

9 April 2020

## Unite against COVID-19



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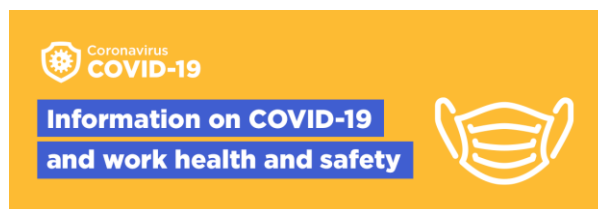
### Guide to help prepare workplaces and workers for COVID-19

A comprehensive guide to assist employers prepare their workplaces and workers for COVID-19 has been released by [Safe Work Australia](#).

The guide covers topics including health and hygiene, working from home and mental health as well as the legal aspects inherent with keeping a business up and running during the current pandemic.

Checklists, posters and factsheets are also available for easy download.

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### Webinar - evaluating and refining your business continuity planning

Register for a live business continuity planning (BCP) webinar on Thursday 16 April at 2pm where BDO will provide an in-depth example of food and agribusiness BCP.

Following the presentation, there will be a live Q&A around specific BCP questions you have or issues you are facing. We encourage you to share your questions in advance upon registering.

Register [here](#).

BDO and DAF's first two business continuity webinars are available [here](#).

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### Need to travel interstate?

Under COVID-19 restrictions, all Queensland residents and people working in Queensland must avoid non-essential travel and stay at home this Easter.

If you need to travel interstate for permitted essential reasons, check state and territory websites prior to travel for information about border closures and exemptions.

Australian states and territories have different travel restrictions in place. Seeking the latest information about restrictions and exemption processes in your destination will help you avoid unnecessary complications and delays.

Visit the [COVID-19 advice for travellers website](#) for more information.



## Have your say on international freight support measures

While the COVID-19 response has put constraints on airfreight capacity and cost, the Australian Government is backing Australia's agriculture and seafood export sectors through a new \$110 million initiative.

The [International Freight Assistance Mechanism](#) will help exporters get their high-quality produce into key overseas markets.

The Australian Government needs your help to guide this investment. [Have your say on international freight support measures.](#)

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## Quick reference guide for support available for small to medium businesses

[Boosting cash flow](#): Temporary cash flow support to small and medium businesses through two sets of cash flow boosts to support employers to retain employees. Support will be provided via tax-free cash flow boosts of between \$20,000 and \$100,000.

[Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme](#): The Australian Government will provide a guarantee of 50% to support short-term loans.

The Australian Government's [JobKeeper package](#) offers a subsidy of up to \$1500 per fortnight per employee to keep eligible businesses paying their staff. Employers and sole traders can register their interest in this program with the [Australian Tax Office](#). The [JobKeeper Payment factsheet for employers](#) states the first payment will be received by employers from the ATO in the first week of May.

[Supporting apprentices and trainees](#): Eligible employers can apply for a wage subsidy of 50% of their apprentice's or trainee's wage paid during 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020.

[Job support loans](#): Loans for Queensland businesses to retain employees and maintain their operations. Low interest loans of up to \$250,000 are available to assist with carry-on expenses such as employee wages, rent and rates and other related expenditure. Eligible business types include sole traders, partnerships, private and public companies and trusts.

[Payroll tax relief package](#): If you're an employer (or part of a group of employers) who pays \$6.5 million or less in Australian [taxable wages](#), you may be eligible for a refund of your payroll tax for 2 months, payroll tax holiday (i.e. no payroll tax to be paid) for 3 months, or a deferral of payroll tax for the 2020 calendar year.

[Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses](#): The Australian Government is temporarily increasing the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand.

[SME power bill relief](#): Small and medium businesses may be eligible for \$500 rebate off their energy bill.

[Rent relief](#): for small businesses who rent premises from the Queensland Government.

[Commercial and residential tenancies](#): Evictions will be put on hold over the next six months for commercial and residential tenancies in financial distress, who are unable to meet their commitments due to the impact of the coronavirus. Find out [more](#).

Any small business impacted by COVID-19 can now contact the [Rural Financial Counselling Service](#) in the following areas:

- [Southern Queensland](#): phone (07) 4622 5500
  - [North Queensland](#): phone (07) 4652 5669
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## Latest health advice, current status and contact tracing alerts

Visit [Queensland Health](#) for the latest health information and instructions.

Join the [Australian Government WhatsApp group](#) for the latest news and advice.

If you develop a fever, a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath within 14 days of overseas travel, contact a doctor or call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

Social distancing of 1.5 metres: [Social distancing](#) is a public health practice with the key aim to prevent sick people from coming into close contact with others to slow down the spread of a disease. It also intends to reduce the chance of high-risk groups from becoming infected and to alleviate the burden on our health care systems and workers.

When is self-isolation required? What is involved?

## Mental wellbeing

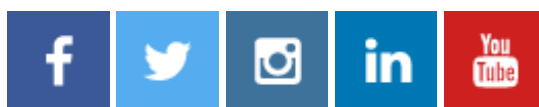
[Queensland Health's website](#) has information on how to look after your mental wellbeing in a crisis.

Other contacts:

Lifeline (Mental health and wellbeing):  
phone 13 11 14

Beyond Blue (Mental health and wellbeing): phone 1300 224 636

Headspace (Youth mental health and wellbeing): phone 1800 650 890



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