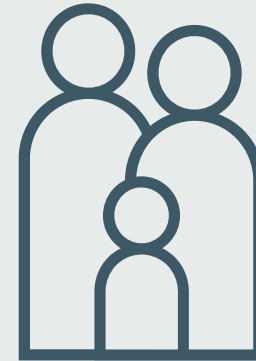


Financial assistance

Support for individuals and households

A number of financial assistance measures are available for individuals and households impacted by COVID-19, some of which have changed recently, and include:

- **COVID-19 Disaster Payment,**
- **Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment,**
- **Crisis Payment for National Health Emergency (COVID-19).**



COVID-19 Disaster Payment

Support for individuals and households

The **COVID-19 Disaster Payment** is aimed to help workers who are unable to earn an income due to a state or territory imposed **public health order**.

On 28 July, the Australian Government announced a further **increase** in the COVID-19 Disaster Payment.

How much individuals get depends on the:

- **Location** of the health order
- **Period** being claimed for, and the
- **Hours** of work lost.

COVID-19 Disaster Payment

Eligibility

To get access to the COVID-19 Disaster Payment, individuals must:

- Be an Australian **resident** or hold a visa that gives you the right to work in Australia
- Be aged **17 years or older**
- **Not** be in receipt of an **income support payment**, ABSTUDY Living Allowance, Dad and Partner Pay or Parental Leave Pay during the payment period (a '**top up**' payment is payable)
- **Not** getting the **Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment**, a state or territory pandemic payment or a state small business payment for the same period
- Meet any rules for a COVID-19 **health order**, i.e. depending on location or movement restriction
- Have **lost hours of work** and income and have no appropriate paid leave entitlements.

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COVID-19 Disaster Payment

Residency

Residency requirements include:

- Permanent residence visas allowing individuals to stay in Australia indefinitely
- Subclass Skilled 491 (Work Regional) & 494 (Employer-sponsored) visas*
- Protected Special Category visa (SCV) holders
- Non-protected SCV holders are **not** residents

COVID-19 Disaster Payment

What constitutes a leave entitlement?

Individuals are required to use any appropriate paid leave before getting access to the COVID-19 Disaster Payment.

The following leave is **not** included:

- Unpaid leave
- Paid sick and carer's leave
- Long service leave
- Compassionate leave when an employer has stood an individual down without pay

COVID-19 Disaster Payment (NSW)

NSW areas recognised

'Parts of Sydney' (from June 2021)

- Bayside
- City of Sydney
- Inner West
- Canada Bay
- Randwick
- Waverley
- Woollahra

Greater Sydney (from June 2021)

- 29 LGA's across Greater Sydney, including:
- Blue Mountains,
 - Central Coast,
 - Shellharbour,
 - Wollondilly and
 - Wollongong

All other areas of NSW (from 18 July 2021)

This also included (from 21 Jul. to 28 Jul 2021):

- Orange City Council
- Blayney Shire Council
- Cabonne Shire Council

COVID-19 Disaster Payment (NSW)

Payments for parts of Sydney

Amount for those who lost
less than 20 hours work

\$325

for each of the periods
1 Jul. 2021 to 7 Jul. 2021 &
8 Jul. 2021 to 14 Jul. 2021

Amount for those who lost
20 hours work or more

\$500

for each of the periods
1 Jul. 2021 to 7 Jul. 2021 &
8 Jul. 2021 to 14 Jul. 2021

COVID-19 Disaster Payment (NSW)

Payments for parts of Sydney (changes eff. 15 Jul. 2021)

Amount for those who lost a full day of usual work hours* work

\$375

for each of the periods
15 Jul. 2021 to 21 Jul. 2021,
22 Jul. 2021 to 28 Jul. 2021 &
29 Jul. 2021 to 4 Aug. 2021

Amount for those who lost between 8 and less than 20 hours work

\$375

for each of the periods
15 Jul. 2021 to 21 Jul. 2021,
22 Jul. 2021 to 28 Jul. 2021 &
29 Jul. 2021 to 4 Aug. 2021

Amount for those who lost 20 hours work or more

\$600

for each of the periods
15 Jul. 2021 to 21 Jul. 2021,
22 Jul. 2021 to 28 Jul. 2021 &
29 Jul. 2021 to 4 Aug. 2021

Source: Services Australia

*A full day of your usual work is what you were scheduled to work but could not because of a restricted movement order. This includes not being able to attend a full time, part time or casual shift of less than 8 hours.

COVID-19 Disaster Payment (NSW)

Payments for Greater Sydney and all other areas of NSW

Amount for those who lost a **full day of usual work hours*** work

\$375

for each of the periods
18 Jul. 2021 to 24 Jul. 2021,
25 Jul. 2021 to 30 Jul. 2021 &
1 Aug. 2021 to 7 Aug. 2021

Amount for those who lost between **8 and less than 20 hours** work

\$375

for each of the periods
18 Jul. 2021 to 24 Jul. 2021,
25 Jul. 2021 to 30 Jul. 2021 &
1 Aug. 2021 to 7 Aug. 2021

Amount for those who lost **20 hours work or more**

\$600

for each of the periods
18 Jul. 2021 to 24 Jul. 2021,
25 Jul. 2021 to 30 Jul. 2021 &
1 Aug. to 7 Aug. 2021

Source: Services Australia

*A full day of your usual work is what you were scheduled to work but could not because of a restricted movement order. This includes not being able to attend a full time, part time or casual shift of less than 8 hours.

COVID-19 Disaster Payment (NSW)

Further payment increase

Amount for those who lost a **full day of usual work hours** work

\$450pw

for each of the periods
8 Aug. 2021* to 14 Aug. 2021,
15 Aug. 2021 to 21 Aug. 2021, &
22 Aug. 2021 to 28 Aug. 2021

Amount for those who lost between **8 and less than 20 hours** work

\$450pw

for each of the periods
8 Aug. 2021* to 14 Aug. 2021,
15 Aug. 2021 to 21 Aug. 2021, &
22 Aug. 2021 to 28 Aug. 2021

Amount for those who lost **20 hours work or more**

\$750pw

for each of the periods
8 Aug. 2021* to 14 Aug. 2021,
15 Aug. 2021 to 21 Aug. 2021, &
22 Aug. 2021 to 28 Aug. 2021

COVID-19 Disaster Payment (VIC)

Victorian areas recognised

Greater Melbourne
(from 4 to 10 June 2021)

Greater Melbourne again
(from mid July 2021)

Approx. 37 LGA's across
Greater Melbourne, including:

- Moorabool Shire,
- Greater Geelong,
- Borough of Queenscliff,
- Surf Coast Shire and
- Bass Coast

Victoria
(from 16 to 27 July 2021)

This also included
(from 18 July 2021):

- Rural City of Mildura

COVID-19 Disaster Payment (VIC)

Payments for Greater Melbourne

Amount for those who lost
less than 20 hours work

\$325

for the period
4 Jun. 2021 to 10 Jun. 2021

Amount for those who lost
20 hours work or more

\$500

for the period
4 Jun. 2021 to 10 Jun. 2021

COVID-19 Disaster Payment (VIC)

Payments for Victoria

Amount for those who lost a full day of usual work hours* work

\$375

for each of the periods
16 Jul. 2021 to 22 Jul. 2021 &
23 Jul. 2021 to 27 Jul. 2021

Amount for those who lost between 8 and less than 20 hours work

\$375

for each of the periods
16 Jul. 2021 to 22 Jul. 2021 &
23 Jul. 2021 to 27 Jul. 2021

Amount for those who lost 20 hours work or more

\$600

for each of the periods
16 Jul. 2021 to 22 Jul. 2021 &
23 Jul. 2021 to 27 Jul. 2021

Source: Services Australia

*A full day of your usual work is what you were scheduled to work but could not because of a restricted movement order. This includes not being able to attend a full time, part time or casual shift of less than 8 hours.

COVID-19 Disaster Payment (SA)

1 South Australian area recognised

Metropolitan
Adelaide
(from 21 July 2021
to 27 July 2021)

COVID-19 Disaster Payment (SA)

Payments for Metropolitan Adelaide

Amount for those who lost
less than 20 hours work

\$375

for the period
21 Jul. 2021 to 27 Jul. 2021

Amount for those who lost
20 hours work or more

\$600

for the period
21 Jun. 2021 to 27 Jul. 2021

COVID-19 Disaster Payment (QLD)

Several Queensland regions recognised

South-east Queensland
(from 1 August 2021 to 8 August 2021)

11 LGAs including:

- Brisbane
- Logan
- Gold Coast
- Sunshine Coast
- Lockyer Valley

COVID-19 Disaster Payment (QLD)

Payments for the South East Queensland regions

Amount for those who lost
less than 20 hours work

\$450

for the periods
1 Aug. 2021 to 7 Aug. 2021
8 Aug. 2021

Amount for those who lost
20 hours work or more

\$750

for the periods
1 Aug. 2021 to 7 Aug. 2021
8 Aug. 2021

COVID-19 Disaster Payment

Common queries

Can members of a couple each qualify for this payment? **Yes***

Does a liquid asset test apply to this payment? **Yes, but only after certain payment periods (for Parts of Sydney: up to and including 7 July 2021, for Greater Sydney: up to and including 10 July)**

My client doesn't live but works in a designated hotspot. Are they eligible? **Yes***

A 17 year old casual worker has lost two weeks worth of shifts. Can they apply? **Yes**

A 35 year old is receiving government support via a Parenting Payment. Are they eligible? **Yes, but they will qualify only for an additional \$200 on top of their regular support payment**

How can clients apply? **Via myGov**

A client is caring for someone who has COVID-19. Do they qualify for the COVID-19 Disaster Payment? **No, they will need to apply for the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment**

Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment

Support for individuals and households

The Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment is available if you can't work and:

- A **state** or **territory health official** has told you to **isolate** or **quarantine** because you're a **close contact** of a confirmed case, or
- You **have COVID-19**, or
- You're **caring** for someone with **COVID-19**, with care being provided for:
 - Someone who **has COVID-19**, or
 - A child, 16 years or under, who's been in **close contact** with a person who has COVID-19

Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment

Eligibility

To be eligible to the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment, individuals must satisfy **all** of the following:

- An Australian **resident** or hold a visa that gives you the right to work in Australia
- Aged **17 years or older**
- **Unable** to work and **earn an income**
- Receiving **no appropriate leave** entitlements, including pandemic sick leave, personal leave or leave to care for another person

Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment

Payment amount

Amount payable

\$1,500

for each 14 day period of self-isolation or quarantine, or 14 day period providing care for someone with COVID-19

For those recipients of family assistance, including **Family Tax Benefit** and **Child Care Subsidy**, or have a **child support assessment**, the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment must be added to any family income estimate or adjusted taxable income

Taxation of benefits

How are these government initiatives treated?

The COVID-19 Disaster Payment and Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment are assessable income and individuals will need to report this income in their tax return in the income year the amounts are received.

However, the Treasury Laws Amendment (COVID-19 Economic Response No. 2) Bill 2021 aims to ensure that COVID-19 disaster payments received by individuals from the 2020-21 income year are tax free, providing additional relief for individuals who are doing it tough.

Crisis Payments

Support for individuals and households

The government has extended the Crisis Payments scheme to include COVID-19 via a one-off **Crisis Payment for National Health Emergency (COVID-19)**.

To be eligible, recipients must be **both**:

- Eligible for an **income support payment** or ABSTUDY Living Allowance, **and**
- In **severe financial** hardship

And be **either**:

- Required to be in **quarantine** or **self-isolation** in Australia, **or**
- **Caring** for someone required to be in **quarantine** or **self-isolation** in Australia.

Crisis Payment for COVID-19

Severe financial hardship means liquid assets total **either**:

Less than

2 weeks

of the maximum rate* of your income support payment or ABSTUDY Living Allowance, if you're **single**

Less than

4 weeks

of the maximum rate* of your income support payment or ABSTUDY Living Allowance, if you're **partnered**

Crisis Payments

‘Caring’ as defined for the payment

The definition of caring means you’re providing **daily care or support** such as:

- Administering **medication**,
- **Bathing**,
- Preparing **meals**

The person being cared for must be a member of your immediate family or household. This includes:

- Partner,
- Grandchild,
- Sibling or
- Child,
- Parent,
- Grandparent

Crisis Payment for COVID-19

Payment amount

Equal to

1 week's

pay at the **maximum basic rate** of the income support or ABSTUDY Living Allowance applicable*

Recipients can only receive

2 Crisis Payments

in a **6 month period** with 1 payment per quarantine or self-isolation period

Lending relief

APRA regulatory reprieve

On 19 July 2021, APRA announced regulatory support for banks offering temporary financial assistance to borrowers impacted by COVID-19.

This follows a number of lenders announcing COVID-19 support packages providing affected borrowers with an option to defer their loan repayments.

The regulatory relief means the deferral will not be treated as a period of arrears for prudential purposes and includes repayment deferrals for a period of up to 3 months, and for requests granted between 19 July and 31 August 2021.

Small business assistance

Support for businesses and employers

There are a number of support packages for businesses and employers. These include:

- JobMaker
- NSW COVID-19 Business Support:
 - JobSaver payment
 - COVID-19 Micro-business grant
- Other state-based support

JobMaker

Support for businesses and employers

A scheme for businesses to employ a greater number of young Australian workers.

- Open to employees aged 16 to 35
- Payments are based on the employee's age at the day of their commencement with their employer
- Can impact entitlement to other government support programs

NSW Business Support (Small)

JobSaver payment

A scheme for NSW small businesses with turnover between \$75,000 and \$50 million providing cash flow support for costs incurred from week 4 of the COVID-19 restrictions, or from 18 July, being for:

- Employing businesses:
 - 40% of weekly payroll, with a minimum payment of \$1,500 per week and a maximum \$10,000 per week
- Non-employing businesses:
 - \$1,000 per week

NSW Business Support (Micro)

Micro-business grant

A scheme for NSW micro businesses of \$1,500 per fortnight, where:

- Provide the primary income source for a person associated with the business
- A turnover between \$30,000 and \$75,000
- Suffered a revenue decline of 30% or more

VIC Business Support

Support for businesses and employers

A range of support packages are available from the Victorian government, including:

- Business Continuity Fund
- Small Business COVID Hardship Fund
- Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme

SA Business Support

Support for businesses and employers

Eligible businesses who, as at 20 July 2021, experienced a 30% reduction in turnover (compared with prior week) can receive a:

- \$3,000 emergency cash grant

QLD Business Support

Support for businesses and employers

A recently announced package is available from the Queensland government:

- 2021 COVID-19 Business Support Grant

Questions?

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Access to webinar content

- Today's webinar recording, presentation slides and a CPD assessment quiz will be uploaded to afa.asn.au
- All registrants will receive an email confirming when available
- Get in touch at info@afa.asn.au if you have any questions

Thank you for joining us today