



News Flash

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Victorian New Lockdown Support Payments

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS

The Victorian Government has announced the following new cash grants for businesses impacted by the lockdown declared on 15 July 2021:-

<u>Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund</u>	\$3,000
<u>Business Costs Assistance Program</u>	\$2,000

The cash grants will be paid to businesses that successfully received a grant from the *Business Costs Assistance Program Round Two* or the *Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund 2021* (including regional businesses).

There is no need to lodge new applications to receive the above grants, they will be automatically paid.

The payment will be processed from mid-July.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

There are two payments accessible to individuals: the COVID-19 Disaster Payment, and the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment.

Affected Individuals can apply for the COVID-19 Disaster Payment through their MyGov account if they have created and linked a Centrelink account. Alternatively, they can apply for the Pandemic Leave Payment by phoning Services Australia on 180 22 66.

COVID-19 Disaster Payments

The COVID-19 Disaster Payment is a weekly payment available to eligible workers who can't attend work or who have lost income because of a lockdown and don't have access to certain paid leave entitlements. If a couple, both people can separately claim the payment.

Sole traders may apply for COVID-19 Disaster Payment if they are unable to operate their business from home. However, they will not be eligible if they are also receiving a state business grant.

Timing of the payment

The disaster payment is generally accessible if the hotspot triggering the lockdown lasts more than 7 days as declared by the Chief Medical Officer.

However, In Victoria anyone who meets the eligibility criteria will be able to access the payment from day 1 of the lockdown (15 July 2021) but the payment will not be accessible until 23 July 2021.

Amount of payment?

The COVID-19 disaster payment amount available depends on:

- How many hours of work you have lost in the week, and
- If the payment is on or after the third period of the lockdown.

<u>Hours of work lost</u>	<u>Disaster payment amount</u>
Between 8 and 20	\$375
20 or more	\$600

The payment applies to each week of lockdown you are eligible and is taxable (you will need to declare it in your income tax return).

Eligibility

The COVID-19 disaster payment is emergency relief. It is available if you:

- Live or work in an area that is subject to a state or territory public health order that imposes restriction on movement and is declared a Commonwealth COVID-19 hotspot, or
- Have visited an area that is a Commonwealth COVID-19 hotspot and you are subsequently subject to a restricted movement order when you return to other parts of New South Wales or interstate.

And you:

- Are an Australian citizen, permanent resident or temporary visa holder who has the right to work in Australia, and
- Are aged 17 years or over, and
- Have lost 8 hours or more of work or a full day of your usual work as a result of the restrictions - losing work includes being stood down by your employer, not being assigned any shifts for the week of restrictions and being unable to work from home. Losing a full day of what you were scheduled to work but could not work 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, and
- Don't have paid leave available through your employer (other than annual leave), and
- Are not receiving income support payments, a state or territory pandemic payment, Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment or state small business payment for the same period.

Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment

The Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment is for those who have been advised by their relevant health authority to self-isolate or quarantine because they:

- Test positive to COVID-19;
- Have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case;
- Care for a child, 16 years or under, who has COVID-19; or
- Care for a child, 16 years or under, who has been identified as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case; or
- Care for a person who has tested positive to COVID-19.

Amount of payment?

The payment is \$1,500 for each 14 day period you are advised to self-isolate or quarantine. If you are a couple, you both can claim this payment if you meet the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility

The Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment is available if you:

- Are an Australian citizen, permanent resident or temporary visa holder who has the right to work in Australia; and
- Are aged 17 years or over; and
- Are unable to go to work and earn an income; and
- Do not have appropriate leave entitlements, including pandemic sick leave, personal leave or carers leave; and
- Are not getting any income support payment, ABSTUDY Living Allowance, Paid parental leave or Dad and Partner Pay.

The payment is taxable and you will need to declare it in your income tax return.

If you are uncertain of your eligibility, talk to [Services Australia](#).

For further information, please contact your Kaias Phillips Team member on 03 9489 5888 or Email: kp@kaiasphillips.com.au.

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