

COVID-19: Table of Local, State/Territory

and Federal Government Stimulus Measures

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OVERVIEW

As part of the economic stimulus response to COVID-19, the Federal, State/Territory and Local governments, and regulators, have announced a number of measures. To help you stay on top of these announcements, the KWM Tax Team has prepared the following summary table. This table is being progressively updated as further measures are introduced and detailed.¹

If you would like further detail regarding any of the particular measures, feel free to contact a member of the KWM Tax Team.

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¹ The table does not include the public sector and community-based organisations measures (such as increased spending on public maintenance, the public service or government supplier payments). Further, only select local governments are included.

FEDERAL MEASURES

Federal Government

Tax, Grants, Concessions and Sector Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
5 October	Removing CGT for Granny Flats	<p>The Government announced that capital gains tax (CGT) will no longer apply to the creation, variation or termination of a formal written granny flat arrangement providing accommodation for older Australians or people with disabilities. The measure will commence as early as 1 July 2021 subject to the passing of legislation.</p> <p>This change will only apply to agreements that are entered into because of family relationships or other personal ties and will not apply to commercial rental arrangements.</p>	Treasurer of Australia - media release
5 October	Investment in national transport infrastructure	<p>The Federal Government announced a \$7.5 billion new investment in national transport infrastructure as part of its COVID-19 economic recovery plan. There will be key investments across all States and Territories including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.7 billion in NSW; • \$1.3 billion in Queensland; • \$1.1 billion in Victoria; • \$1.1 billion in Western Australia; • \$625 million in South Australia; • \$360 million in Tasmania; • \$190 million in the Northern Territory; and • \$155 million in the Australian Capital Territory. 	Treasurer of Australia - media release Treasurer of Australia - media release Treasurer of Australia - media release Treasurer of Australia - media release Minister for Finance – media release Treasurer of Australia - media release Treasurer of Australia - media release Treasurer of Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
			Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release Treasurer of Australia - media release
3 October	Assistance for first home buyers	<p>The Government announced that an additional 10,000 places will be provided from 6 October 2020 under the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme to support the purchase of a new home or a newly built home.</p> <p>Building on the success of the existing First Home Loan Deposit Scheme, an additional 10,000 first home buyers will be able to obtain a loan to build a new home or purchase a newly built home with a deposit of as little as 5%.</p> <p>The additional guarantees will be available until 30 June 2021.</p>	Treasurer of Australia - media release
2 October	Small business tax concessions	<p>The Government will further support small businesses through COVID-19 by providing further tax relief to attract and retain workers and reduce red-tape.</p> <p>For the first time, businesses with an aggregated annual turnover between \$10 million and \$50 million will have access to up to 10 small business tax concessions. The changes are estimated to support an additional 20,000 businesses and their employees.</p> <p>The expanded concessions, as part of the 2020-21 Budget, will apply in 3 phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> from 1 July 2020, eligible businesses will be able to immediately deduct certain start-up expenses and certain prepaid expenditure; from 1 April 2021, eligible businesses will be exempt from the 47% fringe benefits tax on car parking and multiple work-related portable electronic devices, such as phones or laptops, provided to employees; and from 1 July 2021, eligible businesses will be able to access the simplified trading stock rules, remit PAYG instalments based on GDP adjusted notional tax, and settle excise duty and excise-equivalent customs duty monthly on eligible goods. Eligible businesses will also have a 2-year amendment period apply to income tax assessments for income years 	Treasurer of Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>starting from 1 July 2021.</p> <p>In addition, from 1 July 2021, the Commissioner of Taxation's power to create a simplified accounting method determination for GST purposes will be expanded to apply to businesses below the \$50 million aggregated annual turnover threshold.</p>	
2 October	Boost for skills training with FBT exemption	<p>The Government will provide an exemption from Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) for employer-provided retraining and reskilling, for employees who are redeployed to a different role in the business. The exemption will apply from the date of announcement.</p> <p>Currently, FBT is payable if an employer provides training to its employees that is not sufficiently connected to their current employment. For example, a business that retrain their sales assistant in web design to redeploy them to an online marketing role in the business can get hit with FBT. By removing FBT, employers will be encouraged to help workers transition to new employment opportunities within or outside their business.</p> <p>The exemption will not extend to retraining acquired by way of a salary packaging arrangement or training provided through Commonwealth supported places at universities, which already receive a benefit.</p> <p>In addition, the Government will consult on potential changes to the current arrangements for workers that undertake training at their own expense. The current rules, which limit deductions to training related to current employment, may act as a disincentive for Australians to retrain and reskill to support their future employment needs.</p>	Treasurer of Australia - media release
1 October	Transforming Australian manufacturing	<p>As part of the JobMaker Plan, the Government has announced that around \$1.5 billion in new funding will be invested over the next 4 years in the <i>Modern Manufacturing Strategy</i> to make Australian manufacturers more competitive, resilient and able to scale up.</p> <p>The centrepiece of the Strategy is the \$1.3 billion Modern Manufacturing Initiative (MMI), which will see the Government strategically invest in projects that help manufacturers to scale up and create jobs.</p> <p>The MMI will support projects within 6 National Manufacturing Priorities which reflect Australia's established competitive advantages or emerging areas of priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resources technology and critical minerals processing; • food and beverage; 	Prime Minister of Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medical products; • recycling and clean energy; • defence; and • space. <p>The Strategy will also address the competitiveness of individual manufacturers in priority sectors, with a \$52.8 million expansion of the Manufacturing Modernisation Fund.</p> <p>The COVID-19 crisis has also highlighted the need to better understand and address supply chain issues and opportunities. A \$107.2 million Supply Chain Resilience Initiative will support projects that address an identified supply chain vulnerability.</p> <p>The Government is also comprehensively reviewing existing industry programs to better align them with the Strategy. As part of this, it will provide an additional \$50 million to the Industry Growth Centres initiative to support projects in the priority areas out until the end of June 2022.</p>	
1 October	Environment Relief and Recovery Fund	<p>The Government will invest \$61.7 million in the environment, through the \$1 billion COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund.</p> <p>The funding includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$33.5 million for heritage upgrades to fund conservation work, infrastructure upgrades across 23 national and world heritage sites, preserving and enhancing them while creating jobs and lasting benefits for the tourism industry; • a \$20 million reef builder shellfish restoration program to be invested in at least 11 bushfire and COVID-19-affected coastal communities to rescue native marine ecosystems from the risk of local extinction, rejuvenating local fish stocks and creating tourism dive sites in the process; and • \$8.2 million to support Great Barrier Reef projects including \$3.2 million to engage tourism operators in reef monitoring and conservation work, along with \$5 million for Townsville's Reef HQ. <p>The investment is intended to create jobs, boost local tourism and preserve the environment as part of Australia's economic recovery plan.</p>	Minister for the Environment - media release
1 October	ADF partner	The Government announced that partners of ADF members who are out of work due to COVID-19 will be better supported through changes to the Defence Partner Employment Assistance Program	Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	employment	<p>(PEAP).</p> <p>Partners can now access up to \$1,500 for employment-related initiatives, previously only available when they relocated to a new posting location, meaning they can access the program at any time during the posting cycle.</p>	<p>Personnel - media release</p>
30 September	Reforms to the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility	<p>The Government will increase its investment program for northern Australia to make it easier for projects to receive funding and to generate economic development and jobs as the country emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>It has announced that the 2020-21 Budget will include reforms to the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF), which will provide more flexibility, increased risk appetite and widen the scope of projects eligible for funding.</p> <p>There are a number of key changes being made to the NAIF, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • faster lending; • expanding eligibility; • increased risk appetite; and • strengthening governance. <p>The Government will soon introduce legislation to Parliament to give effect to these reforms.</p>	<p>Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia - media release</p>
29 September	Digital Business Plan	<p>The Government has announced that it will be investing almost \$800 million to enable businesses to take advantage of digital technologies to grow and create jobs as part of Australia's economic recovery plan.</p> <p>The key elements of the Digital Business Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$256.6 million to develop a Digital Identity system to enable more secure and convenient engagement with government services and the private sector; • a further \$419.9 million to enable the full implementation of the Modernising Business Registers program, allowing businesses to quickly view, update and maintain their business registry data in one location; • a further \$28.5 million to support the rollout of the Consumer Data Right to the banking and energy sectors, which is in addition to the more than \$120 million already committed; 	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$29.2 million to accelerate the rollout of 5G, including an initiative to invest in 5G commercial trials and testbeds in key industry sectors such as agriculture, mining, logistics and manufacturing; • \$22.2 million to support small business operators take advantage of digital technologies through an expansion of the Australian Small Business Advisory Service – Digital Solutions program, a Digital Readiness Assessment tool and a Digital Directors training package; • \$11.4 million for a new regulatory technology commercialisation initiative to improve compliance and directly support our digital technology firms; • \$9.6 million to support fintechs to export financial services and attract inward investment; • \$6.9 million for 2 blockchain pilots directed at reducing business compliance costs; • \$5.9 million to boost Australia’s influence on international standards; • \$3.6 million towards mandating the adoption of electronic invoicing by 1 July 2022 for all Commonwealth government agencies and to consult on options for mandatory adoption of e-invoicing by businesses; • \$2.5 million to connect workers and small and medium sized businesses to digital skills training; • consulting on making permanent the temporary reforms to allow companies to hold virtual meetings and execute documents electronically; • reviewing the regulatory architecture applying to the payments system to ensure it remains fit for purpose and is capable of supporting continued innovation for the benefit both businesses and consumers; and • reforming the regulation around stored-value facilities to support innovation and competition in line with the recommendations of the Council of Financial Regulators. 	
27 September	Regional Tourism Recovery Package	<p>The Federal Government announced that it will be spending \$250 million on 2 measures designed to encourage more Australians to travel to regional areas.</p> <p>The measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a \$50 million Regional Tourism Recovery initiative to assist businesses in regions heavily reliant on international tourism by adapting their offerings, experiences and marketing to 	Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>appeal to domestic visitors in the short-term and be in the best position to welcome back international tourists in the future; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$200 million for an additional round of the Building Better Regions Fund (BRRF), which is to be spent on projects to boost infrastructure in regional communities. \$100 million of this will be dedicated to tourism-related infrastructure. Grant Opportunity Guidelines will be made available shortly, consistent with the existing BBRF framework, to assist potential applicants. 	
26 September	Investing in Australia's national cultural institutions	The National Gallery, the National Library and Australia's other national cultural institutions will receive an additional \$22.9 million in the Federal Budget to support their activities during a continuing decline in revenue due to COVID-19.	Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts - media release
25 September	Consumer credit reforms	<p>The Federal Government announced that it will be introducing reforms to reduce the cost and time it takes consumers and businesses to access credit. It will do so by simplifying the consumer credit system by moving away from a "one-size-fits-all" approach while at the same time strengthening consumer protections for those that need it.</p> <p>Key elements of the reforms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> removing responsible lending obligations from the <i>National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009</i>, with the exception of small amount credit contracts and consumer leases where heightened obligations will be introduced; ensuring that authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs) will continue to comply with APRA's lending standards requiring sound credit assessment and approval criteria; adopting key elements of APRA's ADI lending standards and applying them to non-ADIs; protecting consumers from the predatory practices of debt management firms by requiring them to hold an Australian Credit Licence when they are paid to represent consumers in disputes with financial institutions; allowing lenders to rely on the information provided by borrowers, replacing the current practice of 'lender beware' with a 'borrower responsibility' principle; and removing the ambiguity regarding the application of consumer lending laws to small business lending. <p>The Government will consult publicly with stakeholders before finalising any legislation required to</p>	Treasurer of Australia - media release Australian Government - fact sheet

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		implement the reforms.	
24 September	Insolvency reforms to support small businesses recovery	<p>The Federal Government announced that it will be reforming Australia’s insolvency framework to help more small businesses restructure and survive the economic impact of COVID-19. The reforms will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the introduction of a new debt restructuring process for incorporated businesses with liabilities of less than \$1 million, drawing on some key features of the Chapter 11 bankruptcy model in the United States; moving from a rigid one-size-fits-all “creditor in possession” model to a more flexible “debtor in possession” model which will allow eligible small businesses to restructure their existing debts while remaining in control of their business; a rapid 20 business day period for the development of a restructuring plan by a small business restructuring practitioner, followed by 15 business days for creditors to vote on the plan; a new, simplified liquidation pathway for small businesses to allow faster and lower cost liquidation; and complementary measures to ensure the insolvency sector can respond effectively both in the short and long term to increased demand and to meet the needs of small business. <p>The new processes will be available from 1 January 2021.</p>	<p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>Australian Government - fact sheet</p>
18 September	Rural and Regional National Cabinet Reform Committee	<p>National Cabinet commissioned the new Rural and Regional National Cabinet Reform Committee. As a first tranche, the Committee will focus on developing a shared understanding of the quantum, status and impact of existing investments by governments in rural and regional communities and, by the end of 2020 provide advice to National Cabinet on options to improve the delivery of existing investments to support Australia’s COVID-19 economic recovery through strong and sustainable rural and regional communities.</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>
17 September	Investment in new energy technologies	<p>As part of its JobMaker plan, the Government announced a \$1.9 billion investment package in future energy technologies with the aim of lowering emissions.</p> <p>The Government will be supporting the next generation of energy technologies with an extra \$1.62 billion for the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) to invest, as well as expanding the focus of ARENA and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) to back new technologies that</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>will cut emissions in agriculture, manufacturing, industry and transport.</p> <p>The new package also invests in a range of promising low-emissions, reliable new technology advancements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting businesses in the agriculture, manufacturing, industrial and transport sectors to adopt technologies that increase productivity and reduce emissions through a new \$95.4 million Technology Co-Investment Fund that was recommended by the King Review; • piloting carbon capture projects that will dramatically help cut emissions with a \$50 million investment in the Carbon Capture Use and Storage Development Fund; • helping businesses and regional communities take advantage of opportunities offered by hydrogen, electric, and bio-fuelled vehicles with a new \$74.5 million Future Fuels Fund; • setting up a hydrogen export hub worth \$70.2 million to scale-up demand and take advantage of the advancements in this low emissions, high powered source of energy; • backing new microgrids in regional and remote communities to deliver affordable, reliable power with \$67 million; • contributing \$52.2 million to increase the energy productivity of homes and businesses, including a sector specific grant program for hotels supporting equipment and facilities upgrades; • cutting the time taken to develop new Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) methods from 24 months or more to less than 12 months, involving industry in a co-design process and implementing other recommendations from the King Review into the ERF, worth \$24.6 million; and • boosting energy and emissions data and cyber-security reporting, and supporting the delivery of future Low Emissions Technology Statements under the Technology Investment Roadmap process, as well as developing an offshore clean energy project development framework, together worth \$40.2 million. <p>The Boards of ARENA and CEFC will continue to be accountable for individual investment decisions. The Government will introduce new legislation so both agencies can support new and emerging low emissions technologies (including zero and negative emissions technologies).</p>	
17 September	Draft model work health and	New guidance outlining best practice for managing the risks of COVID-19 in the workplace has been released by the Government.	Attorney-General for Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	safety code of practice	<p>The draft model work health and safety (WHS) code of practice provides an example for State and Territory governments, which can be adopted if required according to their individual level of risks.</p> <p>The draft code builds on the National Cabinet's COVID-19 safe workplace principles, which included establishing Safe Work Australia as a central source of practical guidance and tools on managing the WHS risks of COVID-19.</p>	Draft COVID-19 Model Code of Practice
15 September	National gas infrastructure plan	<p>As part of its JobMaker Plan, the Federal Government has announced that it will reset the East Coast Gas Market, and create a more competitive and transparent Australian Gas Hub by unlocking gas supply, delivering an efficient pipeline and transportation market, and empowering gas customers.</p> <p>The Government has announced various measures to get more gas into the market, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting new gas supply targets with States and Territories and enforce potential “use-it or lose-it” requirements on gas licenses; • unlocking 5 key gas basins starting with the Beetaloo Basin in the Northern Territory and the North Bowen and Galilee Basin in Queensland, at a cost of \$28.3 million for the plans; • avoiding any supply shortfall in the gas market with new agreements with the 3 east coast LNG exporters that will also strengthen price commitments; • supporting the CSIRO’s Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance with \$13.7 million; and • exploring options for a prospective gas reservation scheme to ensure Australian gas users get the energy they need at a reasonable price. <p>The gas transport network will also be boosted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying priority pipelines and critical infrastructure as part of an inaugural National Gas Infrastructure Plan (NGIP) worth \$10.9 million; • reforming the regulations on pipeline infrastructure to promote competition and transparency; and • improving pipeline access and competition by kick-starting work on a dynamic secondary pipeline capacity market. <p>To better empower gas consumers, the Government will:</p>	Prime Minister of Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish an Australian Gas Hub at Wallumbilla in Queensland to deliver an open, transparent and liquid gas trading system; level the negotiating playing field for gas producers and consumers through a voluntary industry-led code of conduct, to be delivered by February 2021; ensure Australians are paying the right price for their gas by working with the ACCC to review the calculation of the LNG netback price which provides a guide on the export parity prices; and use the NGIP to develop customer hubs or a book-build program that will give gas customers a more transparent and competitive process for meeting their needs. 	
11 September	Business Events Exhibitor Grants	<p>As part of the Federal Government's \$1 billion COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund, the Federal Government has launched the Business Events Exhibitor Grants program.</p> <p>Australian businesses exhibiting at an approved business meeting, convention, conference and incentives event in 2021 will be able to apply for upfront grants to cover up to 50% of their costs (grants range between \$10,000 to \$250,000).</p>	Prime Minister of Australia - media release
4 September	Roadmap for Recovery	<p>The Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory agreed in-principle to develop a new plan for Australia to reopen by Christmas, including the use of the hotspot concept for travel between jurisdictions.</p> <p>In addition, bilateral and multilateral arrangements between the Commonwealth, States and Territories will continue to be developed to better support border arrangements. National Cabinet noted that Western Australia has specific circumstances which mean that it will not subscribe to the reopening plan and timetable, but it will continue to participate in discussions on its development.</p> <p>The Commonwealth hotspots definition would also be used as a starting point for any future COVIDSafe travel arrangements encompassing New Zealand and those States and Territories applying the hotspots definition.</p>	Prime Minister of Australia - media release
4 September	Energy National Cabinet Reform Committee	<p>The National Cabinet agreed to the tasking for the Energy National Cabinet Reform Committee. The Committee will progress critical reform of the energy system as a key component of Australia's economic recovery. It will work to ensure an affordable and reliable energy system to support job creation and economic growth for the long-term benefit of customers.</p>	Prime Minister of Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
4 September	New taskforce for international businesses	<p>The Government has established a taskforce to lure international businesses into Australia.</p> <p>The Global Business and Talent Attraction Taskforce (GBTAT) will bring together experts from across the Commonwealth, States and Territories as well as the private sector, as part of the Government's JobMaker plan. The GBTAT aims to attract high value businesses and exceptionally talented individuals to Australia to create jobs for Australians.</p> <p>The initial focus will be on 3 key sectors: advanced manufacturing, financial services (including FinTech) and health.</p>	Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment - media release
2 September	Support for Australians overseas	<p>The Government will provide additional support to the most vulnerable Australian citizens whose return to Australia has been impacted by the restrictions arising from COVID-19.</p> <p>The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is making available a Hardship Program with further emergency assistance for the most vulnerable Australian citizens overseas. The loans are intended to cover temporary accommodation and daily living expenses until they can return. Loans may also be available to help vulnerable Australians purchase tickets for commercial flights.</p> <p>Applicants will have to meet strict eligibility criteria to access a loan, and only the most vulnerable Australian citizens still overseas will be provided financial assistance. All loans must be repaid upon return to Australia.</p>	Minister for Foreign Affairs - media release
1 September	Local Jobs Program	<p>The Government is investing \$62.8 million in a Local Jobs Program to support the nation's recovery. Under the program, more than 900,000 job seekers are set to benefit from local jobs taskforces with specialised expertise and knowledge to get them back into work.</p> <p>As part of the program, 14 Employment Facilitators will be engaged and expanded to help connect job seekers to local employment opportunities. The Employment Facilitators will act as on-the-ground presence that work with local job seekers in specific regions to connect them with training, job opportunities or other support.</p> <p>These Employment Facilitators will chair Local Jobs and Skills Taskforces across Australia. The taskforces will bring together local employers, employment and training providers and other local stakeholders, to develop projects to get job seekers back into work. Local Recovery Funds will be available in each selected region to support this approach.</p> <p>The Local Jobs Program will run until 30 June 2022.</p>	Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release
21 August	Agriculture	As updated on 4 and 18 September.	Prime Minister of Australia

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	Workers Code	<p>National Cabinet noted discussions had commenced on an Agriculture Workers Code and agreed that further work will be undertaken by Agriculture Ministers so that a paper could be considered by National Cabinet at its next meeting.</p> <p>The Agriculture Workers Code will provide for a nationally-consistent approach that would be enforced by relevant States and Territories through their Public Health Orders and emergency management measures. It would apply to individuals with occupations deemed critical to ensure the continuity of the agricultural sector.</p> <p>On 4 September, NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Northern Territory and the ACT agreed to adopt the National Agricultural Workers' Code. Victoria, South Australia and NSW will begin immediately to work together to put the code in place. Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania will consider the Code as part of their border restriction arrangements. Permits or an equivalent approval, with appropriate conditions, will be applied to reduce the risk of COVID-19 being transmitted to regional areas.</p> <p>The Code is on track to be implemented by Victoria, NSW, ACT and the Northern Territory by at least 25 September 2020.</p>	<p>- media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>
20 August	Virtual support for Australia's defence exports	<p>Efforts to boost Australia's defence exports are going online with plans for a series of webinars and one-on-one virtual discussions with small businesses across the country. The virtual sessions will be led by Australia's Defence Export Advocate, David Johnston, who has been tasked to help small businesses overcome export challenges arising from COVID-19.</p> <p>The Australian Defence Export Office will implement a range of online support activities to assist companies in maximising export opportunities.</p>	<p>Minister for Defence Industry - media release</p>
6 August	Rule change assisting energy retailers	<p>The Australian Energy Market Commission announced a rule change that will greatly assist energy retailers supporting consumers facing hardship due to the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>The new rule will allow some retailers to defer the payment of network charges to network providers for 6 months, starting immediately and lasting until 6 February 2021. Under the change, eligible retailers can defer their network costs for residential and small business customers who are on a payment plan or qualify for hardship or a deferred debt arrangement.</p> <p>The key features of the deferral mechanism include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • government-owned retailers or those registered as a Retailer of Last Resort are not eligible to access the deferral mechanism; • eligible retailers will be charged interest on any deferred network charges at a rate of 3% 	<p>Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>per annum;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> network providers will be able to defer the payment of a proportionate amount of Transmission Use of System charges to transmission network service providers; and retailers and Distributed Network Supply Providers are required to negotiate in good faith and agree on processes to give effect to the rule as soon as possible, or no later than 10 days after the commencement date. 	
3 August	Pandemic leave disaster payment	<p>As updated on 6, 26 and 28 August, and 16 September.</p> <p>The Government announced that it is establishing a pandemic leave disaster payment. For those who have no more sick leave available to them and have to self-isolate for 14 days, they will be eligible for a \$1,500 payment for the fortnight.</p> <p>The payment will be modelled on the same set of criteria that the Victorian government has put in place for those on short-term visas.</p> <p>Those eligible will need to ring the number 180-22-66 from 5 August to make applications over the phone.</p> <p>It is intended a person will qualify for the pandemic payment if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the person is at least 17 years old and resides in Victoria; the person has exhausted all sick leave entitlements, including any special pandemic sick leave or will exhaust those entitlements during the 14 day period; and the person has been instructed by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to self-isolate or quarantine as a result of COVID-19, a close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19, or caring for a person who is required to self-isolate or quarantine. <p>People already in receipt of other Commonwealth income support payments, including JobKeeper and JobSeeker payments, will be ineligible for the pandemic payments. The program will initially run from 5 August 2020 to 4 February 2021.</p> <p>On 26 August, the Government extended the arrangements to include Tasmania, applying from 22 August.</p> <p>On 28 August, the Government extended the arrangements to include people who do not live in Victoria, but who work in Victoria. In addition to this, Victorians who were directed to self-isolate on</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - press conference</p> <p>Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Amendment (Home Affairs Measures No. 4) Regulations 2020</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>or after 5 July can now also submit a claim for this payment.</p> <p>On 16 September, the Government extended the arrangements to include Western Australia.</p>	
28 July	Enhancing food supply chain resilience	<p>A \$10 million program, the Food Agility Cooperative Research Centre's Mission Food For Life, has been launched to further secure Australia's food supply chains and build the agrifood industry's resilience to shocks. The 3 year program will bring agrifood businesses, tech companies and the research sector together to develop new data-driven technologies which will help secure food supply chains.</p> <p>Increasing the agrifood sector's adoption of data and digital technology is key to resilient food supply chains that can bounce back, adapt and harness opportunities. Further strengthening supply chains also helps create opportunities for farmers and manufacturers to build on Australia's reputation as a food powerhouse around the globe.</p> <p>The Mission Food For Life initiative will first identify vulnerable areas across the supply chain in 6 key commodities – red meat, grains, horticulture, dairy, wine and seafood. A series of research and development projects will then deliver new digital tools to improve business and community resilience in these areas. Longer term, the project aims to integrate digital and data technologies like information systems, software platforms and sensing technologies across the supply chains to improve quality management and capitalise on new market opportunities.</p>	<p>Minister for Industry, Science and Technology - media release</p>
24 July	Domestic Border Control Freight Movement Protocol	<p>As updated on 7 August.</p> <p>National Cabinet has endorsed a new Domestic Border Control Freight Movement Protocol to keep freight moving across Australia. National Cabinet agreed to upgrade the protocol to an Enforceable Code by State and Territory jurisdictions.</p> <p>The protocol, endorsed by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee with the involvement of members of the Transport and Infrastructure Council, outlines measures that all States and Territories agree will allow freight to move safely and efficiently across borders. The protocol complements existing Work Health and Safety and fatigue management requirements, public health advice and COVID-Safe work plan requirements.</p> <p>National Cabinet also agreed further work be carried out by jurisdictions on the implementation and enforcement of an industry code which, in-conjunction with the protocol, will minimise risks and exposure to workers and the community from COVID-19.</p> <p>Aligning state and territory measures through this protocol will ensure smoother inter-state journeys for freight operators and reduce delays in the supply chain.</p>	<p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 7 August, National Cabinet agreed to the formalisation of the Freight Movement Code following the previous agreement of the Freight Movement Protocol. The Code will enable the consistent enforcement of a range of health measures that support the safe and efficient movement of freight across Australia. It will be implemented and enforced by jurisdictions shortly.</p>	
23 July	Youth employment pathways	<p>The Government has committed to helping young Australians gain employment with \$10 million dedicated to assist in connecting those looking for work to jobs.</p> <p>The new PaTH Business Placement Partnerships program aims to connect young job seekers to employers with significant workforce needs in growing industries.</p> <p>This program will trial government and industry co-designing employment pathways for young workers using elements of the Youth Jobs PaTH Program and other existing programs and training services. PaTH Business Placement Partnerships will test the effectiveness of youth employment pathways designed by industry and facilitate access to jobs for young people in those industries.</p> <p>A range of industry partners will be approached through a limited tender to establish a panel to respond to emerging opportunities. The limited tender will be conducted in August 2020.</p>	<p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p>
17 July	Screen industry support	<p>As updated on 26 September.</p> <p>The Government announced a \$400 million Location Incentive program to attract film and television productions to Australia.</p> <p>The funding will help Australia capitalise on a growing demand to produce films and television series in Australia, attracting an estimated \$3 billion in foreign expenditure and creating 8,000 new employment opportunities for Australians each year.</p> <p>This program is designed to attract back-to-back productions and establish an ongoing pipeline of work for Australia's screen sector, which will strengthen the local industry and provide certainty for businesses to invest in skills and development.</p> <p>The Location Incentive is designed to complement the Government's existing Location Offset, providing an effective increase in the tax offset rate from 16.5% to 30% for eligible large budget international productions that film in Australia and are successful through the application process.</p> <p>The first productions supported under the Location Incentive were announced on 26 September.</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts - media release</p>
16 July	JobTrainer program	<p>As updated on 31 July, 7 August, and 8, 16, 23 and 25 September.</p> <p>The Government has announced that it will invest \$2 billion to give Australians access to new skills</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>by retraining and upskilling them into sectors with job opportunities, as the economy recovers from COVID-19.</p> <p>This JobTrainer skills package will also guarantee support for thousands of apprentices in jobs across the country by subsidising their wages to keep them employed and their training secured.</p> <p>The new \$1 billion JobTrainer program 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 a pathway to more qualifications. Courses will be free or low cost in areas of identified need, with the Federal Government providing \$500 million with matched contributions from State and Territory governments.</p> <p>The package also includes an additional \$1.5 billion to expand the wage incentive to help keep apprentices in work. In addition to small businesses already covered by the wage subsidy announced in March, this additional wage subsidy will now be available to medium businesses with less than 200 employees for apprentices employed as at 1 July 2020. Around 180,000 apprentices and 90,000 small and medium businesses that employ them will now be supported, with the program extended to March 2021. The initiative covers 50% of the wages paid to apprentices and trainees, up to \$7,000 per quarter.</p> <p>States and Territories will be required to sign up to a new Heads of Agreement to access JobTrainer funding, with the agreement setting out immediate reforms to improve the vocational education and training sector, and providing the foundation for long term improvements.</p> <p>On 31 July, the Commonwealth, State and Territory Skills Ministers met to advance priorities to support Australia's critical skills and training needs in response to COVID-19 and continue progressing reforms that will deliver a strong vocational education and training (VET) system for students, employers and industry.</p> <p>Through signing of Heads of Agreement for Skills Reform, 7 jurisdictions have committed to immediate reforms to improve VET quality and relevance along with a set of high-level reform priorities which will be worked through in detail as part of the negotiation of a new national skills funding agreement. The Heads of Agreement, in combination with the JobTrainer fund, will form a vital part of the economic recovery from COVID-19.</p> <p>On 7 August, National Cabinet noted the progress made on skills reform, with 7 States and Territories having signed the Heads of Agreement, and the commencement of bilateral negotiations between the Commonwealth and States and Territories on the \$1 billion JobTrainer Fund. The Skills National Cabinet Reform Committee was also established by National Cabinet to support the ongoing reforms to vocational education and training outlined in the Heads of Agreement.</p>	<p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p> <p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p> <p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p> <p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p>

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		<p>On 8 September, the Federal Government and the ACT Government announced that they have launched the ACT JobTrainer Agreement. School leavers and job seekers in the ACT can now receive a training funding boost as part of the Federal Government's \$1 billion JobTrainer Fund. Both the Federal Government and the ACT Government will each contribute \$8.38 million to the initiative.</p> <p>On 16 September, the Federal Government and the NSW Government announced that they have launched the NSW JobTrainer Agreement. The JobTrainer Fund will fund approximately 108,000 free or low-fee training places in NSW, with a combination of short and long courses for job seekers and young people, including school leavers. Both the Federal Government and NSW Government will contribute \$159.28 million to the initiative.</p> <p>On 23 September, the Federal Government and the Tasmanian Government announced that they have launched the Tasmanian JobTrainer Fund, allowing Tasmanian school leavers and job seekers to benefit from increased access to low-fee or free training. Both the Federal Government and Tasmanian Government will contribute \$10.52 million to the initiative.</p> <p>On 25 September, the Federal Government and the Queensland Government announced that they have launched the Queensland JobTrainer Fund, allowing Queensland school leavers and job seekers to benefit from increased access to low-fee or free skills training. Both the Federal Government and Queensland Government will contribute \$100.5 million to the initiative.</p>	
5 July	Assistance for lowering power bills	<p>The Government announced that, from 6 July, small businesses across Australia can apply for a share in \$9 million of grants under the Government's Energy Efficient Communities Program.</p> <p>Up to \$20,000 will be available to small businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$10 million to upgrade equipment to reduce energy consumption, invest in monitoring systems to better manage energy use and conduct energy audits to investigate other opportunities for efficiency.</p>	Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction - media release
1 July	Stimulus package for Norfolk Island and the Indian Ocean Communities	<p>As updated on 4 August.</p> <p>The Government announced it will provide \$13.5 million of additional economic stimulus to support the remote communities and businesses of Norfolk Island and Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, as part of the COVID-19 response.</p> <p>The \$13.5 million will deliver community infrastructure projects, and also includes more than \$400,000 for each territory for tourism promotion.</p> <p>On 4 August, the Government announced the local projects that will be delivered on Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands through this funding.</p>	Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories - media release Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories - media release Assistant Minister for

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		<p>\$5.15 million in funding for Christmas Island will see improvements to community facilities, the bringing forward of strategic power infrastructure upgrades, airport improvements, upgrades to public housing, and enhancements to Flying Fish Cove.</p> <p>More than \$3 million funding for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands will see the construction of new public housing, critical power infrastructure upgrades, community facilities improvements and biosecurity investment.</p>	Regional Development and Territories - media release												
30 June	Revised start dates for various superannuation and taxation measures	<p>The Government announced revised start dates for a number of technical superannuation and taxation measures to provide clarity and certainty for taxpayers and superannuation fund managers. These revisions are a result of the reprioritisation of Government resources and the shortened parliamentary sitting period in 2020 due to COVID-19.</p> <p>The revisions are detailed in the table below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Measure</th> <th>Revised start date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Superannuation – increasing the maximum number of allowable members in self-managed superannuation funds and small APRA funds from 4 to 6</td> <td>Start date revised from 1 July 2019 to Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tax Integrity – removing the capital gains discount at the trust level for Managed Investment Trusts and Attribution MITs</td> <td>Start date revised from 1 July 2020 to the income years commencing on or after 3 months after the date of Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Petroleum Resource Rent Tax – changing the PRRT settings to get a fair return (compliance and administration changes)</td> <td>Start date revised from 1 July 2019 to the income year commencing on or after 3 months after the date of Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ten Year Enterprise Tax Plan – targeted amendments to Division 7A</td> <td>Start date revised from 1 July 2020 to income years commencing on or after the date of Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Superannuation – reducing red tape for superannuation funds (exempt current pension income changes)</td> <td>Start date revised from 1 July 2020 to 1 July 2021</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Measure	Revised start date	Superannuation – increasing the maximum number of allowable members in self-managed superannuation funds and small APRA funds from 4 to 6	Start date revised from 1 July 2019 to Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.	Tax Integrity – removing the capital gains discount at the trust level for Managed Investment Trusts and Attribution MITs	Start date revised from 1 July 2020 to the income years commencing on or after 3 months after the date of Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.	Petroleum Resource Rent Tax – changing the PRRT settings to get a fair return (compliance and administration changes)	Start date revised from 1 July 2019 to the income year commencing on or after 3 months after the date of Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.	Ten Year Enterprise Tax Plan – targeted amendments to Division 7A	Start date revised from 1 July 2020 to income years commencing on or after the date of Royal Assent of the enabling legislation.	Superannuation – reducing red tape for superannuation funds (exempt current pension income changes)	Start date revised from 1 July 2020 to 1 July 2021	Assistant Treasurer - media release
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		<p>The Government is committed to legislating to implement each of these measures and will continue to progress them for delivery as soon as possible.</p>	
30 June	Oil recycling industry support	<p>The Government announced it will provide \$7.8 million in temporary funding to support oil recycling facilities affected by COVID-19.</p> <p>Australia's oil recyclers collect and recycle used oil from over 48,000 waste oil producers across the country, such as mechanics, car dealerships, factories, passenger transport, freight, service stations and heavy industry. Approximately 300 million litres of waste oil is collected and re-processed annually under strict licensing conditions and environmental approvals.</p> <p>This funding will support an industry severely affected by COVID-19, with 50% of Australia's waste oil refineries having shut-down and industry estimates showing at least 25% of waste oil is at risk of not being collected. The additional funding will apply until 31 December 2020.</p> <p>A scheduled review of the oil recycling scheme will also be brought forward to ensure it remains viable and sustainable into the future.</p>	<p>Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Regional Development - media release</p>
29 June	Regional news funding	<p>The Government has announced that 107 regional publishers and broadcasters will receive a share of \$50 million in funding committed to support regional news services in 2020-21.</p> <p>This specific and time-limited support measure is designed to assist the continued provision of quality news and information to communities across regional and remote Australia.</p> <p>Through this program the Government is providing \$20 million for television, \$18 million for publishing and \$12 million for radio, with funds to flow from July.</p> <p>The Government will work with successful applicants to develop and enter into grant arrangements as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts - media release</p>
28 June	eSafety funding	<p>The Government has announced an additional \$10 million in funding for Australia's eSafety Commissioner.</p> <p>New research from the eSafety Commissioner has found that Australians have embraced a rapid digitisation of workplaces, schools and households during COVID-19, however more people have reported negative experiences online and are turning to the eSafety Commissioner for guidance more often. Website page views across eSafety.gov.au have more than doubled, and image-based abuse reports have risen by 200%.</p> <p>The funding will help the eSafety Commissioner continue the important work it does educating</p>	<p>Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts - media release</p>

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		<p>people and equipping them with practical tips on how to stay safe online. It will also boost the eSafety Commissioner's investigations and support teams across the image-based abuse and cyberbullying functions, so that there is help available to Australians when things go wrong online.</p>	
26 June	Empowering small businesses to go digital	<p>The Government has announced further support for small businesses as they navigate the economic impacts of COVID-19, with a new online tool to help them go digital and bounce back stronger.</p> <p>Digital Coaching International will receive \$1.9 million to establish 'The Enterprising Community', a non-government organisation that will create a website to drive digital capability among small businesses.</p> <p>'The Enterprising Community' will partner with the technology sector, industry associations and Small Business Commissioners to deliver up-to-date and consistent digital advice, information and online support forums.</p>	<p>Minister for Industry, Science and Technology - media release</p>
26 June	Extension to Regional Employment Trial program	<p>The Government's Regional Employment Trial program has been extended for 12 months to allow existing projects affected by COVID-19 to be completed.</p> <p>The impact on the program has been significant, including the suspension of a large number of regional employment trial projects to ensure the health and safety of all participants.</p> <p>The extension will allow the program to run until 30 June 2021.</p> <p>As at 19 June 2020, 106 regional employment trial projects have been approved for delivery totalling around \$9.8 million in funding.</p>	<p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p>
25 June	Agricultural shows support	<p>As updated on 28 August and 18 September.</p> <p>The Government is spending \$36 million to support agricultural show societies recover from the effects of COVID-19, ensuring they can continue after the pandemic.</p> <p>The Supporting Agricultural Shows and Field Days program will provide a one-off reimbursement to agricultural show societies to deal with cash flow pressures caused by COVID-19 related cancellation of agricultural shows.</p> <p>The \$36 million program comprises of 3 components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 million in operational support for local show societies. Shows will be able to claim up to \$10,000 if their attendance last year was less than 2,000, up to \$15,000 if their attendance was between 2,000 and 4,999, and up to \$70,000 if their attendance was over 	<p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management - media</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>5,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$26 million in operational support for Royal Agricultural Show societies which can additionally claim for unrecoverable costs associated with preparing for the show. \$100,000 in operational support for Agricultural Shows Australia's Rural ambassador program. <p>All agricultural shows that have cancelled their show in 2020 because of COVID-19 will be eligible and they will not have to compete for assistance.</p> <p>Eligible reimbursement costs are expected to include bank fees, utilities, rates, insurance, fire alarms and equipment, cleaning supplies, telecommunications, IT system licencing costs, website costs, state/national show body affiliation fees and rent.</p> <p>On 28 August, the Government announced a further \$2.7 million boost for agricultural field days to ensure they can continue to showcase innovation and support regional communities after the pandemic. Furthermore, an additional \$100,000 one-off grant will be provided to the Association of Agricultural Field Days Australasia to support its annual conference scheduled for 30 April 2021 to 2 May 2021, and provide training and assistance for members on recovery management planning.</p> <p>Agricultural show societies and field day organisers will have until 9 October 2020 to apply for a one-off payment under the first funding round.</p>	<p>release</p>
25 June	Arts industry support package	<p>As updated on 26 June, and 11, 19 and 22 August.</p> <p>The Government has announced a new \$250 million targeted package to help restart the creative economy and assist the entertainment, arts and screen sectors to rebuild from the impacts of COVID-19. A range of new grant and loan programs will roll out over the next 12 months to different parts of the arts sector.</p> <p>The support package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seed Investment to Reactivate Productions and Tours – \$75 million in competitive grant funding in 2020-21 through the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund. This program will provide capital to help production and event businesses to put on new festivals, concerts, tours and events as social distancing restrictions ease, including through innovative operating and digital delivery models. Grants of varying sizes will be available, from \$75,000 through to \$2 million. On 11 August, the guidelines for the RISE Fund were released. Applications will open from 31 August 2020 and can be made through until 31 May 2021. 	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>ABA - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Communications - media release</p> <p>Minister for Communications - media release</p> <p>Minister for Communications - media release</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show Starter Loans – \$90 million in concessional loans to assist creative economy businesses to fund new productions and events that stimulate job creation and economic activity. The loans program will complement the RISE Fund and will be delivered through commercial banks, backed by a 100% Commonwealth guarantee. Businesses who are looking to take advantage of these loans should get in touch with their bank and flag their interest in accessing the program. • Kick-starting Local Screen Production – \$50 million for a Temporary Interruption Fund, to be administered by Screen Australia, that will support local film and television producers to secure finance and start filming again. Applications opened on 19 August and will close on 28 May 2021. More information is available here. • Supporting Sustainability of Sector-Significant Organisations – \$35 million to provide direct financial assistance to support significant Commonwealth-funded arts and culture organisations facing threats to their viability due to COVID-19, which may include organisations in fields including theatre, dance, circus, music and other fields. The Government will partner with the Australia Council to deliver this funding. On 11 August, the guidelines for the Arts Sustainability Fund were released. Applications will open from 31 August 2020 and can be made through until 31 May 2021. • Creative Economy Taskforce – establishment of a ministerial taskforce to partner with the Government and the Australia Council to implement the JobMaker plan for the creative economy. The Taskforce was established on 22 August. <p>The Government is also working with the Australia Council to develop COVID-19 safe working guidelines for the arts and entertainment sector to protect the public and workers. The Prime Minister will also seek approval from National Cabinet to give the entertainment industry greater certainty about the timetable for them to be able to re-activate their business, so they can better plan their path forward.</p> <p>On 26 June, National Cabinet asked the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee to develop a roadmap for re-opening arts and entertainment venues, in particular to enable planning for productions to commence.</p> <p>On 11 August, applications for the first round of the \$20 million Live Music Australia program opened, designed to bring more home-grown music to Australians stages. The first year of the new live music program has been adapted to assist in recovery from COVID-19. The program will help the live music scene to adapt in the changing environment by supporting venues to host gigs, performances and tours of local talent as restrictions ease. There will be a particular focus on small to medium-sized venues, which provide professional staging for quality original Australian live</p>	<p>release</p> <p>Minister for Communications - media release</p>

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		<p>music both to support emerging talent and provide established musicians a setting to reconnect with their fans. Applications can be submitted here and close on 13 September 2020.</p>	
23 June	Resources sector support	<p>As updated on 7 July and 11 August.</p> <p>Funding for Australia's resources sector has been bolstered, with the Government investing a further \$125 million in a world-leading exploration-stimulation program that will expand its reach to cover the whole of Australia.</p> <p>The Government's investment adds to the Geoscience Australia's Exploring for the Future (EFTF) program to drive investment, generate jobs and secure the future of the resources sector.</p> <p>The EFTF program uses a series of cutting-edge geoscientific techniques to map geological structures at unprecedented scale and detail. This freely available information creates a better understanding of Australia's mineral, energy and groundwater systems.</p> <p>On 7 July, the Government announced that it has launched an online data portal that provides free access to around 250 datasets collected as part of the EFTF program. The portal also includes assessment and analytical tools to assist mining exploration companies in making new investment decisions.</p> <p>On 11 August, the Government announced that 2 new corridors stretching the length of the nation will be the focus of the \$125 million expansion of the EFTF program. The 2 corridors have been identified by scientific experts at Geoscience Australia as having high potential for new energy, minerals and groundwater resource discoveries. The east corridor will start at the edge of the Gulf of Carpentaria and run through Mount Isa in Queensland and down the borders of New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. On the other side of the country, the west corridor will start just south of Darwin and straddles the borders of the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia finishing at the edge of the Great Australian Bight.</p>	<p>Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia - media release</p>
23 June	Relief for primary producers	<p>The Government has announced 4 new initiatives, comprising of \$86 million worth of new targeted grants, to support the forestry industry, wine producers and apple growers hit by the bushfires and the effects of COVID-19.</p> <p>The initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a \$40 million Forestry Recovery Development Fund for competitive grants that support processors to navigate future wood supply shortages through innovation and product diversification; • \$10 million for the establishment of storage facilities for processed timber products, fire- 	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>affected logs and other forestry products;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a \$5 million fund for grants up to \$10,000, matched by a co-contribution, for wine grape producers in wine regions that aren't currently activated for the \$75,000 primary producer grants; and a \$31 million fund for grants of \$120,000 per hectare for impacted apple growers. 	
22 June	Domestic Passenger Journey Protocol	<p>The Government has worked with the aviation industry to develop the Domestic Passenger Journey Protocol, which will provide clear and consistent advice to Australians travelling domestically.</p> <p>The Protocol is informed by health advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, as well as guidance from international aviation authorities such as the International Air Transport Association.</p> <p>The Protocol identifies how the risk of COVID-19 transmission can be mitigated, for example by forward facing seats, adjusting the height of the seats, and the operation of the ventilation and air filtration systems.</p> <p>Implementation of the Protocol will be reviewed regularly and may be modified if circumstances change.</p>	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release
20 June	Funding for fishers	<p>The Government announced \$4 million in funding for Australia's first national marketing campaign to promote Australian seafood. The campaign is aimed at supporting the seafood industry and regional communities in recovering from the impacts of COVID-19.</p>	Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries - media release
17 June	Space sector grants	<p>The Government is funding a series of projects designed to grow Australia's space sector and create local jobs, including improving GPS technology and the design of innovative spacesuits that will make spacewalking easier.</p> <p>In total, 10 projects will share in \$11 million, boosting jobs and skills in the space sector, and contributing to the nation's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	Minister for Industry, Science and Technology - media release
15 June	Deregulation priorities	<p>Deregulation Taskforce</p> <p>The Prime Minister announced that the Federal Deregulation Taskforce will be tasked with focussing on areas to assist in the COVID-19 economic recovery. As part of this process, the Taskforce will be brought into the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet as part of the Government's JobMaker agenda.</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - conference address</p> <p>Minister for the Environment - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>An example of an area of focus for the Taskforce includes the fact that occupational licensing and registration requirements often vary across states and territories, which increases costs on business and workers who operate or move across Australia. Greater mutual recognition of qualifications and improved information flows between jurisdictions will be vital to allow Australians to take up job opportunities in coming months.</p> <p>As a first step, the Government announced measures to reduce project approval times under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth), in streamlining the approval processes with the States to ensure robust processes are in place to meet the infrastructure pipeline post COVID-19. The approval times will be reduced by a further 25% by the end of this year (to 30 days for major projects).</p> <p>Furthermore, COVID-19 has demonstrated that Australia's laws have not kept pace with digital technology when it comes to business communications – for example, by requiring business to use paper for storing information, instead of using electronic delivery or adopting new technologies like blockchain.</p> <p>The Prime Minister has also asked the Taskforce to report back on 'lessons learned' in recent months, highlighting cases where governments and regulators have responded to the COVID-19 crisis and its economic fall-out with urgency and common-sense.</p> <p>Productivity Commission</p> <p>The Productivity Commission will also be tasked with informing and developing a country-wide deregulation agenda. It will request feedback from various experts, as well as the Chief Medical Officer. The chair of the Productivity Commission will brief the next National Cabinet meeting on priority areas so that National Cabinet can work on investment and job creation.</p>	
13 June	Funding for athletes	<p>The Government is funding high performing athletes by investing \$50.6 million over the next 2 years to ensure Australia remains a world-leading sporting nation following COVID-19. The measure ensures core funding for athletes and coaches, to support athlete wellbeing and pathways for young aspiring Olympians and Paralympians.</p> <p>Furthermore, more than more than \$3.9 million (as part of the previously announced \$70 million Supporting Sport and Physical Activity commitment) will be brought forward to invest in 5 projects to improve infrastructure at high performance facilities across Australia.</p>	Minister for Youth and Sport - media release
11 June	Social security payments amendments –	The <i>Social Security (Coronavirus Economic Response - 2020 Measures No 10) Determination 2020</i> , implements several COVID-19 measures to prevent detriment to recipients of certain of	Social Security (Coronavirus Economic Response - 2020

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	<p>carer payment / allowance, wife pension, mobility allowance and pension portability</p>	<p>social security payments.</p> <p>Carer payment and carer allowance</p> <p>The Determination temporarily modifies the qualification rules for carer allowance and carer payment in the <i>Social Security Act 1991</i> (Cth) (SSA) to provide recipients of these payments 6 months in which to obtain an assessment, rating and score under the Adult Disability Assessment Tool (ADAT) for a care receiver (for carer payment) or disabled child (for carer allowance) who has turned 16 years of age.</p> <p>This modification will only apply if the current 3 month period for obtaining an assessment, rating and ADAT score ends on or after 12 June 2020 and on or before 24 September 2020.</p> <p>Former recipients of wife pension</p> <p>The Determination modifies the method statement in subsection 654(3) of the SSA to make clear that the COVID-19 supplement applies to a former recipient of wife pension whether their rate of JobSeeker payment is the rate at step 1 or step 2 of the method statement.</p> <p>Mobility allowance</p> <p>The Determination modifies the SSA to extend the continuation period allowed for mobility allowance recipients who are unable to satisfy the qualification requirements for mobility allowance due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The extension will apply to people who qualify for either mobility allowance rate under subsections 1044(1) or 1044(1A) of the SSA.</p> <p>Pension portability</p> <p>The Determination modifies the pension portability rules in the SSA to address the impact of travel restrictions or other COVID-19 related circumstances on people who are recipients of Age Pension or disability pension (for severely disabled persons) and who are unable to return to, or depart from, Australia within 26 weeks.</p> <p>The Determination will allow the Secretary to determine an alternative period to 26 weeks for certain pensioners absent from Australia, and pensioners in Australia with portability arrangements. The Secretary's power to determine an alternative period is limited to ensure that any period determined does not end after 24 September 2020. The ability to make a determination applies in respect of a person whose 26 week period ends on or after 11 March 2020.</p>	<p>Measures No 10) Determination 2020</p>
10 June	Indexation of tax instalments	<p>As updated on 12, 18 and 29 June.</p> <p>The Government announced that it will introduce legislation to suspend the indexation of tax</p>	<p>Assistant Treasurer - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>instalment amounts for the 2020-21 financial year in response to COVID-19. This change will affect instalments for an estimated 2.2 million taxpayers paying PAYG income tax instalments, and around 81,000 taxpayers paying GST instalments, in 2020-21.</p> <p>In addition to suspending indexation, taxpayers can still vary their instalment amounts if they believe they will pay too much tax for the year.</p> <p>On 12 June, the Government introduced the Treasury Laws Amendment (2020 Measures No. 3) Bill 2020 which will reduce the GDP adjustment factor to 0% for 2020-21 (down from 5% for 2019-20). The Bill passed Parliament on 18 June. This measure will apply for the purposes of working out the amount of PAYG instalments for instalment quarters that commence on or after 1 July 2020 (if the Bill receives Royal Assent before 21 August 2020), otherwise on or after 1 October 2020. The Commissioner will apply the reduced GDP adjustment factor to work out the amount of GST instalments payable by small business entities in the 2020-21 income year.</p>	<p>ATO - media release</p>
4 June	HomeBuilder program	<p>As updated on 3 and 14 July, and 4 and 6 August.</p> <p>From 4 June until 31 December 2020, the HomeBuilder program will provide all eligible owner-occupiers (not just first home buyers) with a grant of \$25,000 to build a new home or substantially renovate an existing home. The program is expected to provide around 27,000 grants at a total cost of around \$680 million, however the program will be uncapped. The program will be implemented via a National Partnership Agreement. All States and Territories are now signatories to the Agreement.</p> <p>Eligibility requirements</p> <p>To access HomeBuilder, owner-occupiers must meet the following eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a natural person (not a company or trust); • aged 18 years or older; • an Australian citizen at the time of application; • meet one of the following two income caps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$125,000 per annum for an individual applicant based on their 2018-19 or 2019-20 taxable income; or ○ \$200,000 per annum for a couple based on their combined 2018-19 or 2019-20 taxable income; 	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Treasury - HomeBuilder program</p> <p>Assistant Treasurer - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enter into a building contract between 4 June 2020 and 31 December 2020 to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ build a new home as a principal place of residence, where the property value (house and land) does not exceed \$750,000; ○ substantially renovate an existing home as a principal place of residence, where the renovation contract is between \$150,000 and \$750,000, and where the value of the existing property (house and land) does not exceed \$1.5 million; or ○ purchase an off-the-plan / new home as a principal place of residence where the contract price does not exceed \$750,000 and construction had not commenced prior to 4 June 2020; and • construction must commence within 3 months of the contract date (on 6 August, it was announced that for Victorian HomeBuilder participants, the construction commencement timeframe will be extended to 6 months given the unique COVID-19 restrictions throughout the State). <p>Owner-builders and those seeking to build a new home which will be used as an investment property, or renovate an existing home which is an investment property, will not be eligible for HomeBuilder.</p> <p>Renovations must improve the accessibility, liveability and safety of the property. This excludes building a tennis court, pool or shed for the renovation contract for eligibility purposes.</p> <p>Renovations must be completed by a licenced or registered builder (depending on the State or Territory). In addition, any building or renovation contract entered into must be at arm's length. The terms of the contract should be commercially reasonable and the contract price should not be inflated compared to the fair market price. The registered or licensed builder must demonstrate that the contract price for the new build or substantial renovation is no more than a comparable product (measured by quality, location and size) as at 1 July 2019, if requested by the purchaser.</p> <p>Other eligibility scenarios</p> <p>There are other scenarios in which a person may be eligible to receive a grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if a person owns a property (house and land) and knocks the house down to rebuild – this will be counted as a substantial renovation, and therefore subject to the renovation price range of \$150,000 to \$750,000 provided the total value (house and land) of the property does not exceed \$1.5 million pre-renovation; • if a person owns vacant land before 4 June 2020, and then builds – the total value of the 	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>land and new build cannot exceed \$750,000; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if a person buys land after the HomeBuilder announcement and then builds – the total value of the land and build cannot exceed \$750,000. <p>Eligible dwelling types</p> <p>Houses (including house and land packages) and apartments (including off-the-plan) may be eligible, provided the applicant meets the eligibility criteria, including that the owner-occupier must contract to build a new dwelling or substantially renovate their existing dwelling.</p> <p>Taxation</p> <p>A HomeBuilder grant will not be taxed. This is consistent with existing State and Territory First Home Owner Grant programs.</p> <p>Application process</p> <p>Applications for HomeBuilder will be made through the relevant State or Territory revenue offices or equivalent authority, once the State or Territory Government signs the National Partnership Agreement. States and Territories will backdate acceptance of HomeBuilder applications to 4 June 2020 once the National Partnership Agreement is signed. The relevant State or Territory revenue office will distribute the \$25,000 grant directly to the applicant.</p> <p>The State or Territory revenue office will require certain documents to process applications. It is expected that, at a minimum, the following information will need to be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proof of identity; • a copy of the contract, dated and signed by the applicant and the nominated registered or licenced builder; • a copy of the builder's registration or licence; • a copy of the applicant's 2018-19 tax return (or later) to demonstrate their eligibility against the income cap; and • documents such as council approvals, building contracts or occupation certificates and evidence of land value. <p>If an applicant is dissatisfied with the outcome of their HomeBuilder application, they can request that the matter is referred to the relevant State or Territory dispute resolution body.</p> <p>If an applicant's circumstances change after they have applied for HomeBuilder but have not yet</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		received the payment, and no longer meet the eligibility criteria, they will need to notify their State or Territory revenue office immediately.	
2 June	JobMaker infrastructure	<p>As updated on 2, 4, 15, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 29 June, and 6 July.</p> <p>The Government announced that infrastructure would be a critical aspect of the JobMaker plan, which was announced on 26 May. The following specific projects have been announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on 2 June, a further \$3.5 billion will be injected into the Sydney Metro – Western Sydney Airport rail, under a new agreement between the Federal and NSW governments; and on 4 June, a further \$1.3 million for upgrades to Homebush Bay Drive, in the inner-west of Sydney. <p>On 15 June, it was announced that a priority list of 15 major projects were on the fast-track for approval under a bilateral model between the Commonwealth, states and territories, worth more than \$72 billion in public and private investment. Under the Federal government’s new approach, this investment will be brought to market earlier by targeting a 50% reduction in assessment and approval times for major projects, from an average of 3.5 years to 21 months.</p> <p>The priority list includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inland Rail from Melbourne to Brisbane; Marinus Link between Tasmania and Victoria; Olympic Dam extension in South Australia; emergency town water projects in New South Wales; and road, rail and iron ore projects in Western Australia. <p>These projects represent a further \$1.5 billion investment. As part of this package, \$1 billion will be allocated to smaller, priority projects which are shovel-ready. \$500 million will be reserved specifically to target road safety works.</p> <p>On 21 June to 6 July, the Government announced the funding breakdown for the shovel-ready infrastructure projects and urgent road safety upgrades in various States and Territories. The funding includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$176 million for Western Australia, plus an additional \$47 million from the Western Australian Government; 	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - conference address</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$17.6 million for the Australian Capital Territory, plus an additional \$17.6 million from the ACT Government; • \$324.3 million for Queensland, plus an additional \$90.3 million from the Queensland Government; • \$40.4 million for the Northern Territory, plus an additional \$12.7 million from the Northern Territory Government; • \$115.6 million for South Australia, plus an additional \$28.9 million from the South Australian Government; • \$34.3 million for Tasmania plus an additional \$11.7 million from the Tasmanian Government; • \$451 million for New South Wales plus an additional \$569 million from the New South Wales Government; and • \$320.3 million for Victoria plus an additional \$205.5 million from the Victorian Government. 	
1 June	Support for the new car retailing market	<p>The Government has fast-tracked a rebalancing of the new car retailing market, with reforms commencing from 1 June.</p> <p>The reforms have been implemented a month ahead of schedule due to the effects of COVID-19 to improve the transparency and fairness of new car franchise agreements.</p> <p>The reforms balance the need to better protect Australian car dealers with ensuring an environment that is attractive to manufacturers to invest in Australia. Under the reforms all new dealership agreements will have to take into account additional considerations regarding end of term arrangements, capital expenditure and multi-party dispute resolution.</p> <p>Further work will also be done with industry on the issue of tenure and a principles-based compensation guide, with roundtable discussions to begin shortly.</p>	Minister for Industry, Science and Technology - media release
27 May	Fashion industry roundtable	<p>Boosting demand for Australian-made fashion and diversifying manufacturing capability to upskill and create new jobs are among the key issues that were discussed at a roundtable with the local fashion industry.</p> <p>Chaired by the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, the roundtable brought together prominent local fashion designers and brands, industry leaders and academics.</p> <p>The industry has a renewed appetite for re-establishing a strong local manufacturing presence</p>	Minister for Industry, Science and Technology - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>based on upskilling, innovation and enterprise.</p> <p>This is the first in a series of roundtables with the fashion sector to consider how the federal government can best support this important contributor to the Australian economy.</p> <p>Locally manufactured labels Carla Zampatti, Cue and Nobody Denim are among the brands that were represented at the roundtable.</p>	
26 May	Industrial relations overhaul	<p>As updated on 3 and 11 June.</p> <p>As part of the JobMaker plan, the Government will seek to overhaul the industrial relations system.</p> <p>The Government has announced plans to have employers, employees, business groups and unions cooperate to develop a new industrial relations system, because the current system is not fit-for-purpose, especially given the scale of the jobs losses faced by Australia due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Beginning immediately, the Minister for Industrial Relations will lead a new, time-bound (expected to run until September 2020), dedicated process bringing employers, industry groups, employee representatives and government to the table to chart a practical reform agenda for the industrial relations system.</p> <p>The Minister will chair 5 working groups for discussion, negotiation and agreement to produce outcomes in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • award simplification; • enterprise agreement making; • casuals and fixed term employees; • compliance and enforcement; and • greenfields agreements for new enterprises. <p>Membership of each working group will include employer and union representatives, as well as individuals chosen based on their demonstrated experience and expertise, especially small businesses, rural and regional backgrounds, multicultural communities, women and families.</p> <p>The Government has said that it will not pursue a further vote in the Senate on its Ensuring Integrity Bill in good faith to maximise the opportunity for a genuine course of negotiation, and compromise and cooperation.</p> <p>On 3 June, the first roundtable was held to map out the working group consultation process that will</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - national address</p> <p>Attorney-General for Australia - media release</p> <p>Attorney-General for Australia - media release</p> <p>Attorney-General for Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>take place over the next 4 months. Industry, employer and employee representatives attending the roundtable received a detailed economic briefing from the Department of the Treasury and heard from other government officials about the scale of the sector by sector challenge being faced to regrow jobs and chart a path to economic recovery. The roundtable agreed that jobs needed to be the central focus as Australia moves into the COVID-19 recovery phase, whilst remaining conscious of the continuing health challenges posed by the virus. The representatives will also be consulted on the make-up, forward agenda and operating arrangements for the 5 working groups outlined above. It was also announced that Tim Marney will serve as deputy chair of the working groups.</p> <p>On 11 June, the membership of each working group was announced. Each group has 10 primary members. The groups covering compliance and enforcement and greenfields agreements will begin meeting from the week starting 22 June. The 3 other groups will begin their meetings the following week.</p> <p>Several third-party organisations and individuals will also be invited to present to or advise the groups on one or more occasions, providing expert experience and real-world perspectives on relevant issues. These third-party contributions will be determined by agreement of the 10 primary members of each working group.</p>	
26 May	JobMaker plan	<p>The Government has unveiled a 'JobMaker' plan to restart Australian businesses and the economy after the COVID-19 crisis. The JobMaker plan will be guided by the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remaining an outward-looking, open and sovereign trading economy; • caring for country; • leveraging and building on key strengths; • prioritising access to essential services, incentive for effort and respect for the principles of mutual obligation, and ensuring equal opportunities for those in rural and regional communities; and • creating a sustainable and successful job making market economy, through assisting businesses. 	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - national address</p>
25 May	Continuous disclosure provisions	<p>As updated on 23 September.</p> <p>The Government will temporarily amend the continuous disclosure provisions that apply to companies and their officers to enable them to more confidently provide guidance to the market during the COVID-19 crisis.</p>	<p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Given the impact of COVID-19 and the uncertainty it continues to generate, it has been considerably more difficult for companies to release reliable forward-looking guidance to the market. Therefore, the Government will temporarily amend the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (the Act) so that companies and officers will only be liable if there has been “knowledge, recklessness or negligence” with respect to updates on price sensitive information to the market.</p> <p>The heightened level of uncertainty around companies’ future prospects as a result of the crisis also exposes companies to the threat of opportunistic class actions for allegedly falling foul of their continuous disclosure obligations if their forecasts are found to be inaccurate. In response, companies may hold back from making forecasts of future earnings or other forward-looking estimates, limiting the amount of information available to investors during this period.</p> <p>The changes announced by the Government will make it harder to bring such actions against companies and officers during the COVID-19 crisis, while allowing the market to continue to stay informed and function effectively.</p> <p>These changes will be made under the instrument-making power that has been inserted into the Act as part of the Government’s response to COVID-19. The changes will be in effect for 6 months from 26 May 2020.</p> <p>On 23 September 2020, the Government announced that it will extend the temporary continuous disclosure provisions that apply to companies and their officers for a further 6 months until 23 March 2021. Companies and officers will continue to only be liable where there has been “knowledge, recklessness or negligence” with respect to updates on price sensitive information to the market.</p>	<p>KWM Insight</p> <p>KWM Insight</p>
22 May	Deferral of retirement income framework legislation	<p>The Government has announced plans to defer the introduction of the Retirement Income Covenant, previously scheduled to commence on 1 July 2020.</p> <p>The deferral is necessary to allow continued consultation and legislative drafting to take place following the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Superannuation laws currently require trustees to formulate, review and give effect to investment, risk management and insurance strategies. The purpose of the Retirement Income Covenant is to establish an additional obligation for trustees to formulate a retirement income strategy for their members.</p> <p>The deferral of the Retirement Income Covenant will also allow drafting of this measure to be informed by the Retirement Income Review. The revised date will be determined following further consultation on the Covenant.</p>	<p>Assistant Minister for Superannuation, Financial Services and Financial Technology - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
22 May	Road and community projects funding	<p>As updated on 31 July.</p> <p>The Government announced a \$1.8 billion boost for road and community projects through local governments across Australia.</p> <p>The package of support will help local councils support jobs and businesses by delivering priority projects focused on infrastructure upgrades and maintenance.</p> <p>The new \$500 million Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program and the bringing forward of \$1.3 billion of the 2020-21 Financial Assistance Grant payment will also help communities battling the effects of COVID-19.</p> <p>Projects could include constructing or improving bridges and tunnels, street lighting and heavy vehicle facilities such as rest areas. Social infrastructure projects may also be included, such as new or upgraded bicycle and walking paths, community facilities, picnic shelters and barbeque facilities at parks.</p> <p>The funding includes \$8 million for Australia's external territories of Norfolk Island, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.</p> <p>As at 31 July, more than 175 councils across the country had jointly nominated nearly a thousand projects to participate in the Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program.</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p>
21 May	Stamping fees ban extended to listed investment companies and trusts	<p>As updated on 4 and 29 June.</p> <p>On 21 May, the Treasurer announced that the Government will move to extend the ban on conflicted remuneration (in relation to stamping fees) to listed investment companies and trusts (LICs). These changes will take effect from 1 July 2020. However, the stamping fee exemption will be retained for trading companies, real estate investment trusts and listed infrastructure entities.</p> <p>Whilst new LICs capital raisings have largely ceased since the inception of COVID-19, the Treasurer said that it is important that the ban on conflicted remuneration is extended ahead of any resumption of capital raising activity.</p> <p>On 4 June, Treasury released exposure draft regulations for which it is seeking submissions from interested parties until 10 June 2020. Submissions should be sent to StampingFeeTeam@treasury.gov.au.</p> <p>On 29 June, the Corporations Amendment (Stamping Fee Exemption) Regulations 2020 were registered to remove the exemption from the prohibition on paying and receiving conflicted remuneration for stamping fees paid in respect of LICs.</p>	<p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
19 May	Matchmaking platform for local manufacturing supply chains	<p>Australian businesses wanting to expand their reach in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic will have greater access to potential partners and customers, with an industry matchmaking site launched by the Government.</p> <p>Developed by the Government's Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC), the COVID-19 Manufacturer Response Register will bring together manufacturers, suppliers and customers of personal protective equipment (PPE) via a self-managed platform.</p> <p>The platform can be used by hospitals, GPs and community groups to find Australian suppliers of essential products such as hand sanitiser, ventilators and PPE.</p> <p>The platform will initially combine AMGC's COVID-19 Manufacturer Response Register database of 2500 submissions with a further 600 local businesses identified through the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources' recent request for Information on PPE production capability.</p>	Minister for Industry, Science and Technology - media release
15 May	Fee relief for marriage celebrants	<p>The Government is waiving the annual registration fee for civil marriage celebrants to help ease the burden from COVID-19. The decision will benefit about 9,000 Commonwealth-registered celebrants who will not have to pay the \$240 fee when they renew their registration for the 2020/21 financial year.</p> <p>The measure will cost about \$2.1 million and applies for 1 year only.</p>	Attorney-General for Australia - media release
14 May	Customs duty for essential medical and hygiene goods	<p>The Government has implemented a temporary 'free' rate of customs duty for eligible medical and hygiene equipment, to support increased supplies of these products.</p> <p>This means that importers can claim a 'free' rate of customs duty for eligible imported goods without the compliance costs they may incur in claiming preferential tariff treatment.</p> <p>Eligible goods are medical products or hygiene products which are capable of use in combating COVID-19. Specific goods covered by the measure include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • face masks; • gloves; • clothes or gowns; • goggles, glasses, eye visors or face shields; • disinfectant preparations classified to heading 3808 in Schedule 3 to the Customs Tariff, 	Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>excluding hand sanitisers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> soaps; and COVID-19 test kits, reagents and viral transport media. <p>The measure applies retrospectively for all eligible goods imported between 1 February 2020 and 31 July 2020 regardless of their origin.</p>	
14 May	Relief for rail freight operators	<p>The Government has announced measures by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to provide immediate financial relief to rail freight operators maintaining the supply of essential goods throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The support provided by ARTC includes extending payment terms for existing access charges and deferring the Consumer Price Index increase scheduled to take effect in July for 3 months.</p>	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release
14 May	Defence estate works	<p>The Government announced it is releasing almost \$870 million of estate works to the market which will bolster the defence industry as part of its COVID-19 support plan.</p> <p>More than 300 work packages have been created for the Australian defence industry under the newly established Forward Release Program.</p> <p>The program will provide new jobs and business opportunities across Australia in what will be a key part of the ongoing Defence Estate Works Program.</p>	Minister for Defence - media release
11 May	Australian Government procurement and contracting	<p>The Government has published new guidance asking Commonwealth departments and agencies to work collaboratively with suppliers to ensure business continuity and to take action, where appropriate, to ensure that supply chains are able to be maintained during COVID-19.</p> <p>The new guidance includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relaxing or waiving some contractual rights where appropriate to address COVID-19 circumstances; generally avoiding exercising of termination rights or liquidated damages; or revised payment arrangements. <p>The Government also expects agencies to pay suppliers quicker than the maximum 20 day payment terms, and is making payments of electronic invoices within 5 days where suppliers and agencies have adopted e-invoicing consistent with the international standard. Small invoices under</p>	Minister for Finance - media release Minister for Finance - Procurement Policy Note

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>\$10,000 should be paid immediately by card payment systems.</p> <p>In addition, the Department of Finance and the Department of Defence have established a Procurement Hub, working together to assist agencies with specific COVID-19 related procurement activities. The Procurement Hub is providing assistance to agencies through advice, technical solutions and resources where required.</p>	
11 May	Export hub grants	<p>The Government has announced that 10 export hubs from 5 States will receive more than \$4.9 million under an SME Export Hubs Initiative. The Initiative will target industries where Australia has large growth potential, including food and agribusiness, energy, advanced manufacturing and mining services.</p> <p>The grants aim to help SMEs to harness opportunities in international markets, which will be an important part of helping them bounce back and create jobs after the COVID-19. The Initiative provides each successful hub with matched funding of up to \$1.5 million for projects up to 2 years in length.</p>	Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment - media release
8 May	Banking Royal Commission – deferral of implementation of commitments	<p>The Government announced a 6 month deferral to the implementation of commitments associated with the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry as a result of the significant impacts of COVID-19. The deferral will enable the financial services industry to focus their efforts on planning for the recovery and supporting their customers and their staff during this unprecedented time.</p> <p>Under the updated timetable, those measures that the Government had indicated would be introduced into Parliament by 30 June 2020, will now be introduced by December 2020. Similarly, those measures originally scheduled for introduction by December 2020 will now be introduced by 30 June 2021.</p> <p>In relation to commencement dates contained in Royal Commission related exposure draft legislation issued prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government will also extend these dates by an additional 6 months.</p>	Treasurer of Australia - media release
6 May	Remote airstrip upgrades	<p>As updated on 3 July.</p> <p>The Government is investing \$9 million across 45 projects under the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program. These projects will enhance the safety and accessibility of aerodromes in remote areas and improve delivery of essential goods and services including health care.</p> <p>Eligible projects can include upgrading runway surfaces, stormwater drainage, runway lighting and</p>	<p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		animal proof fencing.	Development - media release
5 May	Legal obligations for companies and boards (AGMs, other meetings and signing documents)	<p>As updated on 6 May, 31 July and 22 September.</p> <p>The Government announced that it will allow companies to convene annual general meetings, and other meetings prescribed under the Corporations Act, entirely online rather than face-to-face. Under the changes, company boards will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide notice of annual general meetings to shareholders using email; • achieve a quorum with shareholders attending online; and • hold annual general meetings online. <p>Meetings must continue to provide shareholders with a reasonable opportunity to participate. As a result, shareholders will be able to put questions to board members online and vote online.</p> <p>Further changes will also allow company officers to sign a document electronically. Previously, in a number of cases, signatories were required to sign the same physical document. The change will ensure that documents are able to be properly executed at a time when ordinary business operations have been disrupted.</p> <p>These changes will be made under the instrument-making power that has been inserted into the Corporations Act and will be in effect for 6 months from 6 May 2020. On 31 July, the Government announced that these measures will be extended until 21 March 2021. The relevant regulations implementing the extension of these measures were registered on 22 September.</p> <p>On 6 May, ASIC released these guidelines for investor meetings using virtual technology. The guidelines address the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • member participation during hybrid and virtual meetings; • voting in a hybrid or virtual meeting; • content of the notice-of-meeting; and • technical problems during a hybrid or virtual meeting. 	<p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>Corporations (Coronavirus Economic Response) Determination (No. 1) 2020</p> <p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>KWM Insight</p> <p>KWM Insight</p> <p>KWM Insight</p>
5 May	Justice sector preparedness	<p>The Government will provide an additional \$63.3 million for the legal assistance sector, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$49.8 million for additional frontline legal services, such as legal advice or representation, 	Prime Minister of Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>with 40% to be used for matters involving domestic violence; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$13.5 million for IT costs to support the sector’s transition to delivering assistance virtually and online. <p>National Cabinet agreed that it is important to quickly finalise agreement of the National Legal Assistance Partnership to ensure continuity for services, such as Community Legal Centres. Under that Partnership agreement, the Australian Government will provide more than \$2 billion over the next 5 years to help Australians with legal issues.</p> <p>Given the importance of protecting victims of domestic violence, there was also a commitment from all members of the National Cabinet that domestic violence orders will continue to be available and enforced during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	
1 May	National Principles for Sport and Recreational Activities	<p>As updated on 24 May.</p> <p>National Cabinet agreed that the resumption of sport and recreation activity at any level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must not compromise the health of individuals or the community; • must be based on objective health information to ensure potential transmission rates are conducive to the safe conduct of sport and recreation; and • should only occur where activity-specific, stringent, public and personal health measures are observed, and meeting minimum standards. <p>National Cabinet considered and endorsed 'National Principles for the Resumption of Sport and Recreation Activities' developed by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) in consultation with sporting bodies across Australia. The Principles will help provide a pathway for a staged return of community and professional sport, as well as recreational activities, without compromising the health of individuals or the community.</p> <p>The staged return will commence an initial phase of small group (<10) activities in a non-contact fashion, prior to moving on to a subsequent phase of large group (>10) activities including full contact training and competition in sport. The initial phase accommodates, where possible, for the resumption of children’s outdoor sport with strict physical distancing measures for non-sporting attendees such as parents, and outdoor recreational activities including but not limited to outdoor-based personal training and boot camps, golf, fishing, bush-walking, and swimming.</p> <p>The States and Territories will be responsible for sport and recreation resumption decisions, both at the professional and community level and will determine progression through the phases, taking</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Youth and Sport - media release</p>

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		<p>account of local epidemiology, risk mitigation strategies and public health capability.</p> <p>National Cabinet also agreed that the 'Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment' developed by the Australian Institute of Sport provides a guide to the staged resumption of sport and recreation in Australia. For high performance and professional sporting organisations, the regime underpinned in the Framework is considered a minimum baseline standard required to be met before the resumption of training and match play.</p> <p>National Cabinet also endorsed the AHPPC's proposal to form a COVID-19 Sports and Health Committee comprising the Commonwealth Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Australian Institute of Sport Medical Director, an infection control expert, representatives of Federal, State and Territory Departments of Health, Sport and Recreation and relevant sports medical officers from the National Sporting Organisations. The Committee will closely monitor and report on any COVID-19 related issues or manifestations in the sector during the resumption phase, as well as any further and specific decisions about the resumption of sport – for a minimum of 3 months from commencement.</p> <p>On 24 May, the Government announced the launch of a toolkit aimed at ensuring community sporting clubs and associations have a clear path to competition as COVID-19 restrictions are eased. The suite of practical resources, provided by Sport Australia, focus on giving grassroots organisations a roadmap for the safe return to sport at all levels. As part of the toolkit, checklists provide practical and progressive steps such as relevant government and national sporting organisation approvals, facility management, training behaviours, hygiene protocols and appropriate communication with members.</p>	
1 May	Heavy Vehicle Road User Charge freeze	<p>Australian truck owners and operators will save hundreds of dollars a year with the Government deciding to freeze the Heavy Vehicle Road User Charge at current levels.</p> <p>The Road User Charge will stay at 25.8 cents per litre for diesel in 2020-21 instead of increasing by the scheduled 2.5%.</p>	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release
28 April	Reporting deadlines extended for Modern Slavery Act	<p>The Government has announced that it will extend the deadline for entities due to lodge statements in 2020 under the <i>Modern Slavery Act 2018</i> by 3 months. This 3 month deadline extension applies to all reporting entities operating on reporting periods that end on or before 30 June 2020.</p>	Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs - media release KWM Insight
28 April	Support package for	<p>Australia's zoos and aquariums will receive a funding lifeline, with the Government unveiling a \$94.6 million support package to help them get through COVID-19.</p>	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional

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	zoos and aquariums	<p>Eligible exhibiting zoos and aquariums will have access to a grant that contributes towards up to 6 months of its animal welfare operating costs. This includes animal feed, enclosure, health and other specialised care expenses, and utilities directly related to the housing and caring of animals.</p> <p>Austrade will work with the Zoo and Aquarium Association to identify eligible members, as well as state and territory tourism organisations to identify non-members which may be eligible for financial assistance.</p>	Development - media release
24 April	Safe workplace principles	<p>As updated on 5 May.</p> <p>The National Cabinet agreed to develop nationally-consistent, industry-specific work health and safety guidance on COVID-19, accessible via a central hub provided by Safe Work Australia.</p> <p>The guidance will be developed and endorsed through Safe Work Australia, working with its members (the Commonwealth, states and territories, employer groups, and unions). The guidance will be housed on a revamped Safe Work Australia website. Australian workplaces will be able to use this central hub of WHS guidance and tools to help manage health and safety risks posed by COVID-19.</p> <p>To support the development of nationally-consistent guidance, the National Cabinet agreed the 'National COVID-19 Safe Workplace Principles' available here.</p> <p>On 5 May, National Cabinet agreed that Safe Work Australia would be the single source of information, which will allow businesses to plan with confidence and consistency. A toolkit is being developed for businesses to use, to help them be work ready in a COVID-19 safe environment. National Cabinet encouraged businesses to be prepared for reopening, to protect their workers and protect their business.</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>KWM Insight</p>
24 April	Career Transition Assistance program	<p>The Career Transition Assistance program assists mature jobseekers aged 45 and over with training and support to improve their digital literacy, job opportunities and identifying transferrable skills. The program will be funded by an additional \$41.7 million from early May 2020 until June 2022, and will be made available online during the COVID-19 pandemic so mature age Australians can continue to access the valuable support.</p>	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release
20 April	Planning approvals principles	<p>National agreement has been reached to ensure planning approvals maintain their usual pace throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Planning Ministers from every State and Territory, the President of the Australian Local Government Association and the Federal Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure</p>	<p>Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure - media release</p> <p>Planning Ministers -</p>

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		<p>have agreed a set of principles on how planning systems should operate during this time.</p> <p>The impact of COVID-19 means swift changes to planning regimes are necessary to ensure development applications can still be approved at their usual pace and other planning regulations amended to deal with the twin health and economic crises. Changes will be made on a State by State basis, but following the below principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decision making in the public interest is a paramount theme in all planning systems and this must continue as a guiding consideration; • transparency for stakeholders about changes to systems and particular decisions; • decisions made within jurisdictions are consistent, where possible; • consideration of the level of public interest in a particular planning change or development proposal; • balancing administrative and legal review rights with the need to address the pandemic emergency and to assist community and economic recovery; and • all reasonable effort is made to maintain the usual pace of planning approvals recognising, as far as practical, community consultation will continue through new forms of communication recognising social distancing requirements. 	<p>communique</p>
17 April	NBN relief	<p>The Government announced that NBN Co will provide \$150 million in financial relief to internet providers so they can assist Australian families and businesses in accessing the NBN during COVID-19. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50 million to help connect low-income families with school-aged children so they can access the internet for educational purposes; • \$50 million to support households experiencing financial hardship due to the challenges presented by COVID-19; and • \$50 million to support small and medium-sized businesses. <p>NBN Co also announced new initiatives to provide retailers with 40% additional bandwidth at no extra charge across all NBN Co access technologies and additional broadband data for Sky Muster satellite customers in rural and remote Australia during COVID-19.</p>	<p>Minister for Communications - media release</p>
17 April	Flexibility for	<p>The Government announced measures to provide flexibility to offshore oil and gas explorers during</p>	<p>Minister for Resources,</p>

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	offshore explorers	<p>the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>The measures provide for a simplified application process to suspend and extend existing work programs, as well as further flexibility to be applied to well expectations in the renewal of exploration permits.</p>	Water and Northern Australia - media release
16 April	Changes to enterprise agreements	<p>As updated on 11 June.</p> <p>The Government has introduced a Fair Work Regulation that will reduce the time required for changes to enterprise agreements to be agreed by employees – known as the access period – from a minimum of 7 days to a minimum of 1 day.</p> <p>On 11 June, it was announced that this regulation will be withdrawn, and the original 7-day access period reinstated.</p>	Minister for Industrial Relations - media release
15 April	Support for Australian exporters	<p>Australian exporters impacted by COVID-19 will have access to business-saving loans between \$250,000 and \$50 million under a new \$500 million capital facility to be administered by Export Finance Australia. The new COVID-19 Export Capital Facility will target loans to established and previously profitable exporters who, due to COVID-19, are unable to gain finance from commercial sources. The facility will target trade-exposed businesses, including those from regional Australia and businesses in the tourism and education sectors.</p>	Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment - media release
15 April	Media industry support	<p>As updated on 7 May and 5 August.</p> <p>The Government announced a package of measures to help sustain Australian media businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tax relief – a 12 month waiver of spectrum tax for commercial television and radio broadcasters; • regional journalism – a \$50 million Public Interest News Gathering program; • content quotas – emergency suspension of content quotas in 2020; and • supporting Australian content – release of an Options Paper developed by Screen Australia and the Australian Communications and Media Authority, commencing a fast-tracked consultation process on how best to support Australian content. <p>On 7 May the Government announced that applications were open for the \$50 million Public Interest News Gathering program to support commercial television, radio and newspaper businesses in regional Australia during COVID-19. Funding under the program can be used for a</p>	Minister for Communications - media release Minister for Communications - media release Minister for Communications - media release

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		<p>broad range of activities that relate to the production and distribution of public interest journalism, such as staff wages, training and technology or website upgrades. Applications will be considered through a demand-driven grant process. Organisations that satisfy the criteria – producing Australian public interest journalism with a commitment to accuracy, accessibility and broad relevance – will be eligible. Applications for the program closed on 29 May 2020. The guidelines and application process are available on the Government’s grants website.</p> <p>On 5 August, the Government announced that 41 publishers will receive a share of \$5 million in the 2020 round of the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund, which was expedited to help small and regional publishers keep delivering news and information to local communities at this critical time.</p>	
9 April	Support for Indigenous and regional arts and cultural sector	<p>As updated on 20 May, 8 July and 2 September.</p> <p>The Government is providing \$10 million to help regional artists and organisations develop new work and explore new delivery models. The funding will be delivered through Regional Arts Australia’s Regional Arts Fund.</p> <p>To support Indigenous artists and arts centres, the Government is providing \$7 million in additional funding. The funding will be delivered under the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program.</p> <p>On 20 May, the Government announced more than \$1.76 million in funding to support a program of cultural and creative tours through the Playing Australia, Contemporary Music Touring Program and Contemporary Touring Initiative. The funding will support regional tours spanning music, theatre, visual arts and dance.</p> <p>The Government also announced that it will provide \$1.1 million from the Visions of Australia program to support 10 projects to tour cultural exhibitions to venues across regional Australia. This funding will support projects showcasing high-quality textile design, print making, ceramics and photography among others, which explore a range of themes such as national identity, Indigenous knowledge systems, and the notion of family.</p> <p>On 8 July, the Government announced funding to support Indigenous music organisations during COVID-19. The funding includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100,000 to the APRA AMCOS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Music Office to provide emergency grants for Indigenous musicians and bands affected by COVID-19; and • \$50,000 to MusicNT to hold the 2020 National Indigenous Music Awards ceremony online. 	<p>Minister for Communications - media release</p> <p>Minister for Communications - media release</p> <p>Minister for Communications - media release</p> <p>Minister for Communications - media release</p> <p>Minister for Communications - media release</p>

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		On 2 September, the Government announced that it will develop an Indigenous Visual Art Action Plan to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, and their cultural and economic interests, in the recovery from COVID-19. The Government wishes to consult with all relevant stakeholders across the Indigenous visual arts sector in relation to the Action Plan. The consultation closes on 18 December 2020 and the Action Plan is expected to be released in 2021.	
8 April	Senate Select Committee on COVID-19	<p>As updated on 28 April, 28 May and 9 June.</p> <p>The Senate resolved to establish a Select Committee on COVID-19 to inquire into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Committee is to present its final report on or before 30 June 2022.</p> <p>The Committee has invited individuals and organisations to send in their opinions and proposals in writing. The closing date for submissions is 28 May 2020.</p> <p>On 28 May, the Chairs of ASIC and APRA, as well as the Governor of the RBA, appeared before the Committee, making the linked opening statements.</p> <p>On 9 June, the Commissioner of the ATO appeared before the Committee.</p>	<p>Senate Select Committee on COVID-19</p> <p>Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Hansard</p>
7 April	Tenants occupying Government property	The Federal Government is waiving rents for all its small and medium enterprises and not-for-profit tenants within its owned and leased property across Australia.	Prime Minister of Australia - media release
7 April	Mandatory commercial tenancies code	<p>The National Cabinet has approved principles for a mandatory code to apply for commercial tenancies. Each State and Territory will pass the relevant legislation for its own jurisdiction.</p> <p>The purpose of the code is to impose a set of good faith leasing principles for application to commercial tenancies (including retail, office and industrial) between owners/operators/other landlords and tenants, in circumstances where the tenant is a small-medium sized business (annual turnover of up to \$50 million) and is an eligible business for the purpose of the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper programme. There will be a moratorium on evicting tenants.</p> <p>National Cabinet agreed that there would be a proportionality to rent reductions based on the tenant's decline in turnover to ensure that the burden is shared between landlords and tenants.</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Commercial Leasing Code</p> <p>KWM Insight</p> <p>KWM Insight</p>
6 April	Seafarer qualifications	As updated on 19 September.	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional

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	extension	<p>The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is providing Australian seafarers impacted by COVID-19 with an automatic 6 month extension on their qualifications.</p> <p>On 19 September, the Government announced that the extension will now apply until 31 January 2021. This means that if a seafarer's certificate expires between 26 March 2020 and 31 January 2021, they will automatically receive an extension at no cost and with no application required.</p>	<p>Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p>
6 April	Agriculture and other workforces	<p>As updated on 4 and 21 August, and 2 September.</p> <p>The Government is making temporary changes to visa arrangements to help farmers access the workforce they need to secure Australia's food and produce supply during COVID-19.</p> <p>The key arrangements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Worker Programme and Pacific Labour Scheme workers can extend their stay for up to 12 months to work for approved employers (ensuring pastoral care and accommodation needs of workers are met to minimise health risks to visa holders and the community); approved employers under the Seasonal Worker Programme and Pacific Labour Scheme will need to continue engaging with the Department of Education, Skills and Employment on labour market testing to ensure recruitment of Australians first; Working Holiday Makers who work in agriculture or food processing will be exempt from the 6 month work limitation with the one employer and eligible for a further visa to keep working in critical sectors if their current visa is due to expire in the next 6 months; conditions will be placed upon visa holders to self-isolate for 14 days before taking up employment in a different region (including termination of visas where there is non-compliance); employers will need to commit to providing safe accommodation for agricultural workers that complies with social distancing requirements; and arrangements will also need to be in place for a declaration between employers and employees that all protocols necessary to ensure human health and accommodation requirements have been met. <p>On 4 August, it was announced that the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments have agreed to conduct a trial aimed at addressing the labour shortages affecting Northern Territory</p>	<p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p>

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		<p>farmers. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted agriculture with restrictions impeding international and domestic travel for would-be workers. This is particularly impacting the Northern Territory's mango producers as the mango harvest starts in September. The trial will see up to 170 workers under the Seasonal Worker Programme come to Australia to help with the 2020 harvest, with more workers to potentially follow subject to a review of the first cohort and approval for additional numbers by the Northern Territory Government.</p> <p>On 21 August, National Cabinet agreed to resume the Seasonal Worker Programme and Pacific Labour Scheme to help with workforce shortages. The approach has been informed by the trial recruitment of Pacific workers in the Northern Territory. States and Territories will decide whether to access the arrangement.</p> <p>On 2 September, the Government announced that it will allow small numbers of sponsored skilled workers to return to Australia to fill urgent skills needs in critical sectors (aside from agriculture). The relevant list of occupations is available here.</p>	
5 April	Funding for public interest and Indigenous journalism	<p>As updated on 6 and 24 April.</p> <p>The Government announced an additional \$234,500 this financial year to support First Nations Media Australia, which plays a valuable role in informing and communicating with Indigenous communities. This will help to get critical information out to all Australians through credible sources during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>On 6 April, the Government brought forward the release of \$5 million from its Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund to support public interest journalism during COVID-19. This is in addition to funding announced for Indigenous media to support the transmission of health and safety messages to regional communities.</p> <p>Funds will be available to eligible applicants to support the costs associated with public interest news gathering, which can include staff training, new digital technology and website upgrades.</p> <p>Applications closed on 22 May 2020, with successful applicants expected to be announced in July 2020. For more information and details on how to apply visit: www.acma.gov.au/innovationfund.</p>	<p>Minister for Communications - media release</p> <p>Minister for Indigenous Australians - media release</p> <p>Minister for Communications - media release</p>
2 April	Indigenous business and community grants	<p>The Government is making \$123 million available over two financial years for targeted measures to support Indigenous businesses and communities to increase their responses to COVID-19. Some of the measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$50 million to help Indigenous businesses over the coming months, including providing specialist advice to help businesses survive, adapt and recover, assistance to access the 	<p>Minister for Indigenous Australians - media release</p>

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		<p>different business support packages available from Government, and new funding arrangements where there are gaps in the mainstream measures and a demonstrated need;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25 million to targeted regions and industries facing labour shortfalls to provide incentives to employers, support to Indigenous jobseekers and greater flexibility to access employment initiatives in a way that suits short term needs; • \$10 million across the four Land Councils in the Northern Territory to allow them to address immediate infrastructure needs and travel expenses associated with people returning to homelands; and • \$23 million towards enhancing the delivery of critical social support programs, including alcohol and other drug services, social and emotional wellbeing projects, family support and youth engagement and diversion programs. 	
2 April	Jobs Hub	The Federal Government launched a jobs hub to connect businesses looking for employees and people looking for work.	Jobs Hub website
1 April	Flexible leave entitlements	<p>As updated on 14 May.</p> <p>The Fair Work Commission has proposed updates to 103 Awards which would provide an entitlement to unpaid pandemic leave and allow employees to take annual leave at half-pay. The proposed variations would operate until 30 June 2020. Interested parties are encouraged to lodge written submissions by 4pm on Monday 6 April 2020. If opposing submissions are received, a hearing will be held at 2pm on Wednesday 8 April 2020 by telephone. Alternatively, if no opposing submissions are received, the Commission will determine the matter without a hearing.</p> <p>The Clerks Award, Hospitality Award and Restaurant Award have already been specifically varied.</p> <p>On 14 May, the Government announced that a regulation will be issued under the <i>Fair Work Act</i> to limit any changes made to enterprise agreements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to be effective for no more than 12 months.</p>	<p>Fair Work Commission - award flexibility during coronavirus</p> <p>Fair Work Commission - statement</p> <p>KWM Insight</p> <p>Minister for Industrial Relations - media release</p>
30 March	Wage subsidy payments – JobKeeper	<p>As updated on 5, 9, 14, 17, 20, 23, 24 and 27 April, 1, 3-7, 13 and 22 May, 2, 3, 8 and 18 June, 6, 15, 21, 27 and 31 July, 7, 14 and 26 August, and 1, 15-18, 23 and 28 September.</p> <p>In a package worth over \$130 billion (on 22 May this figure was revised down to \$70 billion), employers will be paid \$1500 JobKeeper Payments per employee to keep them employed. There</p>	<p>Treasury - JobKeeper</p> <p>ATO - new legislation</p> <p>ATO - JobKeeper payment information</p>

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		<p>will be a positive obligation on employers to establish their eligibility and that of their employees.</p> <p>Eligible employers</p> <p>An entity will be eligible for the subsidy if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it has an aggregated turnover of less than \$1 billion (for income tax purposes) and it estimates its GST turnover has fallen or will likely fall by 30% or more; or • it has an aggregated turnover of \$1 billion or more (for income tax purposes) and it estimates its GST turnover has fallen or will likely fall by 50% or more; and • it is not subject to the Major Bank Levy. <p>Aggregated turnover is an entity's annual turnover from carrying on a business plus the annual turnover from carrying on a business of any business or individual connected with or affiliated with the entity (eg all the members of a larger corporate group). On 14 April, the ATO clarified that the aggregated turnover test is subject to specific adjustments, for example for transactions between the entity and its affiliated/related entities. These connected entities or affiliates may be based in Australia or overseas.</p> <p>Partnerships are also eligible if they meet the tests above, however only one partner can be nominated to receive a JobKeeper Payment along with any eligible employees (noting a partner cannot be an employee).</p> <p>Trusts can receive JobKeeper payments for any eligible employees. Where beneficiaries of a trust only receive distributions, rather than being paid salary and wages for work done, one individual beneficiary (that is, not a corporate beneficiary) can be nominated to receive the JobKeeper Payment.</p> <p>The employer must have been in an employment relationship with eligible employees as at 1 July 2020, and confirm that each eligible employee is currently engaged in order to receive JobKeeper Payments. Employers must also advise their employees about the payments. Participating employers will also be required to ensure eligible employees will receive, at a minimum, their applicable rate of JobKeeper Payment per fortnight, before tax is withheld (this is termed the 'wage condition'). On 27 April, the ATO confirmed that this amount does not include superannuation contributions (unless the contributions are made under a salary sacrifice arrangement).</p> <p>On 2 June, the Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Amendment (Jobkeeper Payment) Regulations 2020 were registered and confirm that employers are not obliged to make Superannuation Guarantee contributions in relation to salary or wages that are only paid to an employee to satisfy the wage condition. Employers are only required to make Superannuation</p>	<p>ATO - JobKeeper for large public and private groups</p> <p>ATO - supporting private businesses</p> <p>ATO - eligible employers</p> <p>ATO - employers' FAQs</p> <p>ATO - eligible employees</p> <p>Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Act 2020</p> <p>Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus (Measures No. 2) Act 2020</p> <p>Appropriation Act (No. 5) 2019-2020</p> <p>Appropriation Act (No. 6) 2019-2020</p> <p>Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Rules 2020</p> <p>Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Alternative Decline in Turnover Test Rules 2020</p> <p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education -</p>

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		<p>Guarantee contributions in respect of amounts that are required to be paid to an employee for the performance of work (including the taking of leave). Employers are not required to make Superannuation Guarantee contributions in relation to excess amounts paid to satisfy the wage condition (for example, any 'top up' amounts above an employee's normal pay for the fortnight). Furthermore, if the amount of salary or wages that remains after disregarding any excess amount is less than \$450 for a calendar month, then employers also do not have to make Superannuation Guarantee contributions in respect of that amount.</p> <p>The JobKeeper payment cannot be paid to businesses that are in liquidation.</p> <p>Not-for-profit entities (including charities) and self-employed individuals (businesses without employees) that meet the turnover tests are eligible to apply.</p> <p>For charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), they will be eligible for the subsidy if they estimate their GST turnover has fallen or will likely fall by 15% or more relative to a comparable period. This lower turnover decline test does not apply to universities and non-government schools that are registered charities, who will remain subject to the turnover decline tests set out above for other not-for-profits and businesses.</p> <p>The Australian government and its agencies, State and Territory governments and their agencies, foreign governments and their agencies, local governments and wholly-owned corporations of these bodies are not eligible for the JobKeeper payment.</p> <p>On 8 June, it was announced that the JobKeeper payment will cease from 20 July for employees of a child care subsidy approved service and for sole traders operating a child care service. The amendments to the JobKeeper rules were registered on 6 July to implement these changes.</p> <p>Turnover tests</p> <p>On 31 March, and 5 and 9 April, Treasury clarified the tests to establish that a business has faced either a 30% (or 50%) fall in their turnover. Most businesses would be expected to establish that their turnover has fallen in the relevant month or quarter relative to their turnover during the same period a year earlier. Businesses can choose whether to test their turnover on a monthly or quarterly basis (this is not dependant on how they report their Business Activity Statements). Turnover is calculated as it is for GST purposes (subject to certain modifications). The ATO guide for the GST turnover calculation is here. As only Australian based sales are included for GST purposes, only Australian based turnover is relevant; a decline in overseas operations will not be counted in the turnover test. It is also noted that a business can apply for the payment if it reasonably expects that its turnover will fall by 30% (or 50%) or more.</p> <p>For registered charities, they may also include donations they have received or are likely to receive</p>	<p>media release</p> <p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>Attorney-General for Australia - media release</p> <p>KWM Insight</p> <p>KWM Insight</p> <p>KWM Insight</p> <p>KWM Insight</p>

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		<p>in their turnover for the purpose of determining if they have been adversely affected. Charities can also elect whether to include government or United Nations consideration in their GST turnover calculations.</p> <p>If a business has an aggregated turnover of \$1 billion or more (for income tax purposes), the 50% or more GST turnover test will apply to each business connected with or affiliated with that business. If the business has an aggregated turnover of less than \$1 billion, the 30% or more GST turnover test is applied to each business connected with or affiliated with that business. Individual businesses within corporate group may be eligible for the JobKeeper payment while other businesses in the group may not be eligible. On 14 April, the ATO clarified that, for members of larger corporate groups, testing the decline in turnover is done on an individual employer entity basis. It only takes into account the turnover of the entity which is the employer, and not other members of a group.</p> <p>Where a business was not in operation a year earlier, or where their turnover a year earlier was not representative of their usual or average turnover (e.g. because there was a large interim acquisition, they were newly established or their turnover is typically highly variable), the Commissioner will have discretion to consider additional information that the business can provide to establish that they have been significantly affected by the impacts of COVID-19. The Commissioner will also have discretion to set out alternative tests that would establish eligibility in specific circumstances (see below). There will also be some tolerance where employers, in good faith, estimate a greater than 30% (or 50%) fall in turnover but actually experience a slightly smaller fall.</p> <p>If a business does not meet the turnover test as at 30 March 2020, the business can start receiving the JobKeeper Payment at a later time once the turnover test has been met. In this case, the JobKeeper Payment is not backdated to the commencement of the scheme. Businesses can receive the JobKeeper Payments up to 27 September 2020.</p> <p>The ATO has issued Law Companion Ruling LCR 2020/1 in relation to applying the JobKeeper turnover tests.</p> <p>Alternative turnover tests</p> <p>On 23 April, the ATO released various alternative turnover tests relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> businesses that commenced prior to 1 March 2020 but after the relevant comparison period in 2019; a business acquisition or disposal that changed the entity's turnover; 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a business restructure that changed the entity's turnover; • a business that had a substantial increase in turnover of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50% or more in the 12 months immediately before the applicable turnover test period; ○ 25% or more in the 6 months immediately before the applicable turnover test period; or ○ 12.5% or more in the 3 months immediately before the applicable turnover test period; • businesses affected by drought or natural disaster; • a business with an irregular turnover; and • sole traders or small partnerships with sickness, injury or leave. <p>On 23 September, the ATO registered the new alternative turnover tests for the extended JobKeeper program. These will apply in similar circumstances as above.</p> <p>Update to eligibility tests</p> <p>On 1 May, the Treasurer registered amending rules which concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employees employed through a special purpose entity, rather than an operating entity; • charities and the treatment of government revenue; • religious practitioners; • the 'one in all in' principle; • full time students aged 16 and 17 years old; • international aid organisations; and • universities. <p>For more details, view the amending rules here.</p> <p>Eligible employees</p> <p>Eligible employees are employees who:</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are currently employed by the eligible employer (including those stood down or re-hired); • were employed by the employer at 1 July 2020; • are full-time, part-time, or long-term casuals (a casual employed on a regular and systemic basis for longer than 12 months as at 1 July 2020); • are a permanent employee of the employer, or if a long-term casual employee, not a permanent employee of any other employer; • are aged at least 18 years of age as at 1 July 2020 (or are aged 16 or 17 and are independent and not undertaking full-time study); • are an Australian citizen, the holder of a permanent visa, or a Special Category (Subclass 444) Visa Holder at 1 July 2020; • were a resident for Australian tax purposes on 1 July 2020; and • are not in receipt of a JobKeeper Payment from another employer. <p>The casual employee test may still be met if the entity operating the business has recently changed or if the casual employees were transferred from another member of a corporate group within the last 12 months.</p> <p>Employees that are ineligible for the JobKeeper payment include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those receiving Parental Leave Pay from Services Australia; • those hired after 1 July 2020 (unless they were stood-down and re-hired by the same employer); • any employee fully compensated under a business' workcover insurance; and • those receiving Parental Leave Pay or Dad and Partner Pay through Services Australia (for the period that they are receiving these payments). <p>However, employees on parental leave from their employer will be eligible. Employees receiving workers compensation will be eligible for the JobKeeper Payment if they are working, for example on reduced hours, but will generally not be eligible if they are not working. Employees can only receive the payment from one employer (their 'primary' employer).</p> <p>An eligible business can nominate only one director to receive the payment, as well as any eligible employees. Only one person in a director capacity may receive the payment and that individual</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>may not receive the payment as an employee.</p> <p>An eligible business that pays shareholders that provide labour in the form of dividends will only be able to nominate one shareholder to receive the JobKeeper Payment.</p> <p>Taxation</p> <p>On 14 April, the ATO clarified that all JobKeeper payments are assessable income of the business that is eligible to receive the payments. Furthermore, the normal rules for deductibility apply in respect of the amounts a business pays to its employees where those amounts are subsidised by the JobKeeper payment.</p> <p>However, the JobKeeper payment is not subject to GST.</p> <p>On 18 June, the ATO clarified when JobKeeper payments will be 'derived' by an entity.</p> <p>For a business entity which operates on an accruals accounting basis, JobKeeper payments will be derived when the entity provides a valid completed business monthly declaration to the ATO. This means that JobKeeper payments for fortnights ending in June will generally be derived in July (or later) and will be assessable in the 2020–21 income year. This is because the payments are derived when the entity has a legal entitlement to those payments – it is the ATO's receipt of the business monthly declaration that triggers an entity's entitlement to JobKeeper and payment of that entitlement.</p> <p>For a business entity which operates on a cash accounting basis, the payments for a JobKeeper fortnight are derived when the entity receives those payments. For JobKeeper fortnights ending in June, those payments will be made in July (or later), following receipt of the entity's business monthly declaration, and will be assessable in the 2020–21 income year.</p> <p>On 27 July, the ATO released draft determination TD 2020/D1 – Income tax: notional deductions for research and development activities subsidised by JobKeeper payments, which sets out how the "at-risk rule" (section 355-405 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> (Cth)) applies to JobKeeper payments received by a research and development entity. Submissions are due on the draft determination by 24 August 2020.</p> <p>On 28 September, the ATO stated that if employees are paid wages to construct or create assets, the normal rules apply for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cost of depreciating assets and capital works; and • the cost base of CGT assets. <p>Subject to those rules, the fact that wages have been subsidised by JobKeeper payments does not</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>prevent them from being included in the relevant tax cost of an asset.</p> <p>Payment process and registration</p> <p>The payments should be made using the business' payroll system and reported to the ATO via Single Touch Payroll. This will support the online claim process when it is available. If a business does not report through Single Touch Payroll, it can still claim the JobKeeper payment, however there will be a manual claim process.</p> <p>If employees receive the JobKeeper Payment, this may affect their eligibility for payments from Services Australia as they must report their JobKeeper Payment as income.</p> <p>On 14 April, the ATO stated that once an employer establishes that they qualify for the JobKeeper payment for the first fortnight because their turnover has declined by the relevant amount, that employer remains eligible and does not need to keep testing turnover in the following months. However, the employer will have ongoing monthly reporting requirements.</p> <p>ATO assistance</p> <p>For large public and multinational businesses, the ATO has offered to resolve any queries by sending an email to: JobKeeperPGI@ato.gov.au, or contacting the business' client engagement team directly.</p> <p>The ATO has stated that it wants to assist large businesses seeking to claim the JobKeeper payment to ensure they understand the information they need to produce and assist with any issues they may experience.</p> <p>JobKeeper scheme integrity</p> <p>The ATO released Practical Compliance Guideline PCG 2020/4, which sets out how the ATO will apply compliance resources to schemes to obtain access to the JobKeeper Payment, or an increased amount of a JobKeeper Payment.</p> <p>The Guideline states that the JobKeeper integrity provisions target contrived and artificial arrangements that technically satisfy the eligibility requirements, but have been implemented for the sole or dominant purpose of accessing a JobKeeper Payment.</p> <p>On 7 May, the ATO released an updated version of Practice Statement PS LA 2005/24, its guidance to ATO officers on the general anti-avoidance rules in the tax legislation. PS LA 2005/24 has been updated to consider the application of the JobKeeper integrity rules.</p> <p>On 31 July, the ATO provided guidance as to how it would approach dealing with JobKeeper</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>overpayments.</p> <p>JobKeeper and transfer pricing</p> <p>On 15 July, the ATO released guidance on the treatment of JobKeeper Payments in transfer pricing arrangements. The guidance does not alter or modify the tax treatment of the payment received under the JobKeeper scheme or other provisions of the income tax law.</p> <p>The ATO will assess the impact of the JobKeeper Payment on transfer pricing arrangements, by reviewing arrangements where the JobKeeper Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resulted in a change to the transfer price paid or received by the Australian entity; and • was shown to effectively shift the benefit of the government assistance to offshore related parties. <p>The ATO will seek to understand any interaction between the JobKeeper Payment received and transfer pricing arrangements. It is expected that Australian entities will retain the benefit of the JobKeeper Payment they received.</p> <p>The ATO stated by way of example that JobKeeper Payments should not result in a reduction of the price of a service provided to an offshore related party.</p> <p>Fair Work Commission</p> <p>The JobKeeper legislation empowers the Fair Work Commission (FWC) to deal with disputes about the operation of Pt 6-4C of the <i>Fair Work Act 2009</i> (Cth) that allows employers to give certain directions to employees in relation to the JobKeeper scheme. These provisions allow an employer who qualifies for the JobKeeper scheme to give an employee 3 kinds of directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a job keeper enabling stand down; • a direction to perform other duties; and • a direction to work at a different place. <p>On 27 April, the FWC released a JobKeeper disputes benchbook to assist employers and employees in resolving disputes relating to these directions. The benchbook includes a checklist for these JobKeeper directions.</p> <p>The FWC may deal with a dispute concerning these provisions, including by arbitration, mediation, conciliation, recommendations and opinions. In making an order that it considers desirable or appropriate, the FWC is required to consider “fairness between the parties concerned”.</p>	

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		<p>The types of disputes that may come before the FWC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether a JobKeeper enabling stand down is “because of” changes to business attributable to the pandemic or the Government’s response to it; • whether an employee “cannot be usefully employed for the employee’s normal days or hours”; • safety implications; • whether alternative duties are within an employee’s skills and the scope of the business; • the reasonableness of employee refusals to work different days or times, or to take annual leave; and • employer compliance with the consultation and notice requirements of a direction. <p>On 13 May, the Government introduced the Treasury Laws Amendment (2020 Measures No 2) Bill 2020 into Parliament, which among other things, amends the tax secrecy provisions in the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1953</i> to allow protected information relating to the JobKeeper scheme to be disclosed to the Fair Work Commission and the Fair Work Ombudsman for the purposes of the administration of the <i>Fair Work Act 2009</i>.</p> <p>On 26 August, the Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Jobkeeper Payments) Amendment Bill 2020 was introduced into Parliament, providing for the extension of the JobKeeper scheme from 28 September 2020 (see below). The Bill proposes to make further amendments to the <i>Fair Work Act 2009</i> (Cth), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating 2 broad categories of employers who can access particular Pt 6-4C flexibilities in certain circumstances from 28 September 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ employers who are eligible for JobKeeper payments after 28 September 2020 (“qualifying employers”), who will retain access to the full range of flexibility measures in Pt 6-4C in the extended period of operation of the provisions (except for the annual leave provisions being repealed on 28 September 2020); and ○ employers who received one or more JobKeeper payments in the period prior to 28 September 2020 but no longer qualify for a payment after 28 September 2020 (“legacy employers”), who will have access to modified flexibility measures from 28 September 2020, if they have a certificate stating they have experienced a 10% decline in turnover; and 	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> extending the operation of the otherwise temporary JobKeeper provisions in Pt 6-4C until 28 March 2021, in line with the extended end date of the JobKeeper scheme (see below). <p>The provisions in Pt 6-4C concerning annual leave will still be repealed at the start of 28 September 2020 (being the original repeal date).</p> <p>The Bill passed Parliament on 1 September.</p> <p>On 16 September, the Fair Work Ombudsman issued updated advice on legacy employers and the 10% decline in turnover certificate. On 18 September, the Fair Work Amendment (Jobkeeper Payments) Regulations 2020 were registered to provide clarity on the operation of the temporary flexibilities in certain circumstances.</p> <p>JobKeeper program review and extension</p> <p>On 3 June, it was announced that Treasury had commenced a review of the JobKeeper program.</p> <p>Following the review, on 21 July (as updated on 7 August) the Government announced changes to the JobKeeper scheme, which will extend the program by a further 6 months from 28 September 2020 until 28 March 2021. The new arrangements for the JobKeeper Payment are expected to cost an additional \$32.2 billion. The relevant legislation was introduced into Parliament on 26 August. The Bill passed Parliament on 1 September and the relevant amendments to the rules giving effect to the extension were registered on 15 September.</p> <p>The decline in turnover tests will be re-applied at various points of the extended program, which entities must meet to remain eligible. These tests will use actual GST turnover figures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to remain eligible for the program between 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021, entities must meet the relevant decline in GST turnover in the July to September 2020 quarter; and to remain eligible for the program between 4 January 2021 and 28 March 2021, entities must meet the relevant decline in GST turnover in the October to December 2020 quarter. <p>Similar to the existing rules, the relevant comparison period will generally be the corresponding quarters in 2019.</p> <p>Furthermore, the JobKeeper Payment will move to a two-tiered system, depending on the number of hours worked by an eligible employee in the pre-COVID-19 environment. The payment rates also differ between the extension period.</p> <p>From 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021, the payments will be:</p>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,200 per fortnight for employees who qualify for the higher rate; and • \$750 per fortnight for other employees. <p>From 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021, the payments will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000 per fortnight for employees who qualify for the higher rate; and • \$650 per fortnight for other employees. <p>The higher rate applies to an eligible employee if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the 28-day period concluding at the end of the employee's most recent pay cycle that ended prior to 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020, • the employee's total hours of work, paid leave and paid absence on public holidays in the individual's employment with that entity was 80 hours or more. <p>In determining which reference period is to be applied (either 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020), the one with the higher number of hours is to be used for a particular employee.</p> <p>Employers will still be required to pay eligible employees equal to, or greater than, the relevant amount of the JobKeeper Payment.</p> <p>In addition, from 3 August 2020, the relevant date of employment for an eligible employee moved from 1 March to 1 July 2020.</p>	
29 March	Foreign investment reviews	<p>Effective from the date of this announcement, all proposed foreign investments into Australia subject to the <i>Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975</i> will require approval, regardless of value or the nature of the foreign investor.</p> <p>The temporary change will be achieved by reducing to \$0 the monetary screening thresholds for all foreign investments.</p> <p>To ensure sufficient time for screening applications, the Foreign Investment Review Board will be working with existing and new applicants to extend timeframes for reviewing applications from 30 days to up to six months.</p>	<p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>FIRB - Q&A</p>
27 March	Expectations of energy companies	<p>As updated on 28 July.</p> <p>The Government has set reasonable expectations of energy companies to protect householders and small business customers during the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined by the Australian</p>	<p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Energy and</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Energy Regulator (AER).</p> <p>The AER's Statement of Expectations sets out a range measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waiving any disconnection, re-connection and/or contract break fees for small businesses which have gone into hibernation, along with daily supply charges to retailers, during any period of disconnection until at least 31 July 2020; • offering all households and small businesses who indicate they may be in financial stress a payment plan or hardship arrangement; • not disconnecting customers who may be in financial stress, without their agreement before 31 July 2020 and potentially beyond; • deferring referral of any customer to a debt collection agency for recovery actions, or credit default listing until at least 31 July 2020 and potentially beyond; and • minimising the frequency and duration of planned outages for critical works, and providing as much notice as possible to assist households and businesses to manage during any outage. <p>On 28 July, the Government outlined fresh measures that will require energy companies to provide extended relief to Australian households and small business customers experiencing financial hardship through COVID-19. Previously announced support measures, set to expire on 31 July 2020, will be extended through to 31 October 2020, and potentially beyond.</p> <p>Under the updated measures, energy companies should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue to offer all households and small businesses (including those eligible for the JobKeeper payment) in financial stress a payment plan or hardship arrangement, which may include agreeing a period where no payment will be made; • waive disconnection, re-connection and/or contract break fees, along with daily supply charges to retailers until at least 31 October 2020 for small businesses that have ceased operating; • not disconnect residential or small business customers in financial distress that have made contact with their retailer or responded to communications before 31 October 2020; and • defer referrals of a retailer's customers to debt collection agencies for recovery actions, or credit default listing until at least 31 October 2020. 	<p>Emissions Reduction - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
27 March	Support for Australia's defence industry	<p>As updated on 26 August and 2 October.</p> <p>The Government has fast-tracked payments to the defence industry to help mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This will mean some suppliers will receive payments up to 2 weeks earlier than usual.</p> <p>Additional measures in place include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accelerating payments to Australian suppliers by making payments as soon as possible after their invoice has been approved for payment by Defence, irrespective of the contracted payment terms; • reinforcing to strategic prime contractors the important role their Australian sub-contractors play in ensuring prompt payment across the supply chain; and • providing appropriate relief to contractors in circumstances of demonstrated adverse effects as a result of the COVID-19 crisis on the supply of labour, equipment, materials or services required to meet current contractual obligations. <p>Defence assistance also extends to the sizeable Defence estate with a continued focused on delivering capital facilities and infrastructure works across Australia to support existing and new capabilities.</p> <p>On 26 August, the Government announced a \$1 billion investment package to boost the defence industry and support thousands of jobs across the country. The package is directed towards nationwide projects and jobs across Australia including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing the employment of ADF Reservists who have lost their civilian income, with an allocation of up to an extra 210,000 days, and the targeted recruitment of an additional 500 ADF Reservists; • increasing employment opportunities for current and former ADF personnel and their families; • a \$300 million national estate works program that will focus on regional areas (including bushfire affected regions), such as Jervis Bay & Eden, RAAF Bases East Sale, Pearce, Wagga and Amberley, the Albury Wodonga Military Area and Blamey Barracks; • accelerating the sustainment of ADF platforms and capabilities, including the upgrade of Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles, modernisation of ADF uniforms, and additional C-27J maintenance, which will engage ex-Qantas and Virgin technicians; 	<p>Minister for Defence - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Defence Industry - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bringing forward around \$190 million of investment in approved infrastructure projects in the Northern Territory; increased funding for Defence innovation, industry grants, skilling, micro credentialing and cyber training for Defence industry; and accelerating important ADF capability development projects, targeting key manufacturing, construction and high-tech sectors. <p>The package is estimated to support around 4,000 jobs across Australia and help many small and medium sized businesses in the defence-industry supply chain.</p> <p>Defence will retain a great level of agility to phase and adjust expenditure of the initiatives to ensure they are affordable and remain suitable over the next 2 years.</p> <p>On 2 October, the Government announced that an extra \$24 million will be provided over the next 2 financial years to the Sovereign Industry Capability grants and industry support grants to help small and medium-sized businesses in the defence industry to access support quickly and more easily as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	
25 March	National COVID-19 Coordination Commission	<p>As updated on 3 and 21 April, 8 and 15 May, 27 July, and 1 October.</p> <p>The National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (NCCC) was announced. The NCCC will coordinate advice to the Australian Government on actions to anticipate and mitigate the economic and social effects of COVID-19. The NCCC will work cooperatively across private-to-private and public-to-private networks to unlock resources, break bottlenecks and fix problems.</p> <p>NCCC enquiries can be directed to: NCCCEnquiries@pmc.gov.au.</p> <p>The NCCC has most recently worked with manufacturers to ensure supply of essential products, and has established an Industrial Relations Working Group to help businesses keep their employees and customers safe through the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>On 8 May, the NCCC released an online planning tool to help business develop a plan to keep their workers, customers and the community safe as they reopen or increase their activities in the weeks and months ahead.</p> <p>On 15 May, the NCCC announced that it has established a not-for-profit working group to provide recommendations to lessen the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable people in society and the sector that supports them. The Charity, Philanthropy and Fundraising Advisory Group will be led by Chairperson Tony Stuart and supported by NCCC Commissioner</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>NCCC - media release</p> <p>NCCC - media release</p> <p>NCCC - media release</p> <p>NCCC - media release</p> <p>NCCC - media release</p> <p>NCCC - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Jane Halton and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gather information from the sector on the impact COVID-19 is having on vulnerable Australians, and advise on how responses by the sector, business, the community and governments could be better tailored to meet their needs; identify barriers to organisations continuing to deliver vital services to the community and working with the NCCC and governments to address these; investigate how vulnerable Australians can effectively participate in Australia's economic recovery efforts; and identify opportunities for not-for-profits to contribute to the Australian community during the COVID-19 crisis and in the vital rebuilding phase to follow. <p>On 27 July, the Government announced that the NCCC will move into a new mode, shifting its focus to concentrate on creating jobs and stimulating the economy. The Prime Minister has asked the Commission to concentrate its efforts and business expertise on providing advice on what more could be done to create as many jobs as quickly as possible to accelerate Australia's economic recovery.</p> <p>The Commission will also change its name to the National COVID-19 Commission (NCC) Advisory Board, to better reflect its new advisory role in providing a business perspective to Government on Australia's economic recovery.</p> <p>On 1 October, the NCC announced that it has compiled a business advice resource, which contains information from a number of government sources, including business.gov.au, the ATO, the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, and Indigenous Business Australia. The resource has practical information and advice on dealing with the impacts of COVID-19 at different stages of business, including coping, pivoting, growing, starting a business, and looking to exit and wind up operations.</p>	
24 March	Telecommunications facilities and towers	<p>As updated on 31 March.</p> <p>The Federal Government has implemented amendments to the Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 and amendments to the Telecommunications Code of Practice 2018 to allow carriers to deploy temporary facilities and temporary towers during emergencies.</p>	<p>Telecommunications Code of Practice (Temporary Facilities) Amendment Determination 2020</p> <p>Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) (Temporary Facilities)</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
			Amendment Determination 2020
23 March	Legislation – Medicare levy, child care, additional funding pools and stimulus payments flexibility	<p>The legislation implementing the Australian Government stimulus measures passed the Federal Parliament.</p> <p>The legislation also amended the Medicare levy and Medicare levy surcharge for low-income thresholds for the 2019-20 income year in line with movements in the CPI.</p> <p>Some flexibility was also provided for managing the impact of COVID-19, as well as future disasters, on families and on business continuity for child care services. These amendments will generally apply from the 2019-20 financial year.</p> <p>An additional \$40 billion was allocated to be used by the Treasurer as required in managing the effects of COVID-19. A further \$100m was appropriated to be used for the Australian Business Growth Fund, which is a joint initiative between the Government and financial institutions and aims to provide longer term equity funding to small and medium-sized enterprises.</p> <p>Amendments were made to give the Minister for Social Services the power to make changes to the stimulus payments, including rates, means testing, eligibility and residency requirements. This power will cease on 31 December 2020.</p> <p>The legislation received Royal Assent on 24 March 2020.</p>	Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus Act 2020 Boosting Cash Flow for Employers (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020 Guarantee of Lending to Small and Medium Enterprises (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020 Australian Business Growth Fund (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020 Assistance for Severely Affected Regions (Special Appropriation) (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020 Structured Finance Support (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020 Appropriation (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act (No. 1) 2019-2020

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
			Appropriation (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act (No. 2) 2019-2020 Coronavirus Stimulus Legislation Explanatory Memorandum
22 March	Regulatory changes regarding insolvency and bankruptcy	<p>As updated on 20 April, and 6 and 21 September.</p> <p>The Government is temporarily increasing the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and the time companies have to respond to statutory demands they receive. The threshold will be increased to \$20,000 and gives companies or individuals 6 months to respond.</p> <p>Temporary relief (for 6 months) will also be given to directors from any personal liability for trading while insolvent.</p> <p>The <i>Corporations Act</i> will be amended to provide temporary and targeted relief for companies to deal with unforeseen events that arise as a result of the Coronavirus. There will be a temporary 6-month power given to the Treasurer to deal with any regulatory issues under the <i>Corporations Act</i>, such as holding AGMs.</p> <p>On 20 April, ASIC cautioned that this relief does not extend to relief from statutory and common law directors' duties. These include the duty to act in the best interests of the company as a whole (which can involve directors taking into account the interests of stakeholders beyond shareholders including creditors when the company is in financial distress). These duties also involve the duty to act with care, diligence and good faith and not to use a director's position or information obtained as a director to gain an advantage or cause detriment to the company.</p> <p>On 6 September, the Government announced that it will continue to provide regulatory relief for businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19 by extending the temporary insolvency and bankruptcy protections until 31 December 2020. Regulations will be made to extend the temporary increase in the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and the time companies have to respond to statutory demands they receive. The changes will also extend the temporary relief for directors from any personal liability for trading while insolvent.</p> <p>The relevant regulations implementing the extension of the regulatory relief were registered on 21 September.</p>	Prime Minister of Australia - media release Australian Government - fact sheet ASIC - Commissioner statement Treasurer of Australia - media release KWM Insight

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
22 March	Bank loan guarantee for SMEs	<p>As updated on 17 April and 20 July.</p> <p>The Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme will be established which will support small and medium-sized enterprises to get access to working capital. Under the Scheme, the Government will guarantee 50% of new loans issued by eligible lenders to SMEs, supporting \$40 billion of lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (the guarantee will be up to \$20 billion). The loans will be up to \$250,000 for a term of up to 3 years, for businesses with a turnover of less than \$50 million. The loans will be unsecured, and no repayments will be required for the first 6 months. Eligible businesses should contact their bank to access these loans.</p> <p>On 17 April, APRA announced a new reporting standard to collect data from financial institutions taking part in the Scheme. Reporting standard ARS 920.0 <i>Australian Government Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Guarantee Scheme</i> must be completed weekly by all lenders that are approved under the Scheme. The new reporting standard will collect data on key metrics including the number of loans approved, number of loans impaired, and number of guarantee claims made and paid.</p> <p>On 20 July, the Government announced that it will extend the Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme which supports SMEs to get access to the funding they need to adapt and innovate during the COVID-19 crisis. The next phase of the Scheme will help businesses move out of hibernation, successfully adapt to the new COVID-safe economy and invest for the future.</p> <p>Key changes to the Scheme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extending the purpose of loans able to be provided beyond working capital, such that a wider range of investment can be funded; • permitting secured lending (excluding commercial or residential property); • increasing the maximum loan size to \$1 million per borrower; • increasing the maximum loan term to 5 years; and • allowing lenders the discretion to offer a repayment holiday period. <p>The initial phase of the Scheme remains available for new loans issued by eligible lenders until 30 September 2020. The second phase of the Scheme will start on 1 October 2020 and will be available until 30 June 2021.</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>APRA - media release</p> <p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p>
22 March	Superannuation withdrawals	As updated on 27 March, and 3, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 28 and 30 April, 4, 6 and 8 May, 17 June, 23	Prime Minister of Australia

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	and SMSF obligations	<p>July, 3 August, and 3 September.</p> <p>Individuals in financial stress will be able to access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020-21. The Government is also reducing superannuation minimum drawdown requirements for account-based pensions and similar products by 50% (down to 2%) for 2019-20 and 2020-21. Eligible individuals will be able to apply online through myGov for access of up to \$10,000 of their superannuation from 20 April 2020 (as at the end of 19 April 2020 there was a total of 975,300 registrations of interest). They will also be able to access up to a further \$10,000 from 1 July 2020 until 24 September 2020. On 23 July, the Government announced in its Economic and Fiscal Update that it is extending the application period for the measure from 24 September 2020 to 31 December 2020 to increase the scope for individuals who may still be financially impacted by COVID-19 to access the early release.</p> <p>Eligible individuals will not need to pay tax on amounts released. On 2 April, the ATO confirmed that the coronavirus amounts are not taken into account under any income or means tests. On 17 April, the ATO confirmed that only one application can be made in each period. This means that a member who requests an amount of less than \$10,000 in their application in either financial year cannot make a subsequent application in the same financial year, even if it is an application to release the difference between the originally requested amount and the \$10,000 limit.</p> <p>This will be available to those eligible for the coronavirus supplement (see below) as well as sole traders whose income or hours worked have fallen by 20% or more. Applications can be made online through a declaration to the ATO. The ATO confirmed on 27 March that these amounts will not be included in a person's assessable income. On 17 April, the ATO confirmed that eligible temporary residents can also apply to access up to \$10,000 of their super until 30 June 2020. Temporary residents can also apply for a departing Australia superannuation payment if they are leaving the country.</p> <p>For more information on the design and implementation of the COVID-19 early release of superannuation package for funds, follow this link and this link.</p> <p>On 16 April, APRA stated that it generally expects funds to make early release payments to members within 5 business days of receipt of a determination from the ATO.</p> <p>On 17 April, the ATO released discussion points from the Early Release of Superannuation Industry working group, regarding an update from AUSTRAC, security, fraud and the individual application process. The discussion points are available here and here. AUSTRAC has registered the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Rules Amendment Instrument 2020 (No 1) to provide a temporary exemption from the customer identification procedures for super funds making COVID-19 early release of super payments.</p>	<p>- media release</p> <p>ATO - new legislation</p> <p>ATO - early access to super information</p> <p>ATO - super drawdown information</p> <p>ATO - SMSF information</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - SMSFs</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - individuals</p> <p>ATO - early release of super progression</p> <p>ATO - early release of super design and implementation</p> <p>ATO - early release of super design and implementation information</p> <p>ATO - early release of super design and implementation further information</p> <p>ATO - early release of super design and implementation factsheet</p> <p>ATO - MATS and early release of super</p> <p>ATO - early release of</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>If funds wish to contact the ATO in relation to the early release of super, any queries should be directed to: FundCCRS@ato.gov.au.</p> <p>APRA is also launching a new data collection to assess the progress and impact of the early release of superannuation scheme. Registrable superannuation entity (RSE) licensees will be asked to complete and submit APRA's new Early Release Initiative (ERI) data collection form weekly until further notice. The first ERI data collection is due on 29 April 2020 for information as at 26 April 2020. The ERI reporting form will gather a range of information, including the number and value of early release benefits paid to superannuation members and the processing times of those payments.</p> <p>On 6 May, APRA announced that if a trustee makes a payment on the basis of a determination that is later revoked by the ATO, it would take the view that no breach of the payment standards in the SIS Act and Regulations will have occurred. However, where a trustee makes a payment after a determination has already been revoked by the ATO, APRA will not take any regulatory action for any breach of the payment standards in the SIS Act or the SIS Regulations in relation to that payment. AUSTRAC have also confirmed that where there was a valid determination at the time of payment, the exemption from the requirement for a fund to undertake their customer identification procedure in relation to the applicant continues to apply.</p> <p>Issues relating to SMSFs</p> <p>On 27 March, the ATO clarified that for SMSFs which own real property with tenants, the ATO's compliance approach is that for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years it will not take action where an SMSF gives a tenant – who is also a related party – a temporary rent reduction, waiver or deferral due to the effects of COVID-19. If the SMSF holds an interest in an interposed entity such as a non-g geared company or unit trust and that interposed entity leases property to a tenant, the ATO will not treat the investment in the interposed entity as an in-house asset for the current and future financial years as a result of a deferral of rent being provided to the tenant due to the financial effects of COVID-19. Where there are temporary changes to the terms of the lease agreement in response to COVID-19 it is important that the parties to the agreement document the changes and the reasons for the change. This could be by way of a minute or a renewed lease agreement or other contemporaneous documentation. On 28 April, the ATO provided guidance (at this link) to auditors in assessing the commerciality of the relief given and contraventions of superannuation laws. The ATO stated that it will not take compliance action, including imposing penalties or disqualifying trustees, for certain types of breaches at this time.</p> <p>The ATO further clarified on 27 March the applicability of the in-house asset restrictions for SMSFs with the effects of COVID-19 on the share market. If, at the end of a financial year, the level of in-house assets of a SMSF exceeds 5% of a fund's total assets, the trustees must prepare a written</p>	<p>super data file information</p> <p>ATO - registrations for early release of super</p> <p>ATO - funds contact</p> <p>APRA - FAQs</p> <p>APRA - ERI</p> <p>APRA - media release</p> <p>Treasury Laws Amendment (Release of Superannuation on Compassionate Grounds) Regulations 2020</p> <p>Treasury Laws Amendment (Release of Superannuation on Compassionate Grounds) Regulations (No. 2) 2020</p> <p>Treasury Laws Amendment (Release of Superannuation on Compassionate Grounds) Regulations (No. 3) 2020</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>plan to reduce the market ratio of in-house assets to 5% or below. This plan must be prepared before the end of the next following year of income. If an SMSF exceeds the 5% in-house asset threshold as at 30 June 2020, a plan must be prepared and implemented on or before 30 June 2021. However, the ATO will not undertake compliance activity if the rectification plan was unable to be executed because the market has not recovered or it was unnecessary to implement the plan as the market had recovered. On 8 May, the ATO further clarified that this compliance approach also applies where the SMSF exceeded the 5% in-house asset threshold as at 30 June 2019 but has been unable to rectify the breach by 30 June 2020. On 3 August, the ATO released draft ruling SPR 2020/D2, which proposes to provide an in-house asset exemption for an asset that is attributable to the deferral of rental income measures implemented to provide financial relief due to COVID-19. This will ensure that a deferral of rental income under a lease (on arm's length terms) amounting to a loan provided during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years does not result in an in-house asset or the SMSF losing its in-house asset exemption in a related party.</p> <p>On 3 April, the ATO clarified the position with regards to SMSFs and residency. An SMSF must be an Australian super fund to be a complying fund and receive concessional tax treatment. To be an Australian super fund an SMSF must meet certain residency conditions. If the individual trustees of an SMSF or directors of its corporate trustee are stranded overseas due to COVID-19, in the absence of any other changes in the SMSF or the trustees' circumstances affecting the other conditions, the ATO will not apply compliance resources to determine whether the SMSF meets the relevant residency conditions.</p> <p>On 9 April, the ATO clarified that when a fund receives a notification for a coronavirus early release of super, it is required to pay as soon as reasonably practicable. There may be occasions when a fund will need to contact the member to meet that obligation. In those scenarios, a fund is able to use the Provision of Details Service (PODS) to obtain current contact details for the member. However, trustees must maintain adequate records to show they have considered that their use of PODS complies with the scenarios that the ATO has advised are acceptable in this alert or in the terms and conditions of use. As the coronavirus early release of super measure is in place for a finite period (six months), the ATO will not be updating their website material or technical documentation on this matter. However, funds may rely on the advice in this alert.</p> <p>On 17 April, the ATO clarified the process for when a member of an SMSF want to apply for access to early release of their super:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the member can apply for release of their super under the COVID-19 early access arrangements through myGov; • the ATO will then issue them with a determination advising of their eligibility to withdraw 	

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		<p>an amount;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> when the trustee receives the determination from the member, it will be authorised to release the amount of super stated in the determination; if the current balance of the member's account is less than the amount approved in the determination, the trustee can release the lesser amount; and the amount is not subject to PAYG withholding and does not need to be reported on a PAYG payment summary. <p>The ATO also stated on 17 April in relation to SMSFs with compliant limited recourse borrowing arrangements (LRBAs) in place with related parties that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ATO understand that temporary repayment relief may be offered in relation to an existing LRBA between an SMSF and a related party due to the financial effects of COVID-19; if the repayment relief reflects similar terms to what commercial banks are currently offering for real estate investment loans as a result of COVID-19, the ATO will accept the parties are dealing at arm's length and the non-arm's length income provisions do not apply. For example, these terms currently include temporary repayment deferrals for most businesses of up to 6 months, with unpaid interest being capitalised on the loan; the parties to the arrangement must also document the change in terms to the loan agreement and the reasons why those terms have changed. It is also expected that there is evidence that interest continues to accrue on the loan and that the SMSF trustee will catch up any outstanding principal and interest repayments as soon as possible; and any further repayment relief needed due to the continued effects of COVID-19 should be reviewed at the end of the agreed deferral period and remain in line with what the commercial banks are offering at that time. <p>For members receiving an account-based pension from an SMSF, which has already paid the member more than the reduced minimum annual payment required for the 2019–20 financial year, the ATO has advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pension payments already received cannot be recategorised. Accordingly, payments made from an account-based pension in excess of the new reduced minimum annual payment required for the 2019–20 financial year are pension payments (that is, superannuation income stream benefits) for the year and not superannuation lump sums; 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if a member does not want to receive any further pension payments, they can cease being paid the pension for the remainder of the year (if this is communicated to the trustee). It is important that the SMSF trustee considers its trust deed and documents any changes and the reason for the change. This can be recorded in a minute or other contemporaneous document; • if a member is receiving multiple pensions from their SMSF or from other super funds, the reduced minimum annual payment can be used to calculate the minimum pension required to be paid for each eligible pension the member receives; • if a member has been paid more than the reduced minimum annual payment amount, the member can put the amount back into the SMSF as a superannuation contribution if they are eligible to make superannuation contributions, subject to any other rules or limits such as contributions caps; and • for SMSFs with considerable unrealised capital losses as a result of the recent downturn in the global economy, trustees cannot recalculate the pension based on a lower account balance of the fund at another point in time. <p>The reduction in the superannuation minimum annual payment requirements applies to market linked pensions. Market linked pensions have a minimum and maximum payment limit, and the actual pension payment drawn for the year must be within these limits. The minimum payment limit, which is normally 90% of the pension amount that is worked out under a formula, has been reduced to 45% for the 2019–20 and 2020–21 financial years as part of the government’s temporary reduction of superannuation minimum payment amounts.</p> <p>In relation to SMSFs selling assets of the fund at a loss, the ATO stated on 17 April that unrealised losses due to changes in the market value of investments are not deductible in calculating the SMSF’s net taxable income for the year. However, a realised capital loss incurred by the SMSF from the sale of one of its CGT assets can be offset against realised capital gains from other CGT assets in the current year. If the SMSF’s capital losses exceed its capital gains for the income year, this net capital loss cannot be deducted from the SMSF’s income, but it can be carried forward and applied against future capital gains. Losses incurred by the SMSF are not available to be deducted in its member’s own personal tax return.</p> <p>On 17 June, the ATO released an addendum to the auditor contravention reporting (ACR) instructions specific to the 2019–20 and 2020–21 financial years. Due to the financial impacts of COVID-19, SMSF trustees have found themselves having to provide or accept certain types of relief which may or may not give rise to contraventions under the superannuation laws. The</p>	

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		<p>addendum to the ACR instructions covers the following 5 areas of relief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing rental relief; • loan repayment relief; • in-house asset relief; • market valuations; and • early release of super on compassionate grounds due to COVID-19. <p>It provides guidance and examples on when contraventions will arise as a result of the relief. It also advises on which ones to report to the Commissioner in the ACR for the 2019–20 and 2020–21 financial years where the reporting criteria is met.</p>	
22 March	Workers, household and sole trader payments – JobSeeker payment	<p>As updated on 24, 27 and 30 March, 22 April, 31 May, 13 and 21 July, 2 August, and 18 September.</p> <p>The Government is temporarily expanding eligibility to income support payments and establishing a new, time-limited Coronavirus supplement to be paid at a rate of \$550 per fortnight. The Coronavirus supplement will be paid for the next 6 months. Eligible income support recipients will receive the full amount of the \$550 Coronavirus supplement on top of their payment each fortnight. This payment will also be available to sole traders who meet the income test. On 24 March, the Minister for Families and Social Services expanded the eligibility criteria for the fortnightly \$550 Coronavirus supplement to Australians receiving student support payments. The changes will benefit students who receive Youth Allowance (Student), AUSTUDY and ABSTUDY (Living Allowance). On 30 March, the income test for the JobSeeker payment, was broadened, meaning that a person’s partner could earn approximately \$79,762 a year before they were ineligible for the payment. Furthermore, the Government has suspended the mutual obligation requirement for the JobSeeker payment, meaning jobseekers will not be penalised for being unable to either attend, or report their attendance, at appointments or activities. Payments will be not be suspended and no compliance action will be taken.</p> <p>On 31 May, the Government announced that mutual obligation requirements for jobseekers will recommence, in a limited capacity, from 9 June 2020. From 9 June, jobseekers will be required to undertake at least 1 appointment with their employment services provider, which can be done online or over the phone. During the initial period following the reintroduction of mutual obligations, suspensions and financial penalties will not apply to jobseekers who do not meet this requirement. Special circumstances exemptions will continue to be available from Services Australia for job seekers who require them. Sole traders and those who are self-employed will continue to be</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p> <p>Social Security (Deming Threshold Rates) Determination 2020</p> <p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>exempted from requirements to allow them to work to re-establish their business.</p> <p>In addition to the \$750 stimulus payment announced on 12 March 2020, the Government will provide a further \$750 payment to social security and veteran income support recipients and eligible concession card holders, except for those who are receiving an income support payment that is eligible to receive the Coronavirus supplement. The second payment is expected to be made from 15 July 2020.</p> <p>On top of the measures announced earlier, deeming rates will be reduced by a further 0.25 percentage points to reflect the latest rate reductions by the RBA. As of 1 May 2020, the lower deeming rate will be 0.25 per cent and the upper deeming rate will be 2.25 per cent.</p> <p>On 22 April, the Government further announced that it is also bringing forward the Employment Fund credit to be available immediately, rather than after 13 weeks, which is currently the case. This change will apply to jobseekers who commence in jobactive from 4 May 2020. The Employment Fund can be used by employment service providers to purchase work-related items including licences, equipment, training or qualifications to ensure workers are prepared and able to take up critical roles in the economy.</p> <p>On 21 July, the Government announced that it will extend the payment period of the temporary Coronavirus supplement for those on income support from 25 September 2020 to 31 December 2020 to continue to provide elevated assistance while the economy is still in its early stages of recovery.</p> <p>The Coronavirus supplement will be extended at the rate of \$250 per fortnight. Both existing and new income support recipients will continue to be paid the supplement.</p> <p>From 25 September 2020, the assets test and the Liquid Assets Waiting Period will be reintroduced and the JobSeeker Payment partner income test will increase from 25 cents for every dollar of partner income earned over \$996 per fortnight to 27 cents for every dollar of partner income earned over \$1,165 per fortnight.</p> <p>The Government will also improve incentives to work by increasing the income free area for JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (Other) from \$106 per fortnight to \$300 per fortnight and will simplify the taper rate from a dual taper of 50 cents and 60 cents to a single taper of 60 cents. These changes will mean individuals will be able to earn up to \$300 per fortnight without foregoing any JobSeeker Payment or affecting their eligibility for the Coronavirus supplement.</p> <p>The expanded criteria for JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (Other) will continue to provide payment access for permanent employees who are stood down or lose their employment, sole traders, and the self-employed until 31 December 2020.</p>	<p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p> <p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p> <p>Social Security (Coronavirus Economic Response—2020 Measures No. 14) Determination 2020</p> <p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p>

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		<p>Reduced waiting times, including the Ordinary Waiting Period, Newly Arrived Resident's Waiting Period and the Seasonal Work Preclusion Period, will continue to be waived until 31 December 2020.</p> <p>A gradual reintroduction of mutual obligation requirements for jobseekers will also occur. From 4 August 2020, jobseekers will be expected to participate in appointments with providers, agree to a Job Plan, undertake a job search, and attend activities if it is safe to do so. If a jobseeker is unable to meet their requirements no payment suspensions or financial penalties will be applied. However, the Government expects job seekers who are in receipt of an income support payment to be willing to accept any offer of suitable paid work.</p> <p>From 4 August 2020, if a jobseeker refuses an offer of suitable employment – without a valid reason – they may have their payment cancelled, and may need to wait for 4 weeks before they can reapply for income support.</p> <p>Special circumstances exemptions will also continue to be available from Services Australia for jobseekers who require them. Sole traders and those who are self-employed will continue to be exempted from requirements to allow them to work to re-establish their business.</p> <p>On 2 August, the Government announced that its enhanced support and expanded access to Australia's social security system will continue to support Victorians as the State continues to grapple with COVID-19. Ordinarily to receive payments a person must be unemployed and be taking reasonable steps to obtain other suitable work and meet other participation requirements. These criteria have been relaxed to provide access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sole traders and the self-employed who continue to run their businesses; • people in quarantine or self-isolation as a result of advice from a health professional or a requirement by a government if they do not have employer paid leave or income protection insurance; and • people who have been stood down or have reduced hours or pay. <p>The Crisis Payment is also available to assist individuals who are in financial hardship as a result of being required to quarantine.</p> <p>The assets test and Liquid Asset Waiting Period will be waived until 24 September 2020 while the Ordinary Waiting Period, Seasonal Workers Preclusion Period and Newly Arrived Residents Waiting Period will be waived until 31 December 2020. Mutual obligations for Victorians will continue to be voluntary until further notice. Access to payments has been simplified with a temporary removal of the requirement to provide Services Australia with an Employment Separation</p>	

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		<p>Certificate, proof of rental arrangements and verification of relationship status at the time of making a claim. General eligibility requirements to access income support payments including the income test and residency requirements continue to apply.</p> <p>On 18 September, the Government announced that from 28 September jobseekers may be subject to income support payment suspensions or penalties if mutual obligation requirements are not met and there is no valid reason. The expanded mutual obligation requirements will apply to all jobseekers in jobactive, Online Employment Services, Disability Employment Services and participants in the ParentsNext program.</p> <p>For some jobseekers, who have been on income support for 12 months, Work for the Dole activities will also recommence where it is safe to do so, and all health and safety requirements are met.</p> <p>However, mutual obligation arrangements requirements will remain suspended in Victoria. Furthermore, individuals who only receive JobKeeper are not subject to mutual obligation requirements.</p>	
20 March	Federal and State budgets	<p>As updated on 12 May, 23 July and 11 September.</p> <p>The Federal budget has been delayed until 6 October. State and territory leaders have also agreed to delay their budgets until later this year.</p> <p>On 12 May, the Federal Treasurer outlined to Parliament the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>On 23 July, the Federal Treasurer gave an economic and fiscal update.</p>	<p>Treasurer of Australia - Ministerial Statement on the Economy</p> <p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>Treasurer of Australia - Economic and Fiscal Update</p> <p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p>
12 March	Instant asset write-off and depreciation deductions	<p>As updated on 8 April, and 3, 9 and 12 June.</p> <p>The instant asset write-off threshold will be increased from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expanded to include access for businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million). The instant write-off applies to new or second-hand assets first used or installed ready for use between 12 March 2020 and 30 June 2021. The threshold applies on a per asset basis, so eligible businesses may be able to immediately write-off multiple assets. On 9 June, the Treasurer announced that the \$150,000 write-off threshold will be extended until 31 December 2020.</p> <p>A 15-month investment incentive (through to 30 June 2021) will also be provided to support</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>ATO - new legislation</p> <p>Business.gov.au - instant asset write-off information</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>business investment by accelerating depreciation deductions. Businesses with a turnover of less than \$500m will be able to deduct an additional 50% of the cost of an eligible asset in the year of purchase. Existing depreciation rules will apply to the balance of the asset costs.</p> <p>For small businesses with an aggregated turnover of less than \$10 million, and which use the simplified depreciation rules, those assets over the instant asset threshold which are eligible for the accelerated depreciation are added to the general small business pool. These businesses can deduct an amount equal to 57.5% (rather than 15%) of the business portion of a new depreciating asset in the year it is added to the pool. In later years the asset will be depreciated as part of the general small business pool rules.</p> <p>Eligible assets are new assets that can be depreciated under Division 40 of the ITAA 97, being plant, equipment and specified intangibles (such as patents) that are acquired from 12 March 2020 and first used or installed by 30 June 2021. The depreciation does not apply to second-hand Division 40 assets, or buildings and other capital works depreciable under Division 43.</p> <p>These proposals apply from 12 March 2020.</p> <p>On 3 June, the ATO clarified how the new instant asset write-off applies to vehicles. The ATO stated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the instant asset write-off does not apply equally to all vehicles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the car limit of \$57,581 (for the 2019-20 financial year) applies to passenger vehicles (except motor cycles or similar vehicles), designed to carry a load less than 1 tonne and fewer than 9 passengers; ○ a taxpayer cannot claim the excess cost of the car under any other depreciation rules; ○ a taxpayer can claim less than the \$150,000 threshold for other vehicles (for example, trucks and machinery); and ○ the car limit does not apply to vehicles fitted out for use by people with a disability; • a taxpayer cannot claim the full cost of the car if they use it for business and private use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if the car is used for both business and private use, a taxpayer can only claim the business portion; and ○ the deduction is also limited to the business portion of the car limit (if it applies to the vehicle). For example, if the car is used 75% for business, the total amount 	<p>Australian Government - fact sheet</p> <p>ATO - instant asset write-off information</p> <p>ATO - accelerated deductions information</p> <p>ATO - instant asset write-off and the car limit</p> <p>Treasury Laws Amendment (2020 Measures No. 3) Bill 2020</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>that can be claimed is 75% of \$57,581; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a taxpayer cannot claim the increased instant asset write-off if the car has been ordered and paid for, but not received by 30 June 2020. The car must have first been used, or delivered ready for use, between 12 March 2020 and 30 June 2020. <p>Different eligibility criteria and thresholds apply to assets first used, or installed ready for use, prior to 12 March 2020.</p>	
12 March	Cash assistance payment for SMEs and NFPs	<p>As updated on 22 and 24 March, 20 and 23 April, and 12 and 18 June.</p> <p>Eligible small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profits (including charities) will receive a Boost Cash Flow for Employers payment of up to \$100,000. The payment will provide cash flow support to businesses with a turnover of less than \$50m that employ staff, between 1 January 2020 and 30 June 2020. There are special eligibility rules (which can be accessed here) for various types of organisations, including charities.</p> <p>The boost amount will be equal to 100% of the PAYG amounts withheld by the employer, from a minimum of \$10,000 up to \$50,000. The initial round will be made available from 28 April 2020. A second round will be made available from 28 July 2020 based on the same figures.</p> <p>On 24 March, the ATO confirmed that eligible payments include salary and wages, director fees, eligible retirement or termination payments, compensation payments and voluntary withholding from payments to contractors. On 12 June, the Government introduced amendments in the Treasury Laws Amendment (2020 Measures No. 3) Bill 2020 to clarify that eligible payments include those for which an amount must be paid to the Commissioner under the special obligations applying to certain personal service income payments in Division 13 of Schedule 1 to the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1953</i> (Cth). The Bill passed Parliament on 18 June.</p> <p>Eligible businesses that pay salary and wages but are not required to withhold PAYG amounts will also receive a minimum \$10,000 payment in each round.</p> <p>These payments are tax free and will be delivered as credits in the activity statement system. No new forms will be required; however, businesses will still need to lodge their usual Activity Statements and GST forms. Where the payment places the business in a refund position, the ATO will deliver the refund within 14 days.</p> <p>Quarterly lodgers will be eligible to receive the first payment for the quarters ending March 2020 and June 2020. Monthly lodgers will be eligible to receive the first payment for March – June 2020 lodgements, with the payment for March 2020 calculated at 300% of the total withholding.</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>ATO - new legislation</p> <p>ATO - business tax questions</p> <p>Business.gov.au - boosting cash flow information</p> <p>Australian Government - fact sheet</p> <p>ATO - boosting cash flow for employers information</p> <p>ATO - boosting cash flow for employers</p> <p>ATO - Assistant Commissioner - NFPs</p> <p>ATO - response for NFPs</p> <p>ATO - fraudulent arrangements</p> <p>ATO - schemes</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Quarterly lodgers will be eligible to receive the additional payment for the quarters ending June 2020 and September 2020. Monthly lodgers will be eligible to receive the additional payment for June 2020 – September 2020 lodgements.</p> <p>The ATO is closely monitoring fraudulent arrangements and schemes to artificially create or inflate entitlements.</p>	
12 March	Apprentice and trainee wage subsidy	<p>As updated on 5 April, 23 July, 21 September and 5 October.</p> <p>Small businesses will also receive support for paying the salaries of apprentices and trainees. Eligible employers (those with fewer than 20 full-time employees) can apply for a wage subsidy of 50% of the apprentice's or trainee's wage for up to 9 months from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020.</p> <p>Employers will be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$21,000 per eligible apprentice (\$7,000 per quarter). Employers can register for the subsidy from early April 2020, with the deadline for claims ending on 31 December 2020. Where a small business is not able to retain an apprentice, the subsidy will be available to a new employer that employs that apprentice.</p> <p>On 5 April, Treasury confirmed that eligible small businesses can receive the 50% wage subsidy for apprentices and trainees from 1 January to 31 March 2020, and the JobKeeper Payment. However, where small businesses receive the JobKeeper Payment, they are not eligible to receive the apprentice and trainee wage subsidy from 1 April 2020 onwards.</p> <p>On 23 July, the Government announced in its Economic and Fiscal Update, that the subsidy will be expanded to include medium-sized businesses (of less than 200 employees) from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021 for apprentices or trainees who have been in-training with the business as at 1 July 2020.</p> <p>On 21 September, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment registered a notice of a data matching program to acquire data from the ATO to support administration of the wage subsidy program. The data will include information about businesses currently employing apprentices, as well as information about apprentices contained in the Training and Youth Internet Management System and SmartForms completed by employers.</p> <p>On 5 October, the Government announced that it will invest an additional \$1.2 billion to support Australian businesses to employ 100,000 new apprentices or trainees as part of its COVID-19 economic recovery plan.</p> <p>Any businesses or Group Training Organisation that engages an Australian Apprentice on or after 5 October 2020 may be eligible for a subsidy of 50% of wages paid to an apprentice between 5</p>	<p>Business.gov.au - supporting apprentices and trainees information</p> <p>Treasury - JobKeeper payment FAQs</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>October 2020 and 30 September 2021, to a maximum of \$7,000 per quarter. The subsidy will apply to all businesses regardless of geographic location, occupation, industry or business size.</p> <p>This measure is intended to support 100,000 new apprentices across Australia, and is in addition to the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy.</p>	
12 March	Household stimulus payment	<p>A one-off \$750 stimulus payment will be made to pensioners, social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders. Payments will be made from 31 March 2020. The payment will be tax free and not count as income for Social Security, Farm Household Allowance and Veteran payments.</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>
12 March	Support for affected sectors (including regional airlines) – waiver of fees and charges, and additional support	<p>As updated on 23 and 28 March, 1, 9, 17, 23, 27 and 29 April, 6 and 12 May, 7, 10 and 15 June, 3 and 12 July, and 28 September.</p> <p>A \$1 billion Relief and Recovery Fund has been set aside as initial support to be provided for sectors, regions and communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the economic impacts of the coronavirus, including those heavily reliant on industries such as tourism, agriculture and education.</p> <p>The support will be provided through existing or newly established Government programs as soon as practicable. The Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment will work with affected industries and communities to develop recovery plans and measures.</p> <p>Airline funding</p> <p>In addition, the Government is assisting the airline industry by providing relief from a number of taxes and Government charges estimated to total up to \$715 million. On 28 March, the Government announced support to help maintain the regional air network with a \$198 million Regional Air Network Assistance Package. This package guarantees that core routes for domestic air freight will remain open and essential workers remain employed, while providing financial support for airlines servicing regional and remote locations. The Government also announced a further \$100 million to provide direct financial support to smaller regional airlines. Applications are open to apply for these measures and the Government has also updated its funding guidelines. On 17 April, the Government announced a further \$165 million to operate a minimum domestic airline network servicing critical metropolitan and regional routes in Australia as well as granting Sydney Airport approval to temporarily use its east-west runway to accommodate aircraft grounded as a consequence of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 7 June, the Government announced that its range of airline assistance outlined above will be</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Business.gov.au - assistance for affected industries information</p> <p>Treasury - support for business</p> <p>Australian Government - fact sheet</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Australian Government -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>extended until 31 December 2020.</p> <p>On 28 September, the Government announced that its support for the domestic aviation network (through the Domestic Aviation Network Support program) will be extended until 31 January 2021, and support for the regional aviation network (through the Regional Airline Network Support program) will be extended until 28 March 2021.</p> <p>Regional airports</p> <p>In addition to other support measures, on 15 June the Government announced that 60 regional airports will receive a share of \$41.2 million as part of the Regional Airports Program.</p> <p>The Program will include a \$100 million investment over 4 years from 2019-20 to 2022-23 to help owners of regional airports across Australia deliver safer runways, taxiways and other safety upgrades such as new fencing and safety equipment.</p> <p>Agricultural and fisheries sector</p> <p>On 1 April, the Government announced a \$110 million initiative (as part of the \$1 billion fund mentioned above) supporting the agricultural and fisheries sector by helping them export their high-quality produce into key overseas markets, with return flights bringing back vital medical supplies, medicines and equipment. The sort of products that may be eligible include seafood (including lobsters), premium red meat (including beef and pork), dairy (such as fresh milk and yoghurt) and horticulture (such as premium fruits and packaged salad or vegetables). The initiative will initially focus on the key markets of China, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the UAE. On 23 April, the Government announced that a new network of 15 air freight service providers and freight forwarders has been established to accelerate delivery of agricultural and fisheries exports into key overseas markets. In the first 3 weeks of its operation, over 560 Australian businesses have registered their interest in utilising this assistance and agreements for 55 freight flights have already been secured. For more information about this program, visit this link.</p> <p>In addition, around \$10 million in Australian Fisheries Management Authority levies will be waived for all Commonwealth fishers, ensuring they do not have to pay Commonwealth levies for the remainder of 2020.</p> <p>Exports</p> <p>On 27 April, it was further announced that the Government was injecting \$49.8 million in additional funding for the Export Market Development Grant program, providing for exporters to be reimbursed for the costs of marketing their products around the world. Businesses within the scheme who have spent their own money to market and grow Australian exports will receive more</p>	<p>fact sheet</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for the</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>of that money back, up to 50% of their total eligible marketing expenses.</p> <p>On 29 April, the Government appointed a Freight Controller, as part of the freight assistance mechanism. On the recommendation of the Freight Controller, Commonwealth funding will be used to secure airfreight capacity, for example by chartering dedicated flights to import essential medicines.</p> <p>On 3 July, it was announced that Australian exporters reliant on airfreight will continue to have access to key international export markets, with the Government committing to a \$240 million funding injection to help keep international freight routes and flights operating.</p> <p>Tourism sector</p> <p>As an initial measure, the Government has indicated that it will waive the fees and charges for tourism businesses that operate in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Commonwealth National Parks.</p> <p>On 6 May, the Government announced that tourism businesses operating in Commonwealth National Parks managed by Parks Australia will benefit from a financial relief package. The package will provide temporary relief from licence and permit charges for tourism businesses operating in Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks. Eligible businesses will be contacted directly by Parks Australia to facilitate the payments. The Government will also waive park entry fees for visitors through to 31 December 2020.</p> <p>On 12 May, the Government announced that an estimated \$3 million in further fee relief from the Minister for Environment's portfolio will be provided to local tourism businesses, as well as an additional \$2.6 million from the Relief and Recovery Fund to upgrade Reef HQ's tourism infrastructure.</p> <p>On 12 July, the Government announced \$233 million for certain Commonwealth National Parks for infrastructure upgrades in order to boost tourism. The funding is for Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Kakadu, Booderee on the NSW south coast, Christmas Island, and the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra, and will assist tourism businesses and the economy in these areas.</p> <p>Other support</p> <p>On 10 June, the Government announced funding of more than \$4.7 million to provide small regional businesses affected by COVID-19 with access to free and confidential financial counselling, through the Rural Financial Counselling Service. The funding is part of the Relief and Recovery Fund.</p>	<p>Environment - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release</p>

Health and Community Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
30 September	Additional protection for Victorian aged care services	<p>The Federal Government announced that it is extending testing and bolstering the supply of Personal Protection Equipment throughout residential aged care facilities across Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire to further suppress COVID-19 infection rates.</p> <p>To support the Victorian Government, capacity for asymptomatic testing of aged care workers will be extended and an additional 7 million P2/N95 respirator face masks will be provided.</p>	Minister for Health - media release
9 September	Protecting healthcare workers from COVID-19	<p>The Federal Government is implementing 3 new measures to provide increased protection to help reduce the number of healthcare workers being infected with COVID-19.</p> <p>Firstly, a new partnership has been established between the Infection Control Expert Group and the National COVID-19 Evidence Taskforce led by the Living Guidelines Consortium. This partnership will bring together Australia's leading infection control practitioners and senior healthcare workers to review the latest evidence on infection prevention and control during COVID-19. The partnership will contribute to national infection control guidance by providing consensus guidelines on specific infection control issues that have emerged.</p> <p>Secondly, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee has endorsed an expansion of national surveillance of healthcare worker infection to ensure a better understanding of COVID-19 among healthcare workers at the State and Territory level. This will provide more information on the type of healthcare workers who are becoming infected and enable State and Territory governments to target their investigations and interventions based on national-level data.</p> <p>Thirdly, the Federal Government has funded a new network of epidemiologists who will be available on request by State and Territory public health units to assist investigating healthcare worker outbreaks. They will also gather and analyse data on healthcare worker infection at a national level.</p>	Minister for Health - media release
13 August	Support for vulnerable children	<p>The Government will provide an additional \$5.2 million to help vulnerable and disadvantaged children during COVID-19. This will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$4.4 million to help Early Childhood Education and Care services to support children with trauma-related behaviours or mental health conditions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic; and \$860,000 to provide additional inclusion aids, such as mobility devices, specialised 	Minister for Education - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		inclusion toys, and communication tools to child care services through the Specialist Equipment Library.	
3 August	National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children	<p>The Commonwealth, State and Territory Community Services Ministers met to discuss the direction and focus of the successor plan to follow the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (National Framework) 2009-2020. The Ministers re-affirmed that the successor plan would aim to improve the safety of children, young people and families, particularly those at risk of harm.</p> <p>The Ministers agreed to extend the Fourth Action Plan of the National Framework (2018-2020) by 6 months to 30 June 2021, to finalise actions that are delayed due to COVID-19, and to better align with the commencement of the successor plan.</p>	Community Services Ministers' Meeting Communique
26 June	Localised health response framework	<p>National Cabinet agreed to a new plan for Australia's Public Health Capacity and COVID-19. Under the plan developed by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, 6 actions for State, Territory and Commonwealth governments will improve long term sustainability of the public health workforce for the remainder of COVID-19 and beyond by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening a formal surge plan for the public health response workforce and review the ongoing structure of the public health units; • progressing the national interoperable notifiable disease surveillance system project and prioritise appropriate interfaces; • establishing a national training program for surge workforce; • better supporting the Communicable Disease Network of Australia, including shared costs; • prioritising enhancing the public health physician workforce capacity; and • considering options for developing a formal public health workforce training program. 	Prime Minister of Australia - media release
15 June	PPE production	<p>The Government announced that it is strengthening Australia's sovereign capability to produce essential medical supplies, with support for innovative companies to manufacture the materials needed to make Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The Government will distribute funds as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kestrel Manufacturing will receive \$495,000 to assist in its production of filter materials used in both surgical and P2 masks; • Clerts Linen will receive \$213,000 to increase its capacity to fulfil ongoing orders for 	Minister for Industry, Science and Technology - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>disposable isolation gowns for both Australia and abroad;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nobody Denim will receive \$400,000 to install up to 20 new sewing machines to produce isolation gowns; and RRJ Engineering will receive \$392,000 to manufacture more plastic PPE components, including hand sanitiser bottles, closures and pumps. <p>This support will help Australia be more self-sufficient in a crisis, as well as create new export opportunities.</p> <p>An Australian Manufacturing Fund for PPE has also been established to stimulate business investment in new technologies and processes in the manufacturing sector, with a focus on securing Australia's sovereign capability.</p>	
30 May	Parliamentary inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence	<p>The Minister for Women and the Minister for Families and Social Services have proposed draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for an inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence.</p> <p>In the TOR presented to the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs, the Ministers have asked the inquiry to report on, among a range of other matters, the impact of COVID-19, including health requirements such as staying at home, on the prevalence of domestic violence and provision of support services</p> <p>The findings of the Committee will inform the work of the Women's Safety Council.</p>	Minister for Families and Social Services - media release
29 May	Public transport principles	<p>National Cabinet agreed that public transport services are the responsibility of the States and Territories, and that it was important to continue to work together to ensure services can continue to run as safely as possible for both the workforce and passengers.</p> <p>To support this effort, National Cabinet endorsed principles approved by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee which will help manage the health and safety of workers and passengers on public transport networks.</p> <p>The principles outline the responsibility passengers must take when traveling on public transport including not travelling when feeling unwell, maintaining physical distance from drivers and other passengers, and avoiding handling cash. Under the principles, public transport users are not required to wear masks but may do so on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>The principles should be considered alongside Work Health and Safety requirements, public health advice and other advice jurisdictions provide in relation to mass gatherings, including on public</p>	Prime Minister of Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>transport.</p> <p>National Cabinet agreed that the principles will be reviewed as governments progress through the three-step plan to take into account any emerging challenges or innovative solutions, or as interactions with international travel start to be considered.</p>	
29 May	Government hospitals agreement	<p>Public hospitals across the country will have record funding for the next 5 years after all States and Territories signed onto the Federal Government's new health reform agreement. This commitment ensures the Australian health system remains stable and nationally coordinated, particularly throughout this unprecedented time.</p> <p>Overall, the Commonwealth will invest an estimated \$131.4 billion in demand driven public hospital funding to improve health outcomes for all Australians and ensure the sustainability of the health system.</p> <p>The new 2020-25 National Health Reform Agreement provides an estimated \$31.4 billion in additional funding to public hospitals over 5 years from 2020-21. This is in addition to the over \$8 billion health investment by the Federal Government during the COVID-19 response.</p> <p>As part of the new agreement, the Federal Government has provided a funding guarantee to all States and Territories to ensure no jurisdiction is left worse off as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	Prime Minister of Australia - media release
27 May	Mental health training for medical students	<p>Medical students across Australia will soon receive basic mental health first aid training to ensure they can recognise and respond to the extra stresses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Government will provide \$690,000 to the Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand to support mental health first aid training for all medical students. The funding will provide first level mental health training through an online course specifically designed for medical students by Mental Health First Aid Australia.</p>	Minister of Health - media release
26 May	Support for young people leaving out-of-home care	<p>The Government is extending the Towards Independent Adulthood trial in Western Australia to help support young people scheduled to leave out-of-home care in coming months. Additional funding of \$720,000 to Wanslea Family Services will be provided to ensure the trial can continue until 31 March 2021 through the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>As part of an ongoing assessment, youth workers on the ground reported that the trial was demonstrating positive outcomes for young people in care across a range of crucial indicators including in education, housing and employment.</p>	Minister for Families and Social Services - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
25 May	Mental health research funding	<p>The Government announced that it will provide more than \$20 million in additional funding for research to improve mental health care and reduce suicide rates in Australia.</p> <p>The funding will be allocated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3 million for a new grants round under the \$125 million MRFF Million Minds Mission, for rapid research to improve the national mental health system response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications for grants of up to \$1 million will open on 1 June, with the research projects expected to deliver results within 12 to 18 months; • \$10.3 million to support 3 research projects to help reduce the rate of suicide in Australia; and • \$6.725 million to support research on the use of pharmacogenomics in providing more effective treatment options for Australians requiring medication for mental health challenges. 	Minister for Health - media release
17 May	Funding for volunteers	<p>The Government will provide \$9 million to local community groups and organisations to support the work of Australia's volunteers.</p> <p>The \$9 million funding will be shared across 2,698 organisations, with each organisation eligible for grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to help them continue delivering local volunteering support.</p> <p>In total, New South Wales community groups will receive \$2,909,455, Victoria \$2,381,770, Queensland \$1,778,170, Western Australia \$915,010, South Australia \$611,440, Tasmania \$312,350, ACT \$179,100 and the Northern Territory \$119,910.</p>	Minister for Families and Social Services - media release
15 May	Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Plan	<p>As updated on 9 and 17 June, and 2, 6, 17 and 28 August.</p> <p>National Cabinet endorsed the Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Plan developed by the National Mental Health Commission, in conjunction with teams from New South Wales and Victoria.</p> <p>The Plan acknowledges the significant impact that COVID-19 has had on the mental health and wellbeing of Australians, including mental health impacts from economic downturn through loss of income and job losses.</p> <p>The Plan has 3 core objectives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meet the mental health and wellbeing needs of all Australians to reduce the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the short and long term; 	Prime Minister of Australia - media release Minister for Health - media release Minister for Health - media release Minister for Health - media release Minister for Health - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> outline 7 key principles and 10 key priorities to inform the jurisdictions as they respond to the challenges of COVID-19 during the response and recovery from the pandemic; and define governance, coordination and implementation requirements across jurisdictions to facilitate informed planning and decision making. <p>The Federal Government will invest \$48.1 million in the Plan focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving data and research with more immediate monitoring and modelling of the mental health impact of COVID-19, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> boosting national capability in monitoring, anticipating and reacting to mental health impacts of the pandemic; expanding the national self-harm and suicide monitoring systems; and investment in the National Suicide Prevention Research Fund; supporting vulnerable groups, by supporting services accessible in homes, workplaces, aged care, schools and other community sites, with a specific focus on vulnerable groups such as aged care, carers and indigenous mental health support; and better coordination and communications – more connectivity through improved service linkage and coordination, including a national mental health communication campaign to manage anxiety and encourage mental wellbeing and systems to guide the onward care of people contacting federal digital and telephone support services by connecting them to appropriate local services that provide outreach care in the home. <p>On 9 June, the Government announced a further \$24 million to fund additional mental health care.</p> <p>On 17 June, the Government announced a further \$550,000 over 2 years to support children and young people who have a parent or guardian with a mental illness. The restrictions necessary to contain the COVID-19 pandemic have meant these children have faced greater caring responsibilities and may have had fewer opportunities to maintain their own mental wellbeing. The Satellite Foundation, in partnership with Emerging Minds, will receive the funding to boost its existing support, ensuring that young people have the skills, strategies, and confidence to manage the challenges they face and harness their full potential.</p> <p>On 2 August, the Government announced that it will provide 10 additional Medicare subsidised psychological therapy sessions (totalling \$7.3 million in additional support) for people subjected to further restrictions in areas impacted by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The additional sessions will allow people in eligible areas to continue to receive mental health care from</p>	<p>release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - press conference</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Deputy Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>their psychologist, psychiatrist, GP or other eligible allied health worker. The new items will apply to people subject to public health orders restricting their movement issued at any time from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021, and to people who are required to isolate or quarantine under public health orders. Patients will be required to have a Mental Health Treatment Plan and a review with their GP to access the additional sessions. This measure will commence on 7 August 2020 and be available until 31 March 2021.</p> <p>On 6 August, the Government announced further funding for mental health services in Victoria. The funding will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5 million to support Headspace; • \$2 million to support Kids Helpline; • \$2.5 million to support Lifeline; and • \$2.5 million to support BeyondBlue. <p>The Government is also providing an additional \$2.6 million to assist Victorians with severe mental illness whose access to psychosocial supports has been impacted by COVID-19. This funding will provide support to a vulnerable group of people, ensuring that they receive assistance in accessing day to day support, and in accessing more extensive support through the National Disability Insurance Scheme if necessary.</p> <p>On 17 August, the Government announced that it will provide an additional \$31.9 million to create 15 mental health clinics across Victoria and further enhance essential support during the COVID-19 pandemic. \$26.9 million of the new funding will establish 15 dedicated mental health clinics across Victoria, with 9 clinics in Greater Melbourne and 6 in regional Victoria.</p> <p>In addition to the clinics, \$5 million in funding will be provided to enhance digital and phone services for specific groups that are experiencing significant challenges during the additional restrictions. This includes those living with an eating disorder where physical isolation at home can greatly exacerbate their mental illness. The funding will ensure services such as the Eating Disorders National Support line, 1800 ED HOPE, have the capacity to provide the specialist support needed. An additional \$2 million will help evaluate the impact of this investment and target any emerging mental health needs.</p> <p>To assist co-ordination on the ground in Victoria, the Federal and Victorian Governments have agreed to establish a new Victorian Mental Health Taskforce to ensure the latest initiatives are implemented quickly.</p> <p>On 28 August, the Government announced that it will provide an additional \$3.1 million to expand</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>mental health and wellbeing services available through the Ahead for Business initiative to ensure small business owners and their staff can access support and resources.</p>	
6 May	COVID-19 relief funds	<p>The Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters declared the COVID-19 pandemic across Australia a disaster for the purpose of establishing Australian disaster relief funds as deductible gift recipients (DGRs), allowing these funds to receive tax deductible donations.</p> <p>This declaration will allow funds that are established for the relief of people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to receive tax-deductible donations, and greater assist their communities.</p> <p>Donations to Australian disaster relief funds, established to provide relief from the COVID-19 pandemic, will be tax deductible when made within 2 years of the day specified in this declaration as the first day of the event.</p> <p>Disaster relief funds will need to apply for formal endorsement as a DGR fund with the ATO. This requires charity registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). The ACNC and ATO are available to assist funds in this process. Organisations seeking to establish a DGR are encouraged to phone the ATO's Not-for-Profit advice line on 1300 130 248 between 8:00am and 6:00pm AEST, Monday to Friday, or emailing atoendorsements@ato.gov.au outside of these times.</p>	<p>Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters - media release</p> <p>ATO - support for NFPs</p>
6 May	Amendments to ancillary fund guidelines	<p>As updated on 11 June and 23 July.</p> <p>The Government has announced amendments to ancillary fund guidelines that will change the way they are administered during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>This change helps charities by creating an incentive for philanthropic funds to increase distributions to deductible gift recipients (DGRs) during this time.</p> <p>The announced amendments will provide a credit for ancillary funds that make a distribution to DGRs of at least 4 percentage points above the minimum distribution in 2019–20 and 2020–21. Private ancillary funds and public ancillary funds are required to distribute at least 5% and 4% of the market value of the fund's net assets, respectively.</p> <p>Ancillary funds will receive a credit of half of the total percentage points that exceed their minimum distributions for both financial years.</p> <p>Ancillary funds may use this credit to reduce their minimum annual distribution by up to 1 percentage point in 2021–22 and for each financial year until the credit is exhausted, without applying to the Commissioner of Taxation.</p>	<p>Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters - media release</p> <p>ATO - fundraising newsroom</p> <p>ATO - support for NFPs</p> <p>ATO - amended guidelines for ancillary funds</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 11 June, the Amendment Guidelines were registered, with effect from 12 June.</p> <p>On 23 July, it was announced that ancillary fund guidelines have been amended to encourage increased distributions to DGRs as a result of COVID-19. This change is designed to help charities at a time when they need it most. Ancillary funds that exceed their minimum annual distribution rate for the 2019–20 and 2020–21 financial years, by a total of 5 percentage points or more, will be eligible for a lower minimum annual distribution rate in future years.</p>	
29 April	COVID-19 testing	<p>In a partnership between the Australian Government, Minderoo Foundation and private pathology providers, Australia has secured an additional 10 million COVID-19 test kits and pathology equipment to be installed across the country.</p> <p>Over 500,000 COVID-19 tests have been completed to date. The addition of 10 million tests across the country between now and the end of the year equates to an almost 20 fold increase in testing.</p> <p>The Government will enter into supply contracts with private pathology providers, including Sonic Healthcare and Healus, for the 13 BGI and 14 Tecan laboratory systems to expand testing in every state and territory.</p>	Minister for Health - media release
24 April	Drug and alcohol services	<p>Online and phone support services for people experiencing drug and alcohol problems will receive an additional \$6 million from the Government during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In addition, the National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Australia will deliver a COVID-19 Alcohol and Pregnancy campaign addressing increased alcohol consumption leading to unplanned alcohol-exposed pregnancies during the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign will be implemented largely via social media and target women impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, particularly social isolation and quarantine.</p>	Minister for Health - media release
23 April	Critical Health Resource Information System	<p>The Government has funded and launched the Critical Health Resource Information System (CHRIS) that will operate in all public and private hospitals with Intensive Care Units (ICUs).</p> <p>This national system will make sure the relevant authorities know where available ICU beds are and that the equipment, including ventilators, the patient needs are in place and ready for a rapid response in the event of future COVID-19 outbreaks.</p> <p>CHRIS also incorporates paediatric critical care so babies and children will get the care they need, where and when they need it.</p>	Minister for Health - media release
17 April	Telecommunica-	The Government and the telecommunications industry have issued a joint statement outlining an	Minister for

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	ations hardship principles	<p>agreed set of principles to ensure all Australians can remain connected during this time. The principles are based on the hardship provisions for essential services agreed by National Cabinet.</p> <p>The principles provide a consistent baseline across industry that will help customers stay connected, including those who are experiencing hardship. The joint statement also prioritises the connection and restoration of services to vulnerable Australians, as well as premises where there is no other existing fixed or mobile service connected.</p>	Communications - media release
16 April	COVID-19 Rapid Response Group	<p>The Government has established a new Defence-led Rapid Response Group to help increase domestic stocks of invasive ventilators, as part of Australia's response to the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>The Response Group will do further work investigating how to upgrade non-invasive ventilators to work as invasive ventilators, as well as how to re-purpose other suitable medical machines to be used as invasive ventilators.</p> <p>The Response Group, led by Professor Tanya Monro, Chief Defence Scientist, consists of Commonwealth, State and Territory representatives, as well as key industry and university experts.</p>	Minister for Industry, Science and Technology - media release
15 April	Funding for respiratory clinics	<p>The Government is investing \$206.7 million to establish up to 100 respiratory clinics across Australia, including in rural and regional areas. Additionally, more than 160 fever clinics, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments are also in operation across Australia.</p>	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development - media release
14 April	COVID-19 research funding	<p>As updated on 12 August.</p> <p>The Government will provide a further \$3 million to support frontline health workers with training and information which will support the treatment of patients with coronavirus. The funding will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 million in funding from the Medical Research Future Fund to transform the treatment and management of patients with severe coronavirus; and • \$2 million in funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council to be provided to the Australian Partnership for Preparedness Research on Infectious Disease Emergencies, to understand the prevalence, improve diagnostic tests and develop innovative tools that limit transmission of coronavirus. <p>On 12 August, the Government announced that it will provide an additional \$7.58 million for Australian research into COVID-19. This will include new investment in cutting-edge technology,</p>	<p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>equipment and people to conduct research into Australia's response. The funding includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.5 million to Bioplatforms Australia to establish a new nucleic acid testing facility for fast-response COVID-19 analysis, to assist with overflow from public health laboratories; • \$1 million to Phenomics Australia to develop COVID-19 models to uncover the drivers of the virus in humans; and • \$1.2 million to Translating Health Discoveries to support an additional 5 full-time staff to work on COVID-19 projects. 	
11 April	Support for charities and community organisations	<p>As updated on 24 September.</p> <p>The Government is providing an immediate \$100 million funding injection to more than 300 charities and community organisations to support Australians in the wake of the COVID-19 economic downturn.</p> <p>A new National Coordination Group was also announced to help lead the response for emergency relief across Australia. The sector-led group will be charged with identifying issues at the local, state and national level and providing advice directly to the Minister for Social Services on how to meet emerging needs.</p> <p>On 24 September, the Government announced that it would be providing an additional \$4.22 million in emergency relief funding for providers in greater Melbourne to support increased demand. The service providers receiving additional funding are the Salvation Army (Victoria), Anglicare Victoria, Australian Multicultural Community Services, CatholicCare Victoria Tasmania, Community Information and Support Victoria, Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Limited and Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency Limited.</p> <p>In addition, the Government is providing almost \$30,000 to assist 2 providers in the Northern Territory deliver local emergency relief services.</p>	<p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p>
9 April	Funding for services that support vulnerable people (including NDIS)	<p>As updated on 27 April, 3 and 7 May, 12 June, 13 and 29 July, 11, 21 and 22 August, and 2 October.</p> <p>The Government announced more than \$154 million in additional support for Australians living with disability, experiencing domestic and family violence and families experience hardship amid the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>The funding includes financial assistance to NDIS providers to support retention of workers including advance payments, a 10% coronavirus loading on some supports, changes to</p>	<p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Government Services - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>cancellation policies and extending NDIS plans for up to 24 months.</p> <p>More than \$64 million will be used to extend about 3000 grant agreements currently administered by the Department of Social Services for essential services to 31 March 2021 which had been due to cease over the coming months. This includes grants for family and relationship services, mental health counselling for parents, services for families and children experiencing the impacts of alcohol and drug misuse, and technology to keep women experiencing domestic violence safe.</p> <p>On 27 April, the Government announced that for the next 5 months, eligible participants will be able to flexibly use existing NDIS plan funding to purchase low-cost Assistive Technology, including smart devices, to enable continued access to disability supports through telehealth and telepractice while physical distancing regulations are in place for the coronavirus pandemic. Also, to ensure all eligible Australians continue to be able to apply for access to the NDIS, downloadable Access Request and Supporting Evidence Forms are now available on the NDIS website.</p> <p>Furthermore, new support items for Supported Independent Living (SIL) providers are now available where a participant has been diagnosed with COVID-19, including higher intensity support and professional cleaning services. This is to ensure minimum service disruption and the continued delivery of services.</p> <p>On 3 May, the Government announced the <i>Help is Here</i> campaign to ensure people experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence know where to get help during the coronavirus pandemic. The campaign will include advertising across television, digital, social media, radio, magazines and newspapers as well as in shopping centres, hospitals and GP surgeries. The campaign will promote awareness of two national helplines - 1800RESPECT and MensLine Australia.</p> <p>On 7 May, the Government announced that No To Violence (the Men's Referral Service) would receive \$2.4 million to work with men who use violence and controlling behaviour, including expanding the service. The Salvation Army will also receive \$320,000 in additional funding under Keeping Women Safe in their Homes for its Safer in the Home program in response to an increase in demand for this service.</p> <p>On 12 June, the Government announced the first stages of a post-COVID NDIS, following a review of temporary measures to support participants and disability providers during the pandemic. As community restrictions have eased and Australia moves to a COVIDSafe environment, the NDIS will move to a post-pandemic phase from 1 July that includes the conclusion of some of the temporary measures. On recommendation from the review, the following will apply from 1 July 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> removal of temporary 10% price loading on certain core and capacity building supports; 	<p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Government Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Government Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Government Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Government Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Government Services - media release</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definition of cancellation period reduced from 10 days to levels under the previous policy; and • Medium Term Accommodation period returned to the original policy of 90 days (rolled back from 180 days). <p>Recovery of the advance payment to providers will commence on 1 October 2020, via 6 equal monthly instalments, so providers can plan their return to usual services well ahead of its commencement. Participant focused coronavirus response measures, including offering alternatives for face-to-face planning meetings to participants, plan extensions for up to 24 months following review and flexible use of funds to purchase low cost assistive technology, will remain in place until further reviews are completed.</p> <p>On 13 July, the Government announced a further \$3 million for counselling and support services that support women and, in particular, children who have or are experiencing family violence. The funding will be shared between 23 existing service providers located across every State and Territory with 93 locations nationwide.</p> <p>On 29 July, the Government announced that NDIS participants who rely on face-to-face supports and assistance with their daily living will be able to use an existing support item (Low Cost Disability-Related Health Consumables) to claim on the cost of personal protective equipment (PPE) for the times their worker is with them. In Victoria, NSW and Queensland, the ability to claim for the cost of PPE will be extended to providers allowing workers to continue delivering essential disability supports to NDIS participants. Participants living in their own home who test positive for COVID-19 and are required to self-isolate or quarantine will also now be able to claim for related cleaning costs.</p> <p>Existing measures that provide additional funding for providers of SIL where there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 will also be extended. SIL providers will now also be able to claim for higher intensity supports to cover situations where there is a potential COVID-19 positive case of a participant and they are required to self-isolate or quarantine.</p> <p>On 11 August, the Government announced additional temporary measures for NDIS participants and providers in Victoria to ensure continuity of services in a COVIDSafe setting. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the National Disability Insurance Agency creating a panel of 4 large experienced disability providers to offer additional workforce support for participants living in residential support settings. These providers are able to offer advice, support staff and isolation accommodation for smaller organisations to access due to the impact of COVID-19; • appointing Aspen Medical to provide a clinical first response for any identified outbreak, 	

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		<p>which will ensure that infection control procedures, PPE and nursing support is immediately in place for residents and workers; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> performing outreach calls to providers of residential support and ongoing communication with disability services sector and advocates to identify and resolve issues. <p>On 2 October, the Government announced that temporary measures introduced earlier this year to ensure NDIS participants continue to access their essential disability supports during the COVID-19 pandemic will be extended. The measures that will be extended nationally until February 2021 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eligible NDIS participants able to use plan funding to purchase low-cost Assistive Technology, including smart devices (up to \$1,500); greater plan flexibility to ensure access to supports; deep cleaning of residences in the event a support worker returns a positive COVID-19 test; additional support, including a deep cleaning service, for participants who test positive for COVID-19 or who are required to isolate who live in a Supported Independent Living setting; and in Victoria, the continuation of a clinical first response through Aspen Medical for any identified outbreak, which will ensure that infection control procedures, PPE and nursing support is in place for residents and workers, if needed. <p>Furthermore, in States most affected by COVID-19 outbreaks, funding of PPE for participants (up to \$50 a week) and workers will also continue, with the ability to claim PPE in Victoria until at least the end of November and in NSW until the end of October.</p>	
8 April	Support for senior Australians	<p>As updated on 24 and 29 April, 28 May, and 8 July.</p> <p>The Government has announced welfare checks for people who have suspended their home support packages, and a \$10 million funding injection for the Community Visitors Scheme for aged care.</p> <p>On 24 April, the Government further announced that free daytime webinars would be available to help improve the online skills of senior Australians as they increasingly turn to the internet to access online services and connect with loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hosted by professional eSafety Commissioner trainers, the courses will offer participants guidance to help</p>	<p>Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians - media release</p> <p>Minister for Communications - media release</p> <p>Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional</p>

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		<p>build basic online skills and confidence required to carry out video chats, telehealth, shopping and banking.</p> <p>Furthermore, a dedicated free call line to support the mental health of senior Australians, their families and carers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic has been established by the Government in conjunction with the Council on the Ageing Australia, National Seniors Australia, the Older Persons Advocacy Network and Dementia Australia. The phone line will be staffed with advisers who can offer practical help and advice. The support line number is 1800 171 866 and will operate weekdays, except public holidays, from 8.30am to 6pm.</p> <p>In addition, Government is helping more senior Australians access personal monitoring technology during self-isolation. Commonwealth Home Support Programme service providers are being given additional flexibility to fund monitoring services. This will include monitoring subscriptions for 1 year. Older Australians in receipt of home care packages will also be able to access the technology.</p> <p>On 29 April, the Government announced \$1 million in grants for community organisations to provide digital devices to older Australians through the Be Connected program. One-off payments of up to \$5000 would allow existing Be Connected Network Partners to purchase and loan digital devices and sim cards to Australians aged over 50 years. On 28 May, the Government announced that it had awarded the \$1 million in grants to 215 local community organisations.</p> <p>On 28 May, the Government also announced a new initiative to prevent loneliness and social isolation. Almost \$5 million will be used to significantly expand Friend Line, a national telephone support service for older Australians, to answer 60,000 calls a year, through to 30 June 2024. Friend Line (1800 4 CHATS) will expand to be available outside normal business hours between 10am to 8pm, 7 days a week.</p> <p>On 8 July, the Government announced a \$325.7 million investment in new home care packages for older Australia. This will support a further 6,105 home care packages.</p>	<p>Development - media release</p> <p>Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians - media release</p> <p>Minister for Communications - media release</p> <p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>
5 April	Supermarket delivery for vulnerable people	<p>Following close collaboration between the National Disability Insurance Agency and leading supermarkets, the new Priority Home Delivery Service will ease the stress for over 340,000 NDIS participants who are unable to do their shopping in their usual way.</p> <p>From 6 April, every NDIS participant will receive an individual code via SMS or email which will give them access to the priority delivery offer. Upon completing an online shopping order, participants will be prompted to enter their code when choosing the home delivery option.</p>	<p>Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Government Services - media release</p>

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4 April	Clinical management of patients funding	<p>The Government is investing \$1.5 million to support guidance for clinicians to ensure they are given the best possible advice on managing COVID-19 patients.</p> <p>The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce will receive \$1.5 million from the Medical Research Future Fund to deliver 'living guidelines' on the clinical management of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection across primary, acute and critical care settings.</p> <p>The Taskforce, which includes a large coalition of peak health professional bodies, has been convened by the Australian Living Evidence Consortium, led by Cochrane Australia based in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University.</p>	Minister for Health - media release
3 April	Plan for people with a disability	<p>As updated on 18 April.</p> <p>An advisory group has been established by the Government to guide development and implementation of a response plan focusing on the unique health needs of people with disability during the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>The advisory group, endorsed on 2 April by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, will develop and implement the Management and Operational Plan for People with Disability. The advisory group delivered the Plan on Thursday 9 April. The Plan addresses factors such as the reliance on close contact with carers and support workers, having a compromised immune system, and the presence of multiple underlying health conditions.</p> <p>The advisory group is chaired by a senior official from the Department of Health and includes experts from the disability sector, academia, clinical practice, nursing, Australian government officials, and state and territory government representatives.</p>	Minister for Health - media release Minister for Health - media release Management and Operational Plan for People with Disability
31 March	Meal delivery services	<p>Meals on Wheels and similar services will be reinforced and prioritised, as senior residents across the country are urged to follow COVID-19 restrictions and stay home.</p> <p>A \$59.3 million injection will ensure more prepared meals, food staples and essential daily items are delivered to those who need them most.</p> <p>\$50 million will fund 3.4 million meals for 41,000 people for six weeks. The remaining \$9.3 million will be used to buy 36,000 emergency food supplies boxes.</p>	Minister for Health - media release
31 March	Private and NFP hospitals	<p>The Government has partnered with the private hospital sector to guarantee the viability and capacity of the sector, in an agreement that will ensure over 30,000 hospital beds, and the sector's 105,000 workforce, is available alongside the public hospital sector.</p>	Minister for Health - media release

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		<p>The Commonwealth will offer agreements to all 657 private and not-for-profit hospitals to ensure their viability, in return for maintenance and capacity during the COVID-19 response.</p> <p>State and territory governments will also complete private hospital COVID-19 partnership agreements in the coming days.</p>	
31 March	Medicine access	<p>As updated on 30 June.</p> <p>The Government has approved a number of temporary changes to medicines regulation to ensure Australians can continue to access the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines they need, as the COVID-19 outbreak unfolds. New temporary measures will improve access to medicines, reduce the burden on GPs, and support social distancing and self-isolation.</p> <p>The measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continued dispensing arrangements for the ongoing supply PBS subsidised medicines without a prescription extended to 30 June 2020; • a home delivery service for PBS and Repatriation PBS medicines; • ongoing work with pharmacists, GPs and the States and Territories to allow medicine substitution by the pharmacist in the event of a shortage; and • restrictions on the quantity of medicines that can be purchased to prevent unnecessary medicine stockpiling. <p>On 30 June, the Government announced that it had extended the emergency measure for the dispensing of PBS medicines to 30 September 2020.</p>	<p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p>
30 March	Private health insurance rebate	<p>The Department of Health issued PHI 24/20 and repealed Circular PHI 7/20 (which had reduced private health insurance rebates from 1 April 2020).</p> <p>The new circular keeps the rebate adjustment factor for the 2020-21 period the same as those of 2019-20 period.</p>	<p>PHI 24/20 - Private Health Insurance Rebate Adjustment Factor Effective 1 April 2020</p>
29 March	Federal stimulus – Medicare, mental health, domestic violence,	<p>A \$1.1 billion package was announced which covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$669 million to expand Medicare-subsidised telehealth services for all Australians; • \$150 million to support Australians experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence; • \$74 million will be provided to support the mental health and wellbeing of all Australians; 	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>

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	homelessness	<p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$200 million to support charities and other community organisations which provide emergency and food relief as demand surges as a result of coronavirus. 	
25 March	Funding for training nurses	<p>The Government will provide funding for Registered Nurses (RNs) to undertake online education to enable them to re-enter the clinical workforce and assist with the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government will provide up to \$1 million to the Australian College of Nursing to provide an online refresher course with up to date information about acute nursing care, including latest evidence-based guidelines on COVID-19 infection control.</p> <p>On 2 April, the Government announced that it will fund up to 20,000 new online education places to enable RNs to develop knowledge enabling them to assist in the delivery of care in intensive care and high dependency units across Australia. The online training will allow experienced RNs to be used to maximum effect in the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Up to \$4.1 million will be provided to e-learning provider, Medcast to provide the critical care education program free of charge to participants.</p>	<p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p>
25 March	Cashless Debit Card participants	<p>As updated on 5 May.</p> <p>The Government announced a temporary pause on placing new participants on to the Cashless Debit Card in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>On 5 May, the Government announced that it is introducing contactless payments and a 1% interest rate on account balances for Cashless Debit Card trial participants, and is also extending the trial's existing sites until 31 December 2020.</p>	<p>Minister for Families and Social Services - media release</p>
23 March	Expansion of telehealth services and home delivery of medicines	<p>As updated on 8 and 20 April, 10 July, and 18 September.</p> <p>From 23 March, the Government will enable all vulnerable general practitioners and other vulnerable health professionals who are currently authorised to use telehealth item numbers, to use telehealth for all consultations with all their patients.</p> <p>This includes health care providers who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> aged at least 70 years old; Indigenous and aged at least 50 years old; pregnant; 	<p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a parent of a child under 12 months; • immune compromised; or • have a chronic medical condition that results in increased risk from coronavirus infection. <p>On 30 March, the Government announced that it is expanding Medicare-subsidised telehealth services for all Australians and providing extra incentives to general practitioners and other health practitioners. Services will include GP services and some consultation services provided by other medical specialists, nurse practitioners, mental health treatment, chronic disease management, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health assessments, services to people with eating disorders, pregnancy support counselling, services to patients in aged care facilities, children with autism, and after-hours consultations. These changes will commence from 8am Monday 30 March. On 20 April, it was announced a further 28 telehealth items for specialists and allied health professionals were added to the Medicare Benefits Schedule.</p> <p>To further compliment this measure, the Government announced on 8 April that Australians can have their PBS medicines delivered to their home from their community pharmacy of their choice through the Australian Government “COVID-19 Home Medicines Service”. There is no additional cost to have their medicines delivered to their home.</p> <p>On 10 July, the Government announced reforms to Medicare-subsidised telehealth services, introduced as a key part of the COVID-19 response, in order to promote patients receiving continuous care from their regular GP or medical practice. From 20 July, telehealth GP providers will be required to have an existing and continuous relationship with a patient in order to provide telehealth services. This will ensure patients continue to receive quality, ongoing care from a GP who knows their medical history and needs. A ‘relationship’ is defined as the patient having seen the same practitioner for a face-to-face service in the last 12 months, or having seen a doctor at the same practice for a face-to-face service during the same period. This new requirement will not apply to those living under Stage 3 restrictions in Victoria, people under the age of 12 months or people who are experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>On 18 September, the Government announced a further \$2 billion to extend a range of COVID-19 health measures for a further 6 months, to 31 March 2021, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare-subsidised telehealth and pathology services, GP-led respiratory clinics, home medicines delivery, and public and private hospital services; • Medicare-subsidised telehealth for general practitioner, nursing, midwifery, allied health and allied mental health services; 	<p>release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicare-subsidised pathology and testing at the point of care in 86 rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria; Medicare-subsidised COVID-19 tests; telehealth for essential specialist services, such as consultant physician, geriatrician, and neurosurgery services; and further investments in PPE. <p>Bulk billing will continue to be available and regular billing practices will apply to all of these services.</p>	
22 March	Indigenous Community Development Program	<p>From 23 March 2020, the following arrangements will apply to the Community Development Programme (CDP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requirements for CDP service providers to deliver services face-to-face will be removed; Work for the Dole and other activities delivered in group settings will be suspended; CDP Providers will be directed to refresh risk assessments for a range of activities, including work experience placements and a range of other activities. Activities will only be continued on a case-by-case basis, where appropriate and in line with advice from Health Authorities; and jobseekers engaged in online training or other online activities will have the flexibility to continue these activities on a voluntary basis with the support of their CDP service provider. <p>Jobseekers will be able to access services on a voluntary basis where it is considered safe to do so.</p> <p>The National Indigenous Australians Agency has instructed CDP service providers to not apply any jobseeker compliance action, such as financial penalties, while the biosecurity arrangements are in place. The Minister for Indigenous Australians has also put in place arrangements to lift any existing suspensions and penalties for CDP jobseekers.</p>	Minister for Indigenous Australians - media release
20 March	Aged care funding and	<p>As updated on 1 May, 6 and 30 June, 8, 16, 25 and 27 July, and 4, 7, 21 and 31 August.</p> <p>A \$444.6 million package was announced to support aged care facilities, in addition to \$100 million</p>	Prime Minister of Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	support	<p>for aged care workforce support.</p> <p>On 1 May, the National Cabinet endorsed the draft 'Code of Conduct on Pandemic Procedures' for residential aged care. The sector-led Code will encourage providers to act compassionately while balancing the challenges of COVID-19, taking into account the wishes of individual residents. This Code of Conduct will drive a more responsive and consistent approach to visitation and communication across residential aged care. It will also empower residents and their families to speak up and it will provide an agreed course of action to resolve complaints.</p> <p>Also on 1 May, the Government announced that residential aged care providers will benefit from an additional COVID-19 specific support package totalling \$205 million supporting targeted measures. The payment – to all Commonwealth funded residential aged care providers – will be linked to the number of residents being cared for by each facility, and is aimed at covering the additional costs of caring for the health and wellbeing of residents during the pandemic. The costs include additional staffing, training, supporting visitations and connections and the provision of personal protective equipment. Facilities outside major metropolitan areas will receive a 50% loading to cover the additional costs of providing care in these areas. Providers will receive around \$900 per resident in major metropolitan areas and around \$1,350 per resident in all other areas.</p> <p>On 6 June, the Government announced that the aged care support package included a retention bonus grant for direct care workers in residential and home care to support the continuity of the direct care workforce. The retention bonus will be paid by employers (aged care providers and agencies who provide aged care staff) to their eligible staff. Employers will apply and be funded to make the payment through a grant round opening in June 2020. A factsheet about the grant is available here. On 30 June, the Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Amendment (Aged Care Retention Bonus) Regulations 2020 were registered, which exempt an employer from being required to make superannuation contributions, or pay a superannuation guarantee charge, in respect of a payment made to an employee after 1 June 2020, that was funded as part of the grant.</p> <p>On 8 July, the Government agreed to extend the reporting period for the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety for a further 3.5 months due to the impact of COVID-19. The Commission will now deliver its final report by 26 February 2021.</p> <p>On 16 July, the Government announced that 5 new COVID-19 testing teams will be deployed to test staff and residents in residential aged care services located across metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire.</p> <p>On 25 July, the Government announced that it is establishing a Victorian Aged Care Response Centre to coordinate and expand resources to tackle the challenge of COVID-19 in age care services. The Victorian Aged Care Response Centre will bring together Commonwealth and State</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Australian Government, Department of Health - newsletter</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - press conference</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians - media release</p> <p>Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians - media release</p> <p>Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians - media release</p>

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		<p>government agencies at the State Control Centre in Melbourne in a co-ordinated effort to manage the impact of the pandemic across facilities. On 4 August, the Commissioner for Senior Victorians, Gerard Mansour, was appointed as an advisor to the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre. Mr Mansour will work alongside other advocacy groups, including Elder Rights Advocacy, the Victorian member of the Older Persons Advocacy Network and the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre to ensure families are kept informed about the welfare and care needs of their loved ones.</p> <p>On 27 July, it was announced that a federal emergency response centre has been established in relation to aged care. This centre brings together all of the key agencies involved in supporting the aged care sector at a state and federal level, and will be managed by the National Chief Nurse Alison McMillan. One of the key measures in the aged care sector currently being performed is transferring people who have contracted COVID-19 into hospital facilities, making use of the private hospitals agreement which was put in place some months ago.</p> <p>On 7 August, National Cabinet committed to further actions and an audit of State and Territory aged care emergency response capabilities. Over the coming period, joint Commonwealth-State plans will be developed that include 4 elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities such as face to face infection control training with aged care facilities even where there are no cases of COVID-19; • compulsory use of face masks, workforce controls and the use of private hospital resources that will be actioned in locations where there are active cases of COVID-19; • preparing for the establishment of Coordination centres (similar to the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre) including identifying key staff who will be deployed; and • an audit of State and Territory aged care emergency response capabilities. <p>On 21 August, the Government announced further aged care support programs in Victoria and across Australia with an additional \$171.5 million to support the new <i>Commonwealth, State and Territory Plan to Boost Aged Care Preparedness for a Rapid Emergency Response to COVID-19</i> agreed by all States and Territories at National Cabinet.</p> <p>The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more support for the Aged Care workforce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$81 million for additional surge workforce and increased training for aged care workers; ○ \$8.4 million for supplementary payments to include quarantine costs and 	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>interstate staff; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$50 million to account for additional demand for retention bonus measures (noting eligibility has not changed); • \$9.1 million for the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre, established with the Victorian Government, to boost their additional workforce while undergoing more training, providing a workforce that could quickly respond to outbreaks in other States; • \$12.5 million to support residents and their families with increased availability of grief and trauma support services to assist aged care residents and their families who have experienced a COVID-19 outbreak; • \$1.5 million to ensure appropriate and regular communication from Health Direct to families and loved ones of aged care residents impacted by COVID-19; and • \$9.1 million to support more compliance and quality checks on aged care providers by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, checking on preparations and responses to COVID-19 outbreaks. <p>To step up this engagement, National Cabinet has endorsed a plan to boost aged care preparedness for rapid emergency response to COVID-19. States and Territories each agreed a plan to set up aged care emergency response operations centres in their own jurisdiction, as needed. The operations centres will be formed by mutual agreement between the Commonwealth, States and Territories, which will fully integrated with public health and aged care emergency response arrangements.</p> <p>To support continued Commonwealth, State and Territory collaboration, a time-limited Australian Health Protection Principal Committee Aged Care Advisory Group will also be established, bringing together a broad range of critical expertise about the aged care sector, infection control and emergency preparedness.</p> <p>On 31 August, the Government announced the following additional funding for the aged care sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building on the \$205 million COVID-19 Support Payment provided to all residential Aged Care providers in June, a further \$245 million injection into all facilities (providers will receive around \$975 per resident in major metropolitan areas and around \$1,435 per resident in all other areas); • continuing the 30% increase in the viability supplement and the residential care homeless 	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>supplement for a further 6 months;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extending the Supporting Aged Care Workers in COVID-19 Grant to 12 weeks with a total of \$92.4 million available; providing a third Workforce Retention Payment based on employment at 30 November 2020, costing \$154.5 million; and expanding support for older Australians who temporarily relocate from residential Aged Care facilities to the community to live with their family due to concerns about COVID-19, with an additional \$71.4 million for the Community Home Support Programme. 	
20 March	Supermarkets Taskforce and Indigenous Food Security Working Group	<p>As updated on 8 and 21 April.</p> <p>A Supermarkets Taskforce has been established under the National Cabinet mechanism to work with all levels of government, industry and the community to ensure supermarkets can continue providing essential daily supplies and to rapidly resolve issues that may prevent this, such as trucking curfews, home delivery arrangements and workforce safety.</p> <p>To support this work, the National Indigenous Australians Agency has established a dedicated Food Security Working Group that is closely monitoring specific issues that are particular to regional and remote Australia. The Working Group is regularly conducting Round Tables with suppliers, retailers and government representatives to identify issues impacting Indigenous Australians.</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Indigenous Australians - media release</p> <p>Minister for Indigenous Australians - media release</p>
18 March	Human biosecurity emergency declaration	<p>As updated on 3 September.</p> <p>The Government announced a human biosecurity emergency period under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> (Cth). On 3 September, the emergency period was extended until 17 December 2020.</p> <p>The human biosecurity emergency declaration ensures the Government has the powers to take any necessary measures to prevent and control COVID-19 and protect the health of all Australians. These powers have been used on a limited basis on expert medical advice.</p> <p>There are currently 4 Determinations under section 477 of the Biosecurity Act which are in place to protect Australians during the COVID-19 pandemic, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restrictions on the entry of cruise ships into Australia; protections for the supply and sale of certain essential goods; 	<p>Minister for Health - media release</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> restrictions on overseas travel; and restrictions on retail stores at international airports. 	
11 March	Health package	<p>As updated on 21 and 25 March, 16 April, and 22 August.</p> <p>The Government unveiled a \$2.4 billion health package to protect all Australians from COVID-19. The package includes:</p> <p>Primary Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100 million to fund a new Medicare service for people in home isolation or quarantine, as a result coronavirus, to receive health consultations via the phone or video such as FaceTime or Skype; \$25 million to fund home medicines services which will enable patients to have their PBS prescriptions filled online or remotely, and have the medicines delivered to their home; to support GPs and pharmacies, fast tracking the rollout of electronic prescribing across Australia with funding of \$5 million; expanding the national triage phone line with an additional \$50.7 million in funding, operating 24/7 to provide advice to patients; \$206.7 million to fund up to 100 dedicated respiratory clinics, with the Primary Health Networks co-ordinating with the AMA, RACGP and states and territories to identify areas of need; \$58.7 million to support people living and working in remote locations, including the tools to proactively screen visitors and fly-in, fly-out workers, additional support to evacuate early cases if required, and mobile respiratory clinics to quickly respond to outbreaks where there is no hospital or available health service; and establishing a dedicated Medicare funded and bulk billed pathology test for COVID-19. Funding will also be provided for pathology testing to be conducted in aged care facilities. <p>Aged Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$101.2 million to educate and train aged care workers in infection control, and enable aged care providers to hire extra nurses and aged care workers for both residential and home care; 	<p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Indigenous Australians - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making available additional aged care staff for deployment to facilities as needed, where an urgent health response is required and to provide extra support for staff and training; and • providing additional funding to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission work with providers on improving infection control. <p>Hospitals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500 million in funding for the states and territories for COVID-19; • the Commonwealth will pay for half of all additional costs incurred by states and territories in diagnosing and treating patients with COVID-19, or suspected of having the disease, and efforts to minimise the spread of the disease. This will be provided on a 50-50 basis for state health COVID-19 activities both within and outside hospitals. The funding, beginning with an initial upfront payment of \$100 million, is in addition to the ongoing public hospitals funding to the states and territories. The funding will be uncapped and demand driven. <p>Further support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.1 billion to ensure patients and critical health care staff have face masks, and other protective equipment such as surgical gowns, goggles and hand sanitiser for health professionals; • the \$1.1 billion will also be used to purchase antibiotics and antivirals for the National Medical Stockpile; • \$30 million to fund infection control training and programs for health and aged care workers; and • on 21 March, the Government announced that it would invest more than \$2.6 million (as part of the \$2.4 billion health package) in diagnostics research at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, to tackle the evolving novel coronavirus health emergency. Four projects will be funded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the development of a new simpler Australian coronavirus pathology test that will address forecast extraction reagent supply issues through a technique that uses locally manufactured reagents and a different chemistry to current testing methodologies; ○ the development of new coronavirus testing protocols to enable more individuals 	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be tested simultaneously, while minimising the number of consumables used and maintain the current turnaround times; ○ the development of a deployment framework for newly approved coronavirus serology tests; and ○ post-market assessment of new coronavirus rapid screening tests to inform their best use; and • for remote Indigenous communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a \$57.8 million Remote Community Preparedness and Retrieval package. As part of the package, the Government is offering 45 flexible grants to help 110 remote communities across Australia protect themselves against COVID-19. These grants are to ensure remote Indigenous communities are prepared for an outbreak of COVID-19; ○ \$5.8 million to establish a rapid COVID-19 Remote Point of Care Testing Program for remote and rural communities; ○ \$52.8 million for early retrieval and evacuation of confirmed or suspect cases by the Royal Flying Doctors Service, mobile respiratory clinics and supplementary health services in remote locations; and ○ \$6.9 million to facilitate culturally safe access to COVID-19 testing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, through the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector (ACCHS). Furthermore, as part of the Government's GP Respiratory Clinic package, 23 ACCHSs will operate as respiratory clinics, with 14 of these in rural areas. 	
25 February	COVID-19 vaccine and treatment research	<p>As updated on 4 April, 5 May, 2, 4 and 5 June, 7, 11 and 18-20 August, and 3, 7, 21 and 23 September.</p> <p>Applications have opened for the Australian Government's \$2 million grant opportunity to support research into development a vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The grant opportunity is funded from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).</p> <p>The objective of this grant is to accelerate research into development of a safe, effective vaccine against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Given the rapidly evolving nature of the COVID-19 outbreak, applicants must propose research that will support the rapid development of a vaccine, including demonstration of partnerships that will provide access to critical resources</p>	<p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Industry, Science and Technology -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>necessary to complete the project.</p> <p>On 21 March, the Government announced that it would provide a further \$13 million to fast-track research into treatments for COVID-19. The funding aims to support rapid development of safe and effective treatment options for COVID-19, and will be awarded via two open competitive grant opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8 million to identify and develop antiviral therapies for people infected with COVID-19; and • \$5 million for clinical trials to better treat and manage COVID-19 patients with severe acute respiratory distress, which can be fatal. <p>The respiratory medicine grant opportunity will open on Monday 23 March 2020, and the antiviral grant opportunity will open on Wednesday 25 March 2020.</p> <p>On 4 April, the Government committed up to \$10 million to support the CSIRO in its upgrade of its high containment biosecurity research facility in Geelong. The facility has been renamed the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness to better reflect its national role in identifying, preventing and responding to the increasing threat of diseases, including those spreading from animals to humans.</p> <p>On 5 May, the Government announced that it is pledging \$352 million towards the global effort to find a COVID-19 vaccine. \$15 million will be used to help develop COVID-19 vaccines and diagnostics to be shared equally between the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics. \$337 million will fund COVID-19 research and development work on vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and respiratory medicine.</p> <p>On 2 June, the Government announced a further \$66 million to find a vaccine and treatments for COVID-19, as well as better preparing for future pandemics. The funding is available through the MRFF. There are 4 target areas of research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investing in a vaccine for COVID-19; • investing in antiviral therapies for COVID-19; • clinical trials of potential treatments for COVID-19; and • improving the health system's response to COVID-19 and future pandemics. <p>On 4 June, it was announced that research collaboration between Australia and India has been given a \$15 million boost with funding for new projects to advance COVID-19 research, in</p>	<p>media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - Video Message - Coronavirus Global Response International Pledging Event</p> <p>Minister for Industry, Science and Technology - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Industry, Science and Technology - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>extending the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) for another 4 years. There will be an opening of a special grants round under the AISRF for joint projects responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. These grants will bring together leading research institutions and industry in both Australia and India who are working on solutions such as vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. Applications close on 2 July 2020. Individual grants of \$300,000-\$600,000 will be available for Australian research organisations to undertake collaborative research projects over 12-18 months. The Indian Government will contribute a comparable amount to support the Indian partners on a matching effort basis.</p> <p>On 5 June, it was announced that a COVID-19 vaccine candidate led by The University of Queensland will be developed and manufactured in Australia.</p> <p>On 7 August, National Cabinet welcomed the Federal Government's <i>COVID-19 Vaccine and Treatment Strategic Approach</i> that provides a framework for securing early access to safe and effective vaccines and treatments. The strategic approach is focused around research and development, purchase and manufacturing, international partnerships, regulation and safety, an immunisation administration, and monitoring. On 18 August, the Government released the COVID-19 Vaccine and Treatment Strategy.</p> <p>The Federal Government is also undertaking an audit of Australia's COVID-19 vaccine and treatment manufacturing capability and capacity, building on the data from the Therapeutic Goods Authority and Defence Materials Technology Centre. The audit will assess current domestic industry capability and identify where opportunities exist to expand, modify or repurpose capability and capacity to support the manufacture, distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. Relevant supply chains and support for regulatory approvals for expanded or repurposed manufacturing may also be considered. The results of the audit will inform the Federal Government's consideration of how to maximise the Australian manufacturing industry's role in the supply of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. The Federal Government is well progressed in a number of areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advance purchase agreements to secure direct purchase of vaccine or treatment doses; • manufacturing agreements to establish arrangements to utilise and expand Australia's manufacturing capability and capacity; • international and multilateral agreements to support and facilitate access for Australia and its region; and • procurement contracts to facilitate the purchase of goods, materials or services necessary for the distribution or deployment of vaccines and treatments. 	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 11 August, the Government requested information to local manufacturers as part of its preparations to produce a future vaccine and treatments for COVID-19. Submissions received will be used to determine the extent to which the production and distribution can be supported locally once an effective candidate is found. Local manufacturers can find more details and learn how to make a submission here. The closing date for submissions is 20 August 2020.</p> <p>On 19 August, the Government confirmed that Australians will be among the first in the world to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, if it proves successful, through an agreement with UK-based drug company AstraZeneca. Under the deal, every Australian will be able to receive the University of Oxford COVID-19 vaccine for free, should trials prove successful, safe and effective.</p> <p>If the vaccine proves successful, Australia will manufacture and supply vaccines straight away onshore and make it free for all Australians. Becton Dickinson has been contracted to supply vital consumables, such as needles and syringes, to ensure that the vaccine doses can be delivered as soon as possible.</p> <p>Furthermore, it was announced that the COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments for Australia – Science and Industry Technical Advisory Group met for the first time. The advisory group is led by Professor Brendan Murphy, Secretary of the Department of Health, who has a leading role in managing the Government’s pandemic response. The group will also provide advice on implementing Australia’s <i>COVID-19 Vaccine and Treatment Strategy</i>.</p> <p>On 20 August, the Government is providing \$25 million for Australian health and medical researchers to find breakthroughs in preventing and treating COVID-19. The funding is for new COVID-19-specific clinical trials involving high quality research into the virus, and will be made available through the MRFF under the Clinical Trials Activity initiative. Applications for funding will close on 23 September 2020. Research will be conducted over 3 years and is expected to commence from early 2021.</p> <p>On 3 September, the Government announced that it has allocated \$10.4 million for 13 early stage biomedical projects through Biomedical Translation Bridge program, which forms part of the landmark Medical Research Future Fund. Five of them are COVID-19 research projects receiving \$4.1 million. A key project, conducted by the University of Melbourne, involves developing an innovative ventilated hood for patients in isolation. Other COVID-19 research projects include a vaccine candidate being developed in South Australia, a new treatment for respiratory complications of COVID-19, a preventive nasal spray, and a rapid response test to predict how severely the disease will progress.</p> <p>On 7 September, the Government announced that a free COVID-19 vaccine will be available progressively throughout 2021 in Australia, if promising trials prove successful, following a \$1.7</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>billion supply and production agreement between the Australian Government and pharmaceutical companies. Under the agreement, the University of Oxford/AstraZeneca and the University of Queensland/CSL will provide more than 84.8 million vaccine doses for the Australian population, almost entirely manufactured in Melbourne, with early access to 3.8 million doses of the University of Oxford vaccine in January and February 2021.</p> <p>On 21 September, the Government announced that it will invest almost \$6 million under the COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate Research Grant Opportunity towards the further development of 3 COVID-19 vaccines. Almost \$3 million has been granted to each of the University of Melbourne and University of Sydney to develop and test the vaccines.</p> <p>On 23 September, the Government announced that they have joined the COVAX facility, enabling the purchase of COVID-19 vaccine doses as they become available. The COVAX facility provides access to a large portfolio of COVID-19 vaccine candidates and manufacturers across the world. This agreement opens up additional supplies for Australia, from which vaccines for up to 50% of the population (under a two dose treatment requirement) could be acquired.</p> <p>Under the agreement, Australia will commit an initial \$123.2 million to be part of the purchasing mechanism of the facility. This means that Australia can receive offers to purchase vaccines when they become available. Purchases of vaccine doses will be negotiated as the potential vaccines are proven to meet safety and effectiveness standards. This investment is in addition to the agreements with Oxford University/AstraZeneca and University of Queensland/CSL for supply of vaccines, opening up additional supply options for Australia.</p>	

Childcare, Education and Training

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
30 September	Further support for higher education and VET	<p>The Federal Government will reduce certain fees and charges to students and educators to support the COVID-19 economic recovery.</p> <p>The Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> waive the Tuition Protection Levy for the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) and VET Student Loans (VSL) program at a cost to Government of \$6.3 million; invest \$6.3 million in funding to the Tuition Protection Service to ensure student protections are maintained; extend the FEE-HELP loan fee reprieve for private higher education students to 30 June 2021; and extend the VSL fee reprieve for students at VSL approved institutions until 30 June 2021. 	Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release
18 September	Boarding school students	National Cabinet agreed to a new Australian Health Protection Principal Committee Statement on Boarding Students and Students Living in Border Zones, which supports all jurisdictions adopting appropriate risk-based approaches to ensure boarding students can cross borders and safely return home to their families during school holidays.	Prime Minister of Australia - media release
27 July	Cyber security and digital skills training	<p>The Government has announced new, fast-tracked training qualifications for the information and communications technology sector. Responding to both COVID-19 and broader industry skills needs, these new skill sets will help address urgent skill needs in the areas of threat detection and prevention, cyber incident response, and cyber security governance.</p> <p>The new and updated training products were fast-tracked by skills ministers, as well as the Australian Industry and Skills Committee and its COVID-19 sub-committee, which was established to drive rapid and flexible development of vocational education and training products during the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>The updated qualifications and skill sets are at a Certificate III level to Advanced Diploma level.</p> <p>For more information about the training package is available at: https://www.aisc.net.au/content/communiques-and-training-package-updates.</p>	Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
1 July	University research funding working group	<p>A working group of university Vice Chancellors will provide advice to the Minister for Education about sustainable approaches to research funding for universities during COVID-19 and beyond.</p> <p>The working group will explore alternative models to university research funding and allocation that would operate in conjunction with the Government's degrees funding package detailed below.</p>	<p>Minister for Education - media release</p>
19 June	National Skills Commission	<p>As updated on 25 September.</p> <p>A vital element to the Government's JobMaker strategy has been locked in, with the <i>National Skills Commissioner Bill 2020</i> (Cth) passing through Parliament.</p> <p>The National Skills Commission will be a critical new part of Australia's economic infrastructure, providing expert advice and national leadership on the labour market, current and future skills needs, and workforce development issues.</p> <p>The new statutory Commissioner will advise on Australia's current, emerging, and future workforce needs, the development of efficient prices for vocational education and training (VET) courses and advise on the performance of the VET system. The Commission will help develop a deep understanding of labour market conditions in Australia and the emerging skills needs of Australian businesses.</p> <p>The Commission will formally commence on 1 July and will utilise the latest technology, expert analysis and undertake regular surveys of employers, to develop robust intelligence on Australia's labour market now and into the future.</p> <p>On 25 September, the Government announced that Mr Adam Boyton has been appointed as the National Skills Commissioner.</p>	<p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p> <p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p>
19 June	University degree and research funding	<p>As updated on 1, 2, 13 and 14 July, and 11, 25 and 26 August.</p> <p>University students who study in areas of expected employment growth in the recovery from COVID-19 will pay less for their degree as the Government incentivises students to make more job-relevant decisions about their education.</p> <p>The Government will provide an additional 39,000 university places by 2023 to meet the expected increase in demand because of COVID-19. The Government will also reform the higher education sector so that the student contribution and the Commonwealth contribution equals the cost of teaching that degree.</p> <p>The Government will incentivise students to make more job-relevant choices, that lead to more job-ready graduates, by reducing the student contribution in areas of expected employment growth and</p>	<p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>demand. Students will pay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46% less to study teaching, nursing, clinical psychology, English and languages; • 62% less to study agriculture and maths; and • 20% less to study health, architecture, environmental science, IT and engineering. <p>The Government will also provide \$900 million for a National Priorities and Industry Linkage Fund to incentivise universities to produce job-ready graduates that local industries and employers need. On 1 July, it was announced that a working group of university Vice Chancellors will help design the fund to enhance engagement between higher education and industry, with a strong focus on STEM industries. On 2 July, the Government announced \$25 million to fund 5 new Australian Research Council Industrial Transformation Research Hubs. The research hubs will foster strategic partnerships between university-based researchers and industry organisations, to find practical solutions to challenges facing Australian industry. On 14 July, the Government announced a further 5 Australian Research Council Training Centres that will share \$24 million in funding.</p> <p>The package will restructure higher education funding to better align the cost and revenue of a university degree, with around 60% of students seeing a reduction or no change in their student contribution. Course fees for current students will be grandfathered, with the new funding model applied to students who commence their studies from 2021.</p> <p>Additional Commonwealth Grant Scheme funding would be provided from 2021 to support growth in Commonwealth supported places at regional campuses and high growth metropolitan campuses.</p> <p>The Government is also providing an additional \$400 million to increase opportunities for regional, rural and remote students to get a world-class education and support regional university campuses.</p> <p>On 11 August, the Government released draft legislation to implement the job-ready graduates package of reforms to the higher education system for consultation. The exposure draft is available for public consultation here. A discussion paper and frequently asked questions about the Job-Ready Graduates package is also available here. Submissions were due by 5pm on 17 August 2020. The legislation was introduced into Parliament on 26 August.</p>	<p>media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p>
26 May	Skills development	<p>As part of the JobMaker plan, the Government will seek to improve the training and skills of employees.</p> <p>At a federal level, the Government will focus on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the complexity of a system that is clunky and unresponsive to skills demands, especially 	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - national address</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the lack of clear information about what those skills needs are, now and into the future to guide training and funding; ○ a funding system marred by inconsistencies and incoherence, with little accountability back to any results; ○ for prospective students, the large number of choices that they face for qualifications can be bewildering and overwhelming, compounded by a lack of visibility over the quality of training providers and the employment outcomes for those courses; and ○ the substantial variation in fees for students depending on which state they are in; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embarking on a series of Skills Organisation Pilots designed to give industry the opportunity to shape the training system to be more responsive to their skills needs and take responsibility for qualification development; • using the National Skills Commission to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ detailed labour market analysis, including an annual report each year setting out the skill needs of Australia, replacing those existing lists for apprenticeships and skilled migration; ○ a publication of closer to real time data on the labour market drawing on emerging data sets, such as single-touch payroll, to flag emerging skills shortages and other labour market trends and pressures; ○ analyses to assist students with their career and training choices via the National Careers Institute, by providing the most accurate and comprehensive data on where skills gaps and jobs are. <p>Information from the National Skills Commission will be publicly available and should inform government and private investment in the system, including VET subsidies and a new national skills funding agreement; and</p> • amending the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development between the states and the Commonwealth, focussing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ better linking funding to actual forward looking skills needs, based on what 	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>businesses need;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ simplifying the system, reducing distortions and achieving greater consistency between jurisdictions, and between VET and universities; ○ increasing funding and transparency and performance monitoring; and ○ better coordinating the subsidies, loans and other sources of funding. 	
21 May	Training for aged and disability support sectors	<p>Australia's aged care and disability support workforce is set to be reinforced with new training qualifications to help the sector meet the demand for skilled workers.</p> <p>A new, national skill set has been developed that will enable new workers to be rapidly deployed with the essential entry level skills they need to help boost the ranks of the care and support sectors. This new skill set will ensure the aged care and disability support workforce, who are facing unprecedented challenges, continue to be supported throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The <i>Entry into Care Roles</i> skills set will provide foundational knowledge and skills, including safe work practices and infection prevention procedures.</p>	<p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p>
14 May	Hygiene in schools	<p>The Government will provide an additional \$10 million to improve COVID-19 hygiene measures in non-government schools that plan to have 50% of their students back in the classroom by 1 June 2020. Schools can use the extra funding for soap, hand sanitiser or extra cleaning.</p>	<p>Minister for Education - media release</p>
4 May	COVID-19 safety course	<p>As updated on 16 May, and 2 and 15 July.</p> <p>The Government has announced the fast-tracking of a new national infection control skill set endorsed by all Council of Australian Government Skills Council Ministers.</p> <p>The infection control skill set will be delivered as a short course to quickly qualify Australians to effectively stop the spread of germs and disease in the workplace.</p> <p>The short course is the first of its kind as a national training product developed by the new Australian Industry Skills Emergency Response Sub-Committee in response to COVID-19. At as 15 July, more than 1 million people had completed the training module.</p> <p>A series of resources to support Registered Training Organisations to deliver the skill set have been developed.</p> <p>On 16 May, it was announced that the Federal Government and all State and Territory governments agreed to jointly invest in a \$80 million infection control training fund. The fund will</p>	<p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p> <p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p> <p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>support customer-facing businesses to train workers in how to minimise the risk of spread of COVID-19 and support them to re-open safely. The fund will enable the rollout of new infection control short courses, the first national training product developed by the new Australian Industry Skills Emergency Response Sub-Committee in response to COVID-19.</p> <p>Around 80,000 workers across industries including retail, food handling, and transport and logistics will pay no fee or a small fee for training previously only widely available in the health sector. Additional training will also be available to increase infection control skill levels in sectors such as aged and disability care.</p> <p>The training will be delivered through the State and Territory governments. On 2 July, it was announced that the short courses had been rolled out.</p>	
1 May	Medical students to assist the COVID-19 effort	<p>Medical students will be deployed to hospitals across the nation to support the fight against COVID-19.</p> <p>The Government has worked with the health sector and higher education sector to develop a set of national principles to guide clinical education during the pandemic. This will ensure medical students can gain the work experience necessary to graduate while also supporting the health sector's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>A new, paid medical assistant role will also be created to employ some of the 3,600 final-year medical students in health care roles.</p>	Minister for Education - media release
21 April	Childcare hotline	<p>The Government announced the launch of a new toll-free helpline to provide families with advice on services available in their local area, including centre-based day care, family day care, outside school hours care and vacation care.</p> <p>The helpline is run by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority, and is available from 9am to 5pm (AEST), Monday to Friday. The helpline number is 1800 291 041.</p>	Minister for Education - media release
23 April	Student visa changes	<p>As updated on 20 July.</p> <p>The Government is making changes to student visa work conditions to help boost frontline health efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>International students studying relevant medical courses will be exempt from the usual 40-hour per fortnight work limit, if they are working in support of coronavirus health efforts and at the direction of a relevant health authority. International students currently working for registered disability service</p>	<p>Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Government Services - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p>

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		<p>providers will also be exempt.</p> <p>The measures for the disability sector only apply to international students already in Australia and already employed.</p> <p>The measures for international students enrolled in medical university or vocational courses apply to students working under the direction of State or Territory authorities.</p> <p>On 20 July, the Government announced a number of changes to student visa arrangements to ensure Australia remains a priority destination for international students as the country emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>These visa changes will ensure international students are not worse off due to COVID-19 and that Australia remains competitive with other countries.</p> <p>The changes include the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government will recommence granting student visas in all locations lodged outside Australia. This means when borders re-open, students will already have visas and be able to make arrangements to travel. • International students will be able to lodge a further student visa application free of charge, if they are unable to complete their studies within their original visa validity due to COVID-19. • Current student visa holders studying online outside Australia due to COVID-19 will be able to use that study to count towards the Australian study requirement for a post-study work visa. • Graduates who held a student visa will be eligible to apply for a post-study work visa outside Australia if they are unable to return due to COVID-19. • Additional time will be given for applicants to provide English language results where COVID-19 has disrupted access to these services. 	
17 April	General research funding	<p>To minimise the financial impact of COVID-19 on higher education, the Government announced a further round of research funding. The Government is providing \$10.9 million for 25 new research projects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$392,445 to investigate why people do not save enough while working and spend more when they are retired. The outcomes will help improve financial capability of Australians 	Minister for Education - media release

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		<p>and improve communications from superannuation funds (University of Sydney);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$422,092 to improve the teaching of STEM subjects in schools through problem-based learning (Monash University); and <p>\$519,691 to develop new methods to discover gold-rich mineral deposits in Australia that will deliver more efficient operations and reduce the environmental impact (The University of Western Australia).</p>	
15 April	Online vocational education and training	<p>The Government has launched an improved and repurposed My Skills website which will now focus on online training for Australians looking to upskill during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Australians will now be able to search the increased online offerings of Registered Training Organisations and Vocational Education and Training options currently available to continue to train for the future.</p>	<p>Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business - media release</p>
12 April	Higher education courses and student fee relief	<p>As updated on 1 and 14 May, and 22 June.</p> <p>The Government will subsidise short, online courses from universities and private providers to help Australians retrain in certain fields. The courses will start at the beginning of May and initially will run for 6 months. The courses will generally be in the areas of nursing, teaching, health, IT and science. On 1 May, the Government announced that the applications for the courses had opened.</p> <p>There will also be a 6 month exemption from loan fees associated with FEE-HELP and VET Student Loans to encourage full-fee paying students to continue their studies despite these difficult times.</p> <p>On 14 May, the Government announced that it will provide \$7 million to heavily subsidise 1,015 places in courses covering teaching, agriculture, health, science, engineering, clinical psychology, information technology (IT) and languages. The courses will be offered by 18 higher education providers and the cost to students will range from \$1,250 to \$2,500, as part of a new Undergraduate Certificate offering. The Undergraduate Certificate has been developed in response to community and industry need as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 22 June, the Government announced a further \$4.3 million to build and run a one-stop-shop for microcredentials to help students identify educational opportunities. This marketplace builds on the short online courses in areas of skills shortage, and will provide a nationally consistent platform to compare course outcomes, duration, mode of delivery and credit point value.</p>	<p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
2 April	Childcare subsidy and assistance	<p>As updated on 10 and 27 April, 1 and 20 May, 8 and 30 June, 5 and 12 August, and 20 September.</p> <p>The Federal Government will pay 50% of the childcare sector's fee revenue, provided the services remain open and do not charge families for care. The payment will be calculated up to the existing hourly rate cap based on a point in time before parents began withdrawing children in large numbers. The payment will be paid in lieu of the Child Care and Additional Child Care Subsidy (CCS).</p> <p>The funding will apply from 6 April based on the number of children who were in care during the fortnight leading into 2 March, and the fee gap will be waived until the payment is made (backdated until 23 March). The payment will be made directly to the childcare centres. The system will be reviewed after one month, with an extension to be considered after three months.</p> <p>An additional \$453.2 million will also be paid to preschools in 2021.</p> <p>On 10 April, the Government announced that child care services can also apply for an exceptional circumstances Supplementary Relief Payment under the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package. The supplementary payments may be available to services experiencing the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of enrolments and attendances is significantly and demonstrably higher than in the reference period; and previous attendance levels remain or demand for care for children of essential workers and/or vulnerable and disadvantaged children is significantly higher. <p>On 27 April, Government announced that it will provide an additional \$27 million in grants of up to \$10,000 to child care services to ensure they can continue providing care to the children of essential workers. Furthermore, where services have increased demand and providers feel they cannot afford to meet it based on current levels of support, exceptional circumstances funding is also available. This means if a service has more children attending now than it had during the reference period it can apply to receive a higher payment from the Government.</p> <p>On 1 May, the Government announced that it had expanded the eligibility for additional supplementary payments for providers not eligible for JobKeeper Payments. These providers may include non-government schools, large charities and not-for-profit organisations. Furthermore, Family Day Care and In Home Care providers that are not eligible for JobKeeper and apply for an ABN by 1 June 2020 may be eligible.</p> <p>On 20 May, the Government announced an additional \$12.8 million in funding with:</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Minister for Education - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$12 million provided for child care services that have more than 30% of full-time equivalent staff ineligible for JobKeeper Payments; and • \$800,000 to increase the level of funding for in-home care providers. <p>On 8 June, the Government announced that the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package, introduced on 6 April, would be turned off on 12 July. From 13 July, the CCS will return, along with new transition measures. To ensure Government support is appropriately targeted, JobKeeper will cease from 20 July for employees of a CCS approved service and for sole traders operating a child care service.</p> <p>The Government will pay approximately \$2 billion in CCS in the June quarter to eligible families as part of the CCS. In addition, the Government will pay child care services a Transition Payment of 25% of their fee revenue during the relief package reference period (17 February to 1 March) from 13 July until 27 September. The last 2 payments scheduled for September will be brought forward to help with the transition and cash flow for service providers. This additional Transition Payment is expected to cost \$708 million. It also applies important conditions on child care providers. For the period of the transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • child care fees will be capped at the level of the reference period (17 February to 1 March); and • service providers will need to guarantee employment levels to protect staff who will move off the JobKeeper Payment. <p>The Government will also ease the activity test until 4 October to support eligible families whose employment has been impacted as a result of COVID-19. These families will receive up to 100 hours per fortnight of subsidised care during this period.</p> <p>On 30 June, the Government announced that families receiving the CCS will have until 31 March 2021 to submit their 2018-19 tax return for CCS purposes (although they will still be required to submit tax documents in accordance with the usual timeframes). This will ensure that families who have not submitted their 2018-19 tax return can continue to access subsidised care from 13 July.</p> <p>On 5 August, the Government announced childcare relief for thousands of Victorian families while ensuring services can remain viable and staff are retained during the Stage 4 lockdown. The Government will invest \$33 million so childcare services remain open for vulnerable families and permitted workers, while helping Victorian parents keep their child's enrolment while they must keep their child at home. This will mean that parents will not lose their child's place as long as they stay enrolled at the centre while their child is at home. Parents will not be required to pay a gap fee when their children are not attending and the government will continue to pay subsidies to childcare</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>facilities. Families in Stage Four lockdown will receive an additional 30 days, or 6 weeks, of allowable absences from childcare.</p> <p>The Government will also make direct payments to childcare centres so they stay operational and staff are kept with an employment guarantee, while remaining open for workers and vulnerable families. To further assist services to keep workers employed, the Government will provide \$16.3 million to fund a higher Transition Payment of 30% of pre-COVID revenue for Melbourne childcare services. The Government will also provide a further \$16 million to fund an additional top-up payment for eligible services that receive low CCS payments and are experiencing very low attendance.</p> <p>For regional Victoria, that is now under Stage 3 lockdown, the Government will provide an additional 30 absence days and extend the gap fee waiver and the Outside Hours School Care (OSHC) payment. The gap fee waiver for non-metropolitan Victorians will ensure that if a child is absent from care for COVID-related reasons, the childcare service can waive their gap fee. OSHC services, in regional Victoria, will be paid 15% of their revenue from 6 August, in addition to the 25% Transition Payment and the CCS.</p> <p>On 12 August, the Government announced that it has provided an additional \$6.1 million to support the viability of 84 child care services in regional, rural and remote communities.</p> <p>On 20 September, the Government announced that it will provide an additional \$305.6 million for families and child care providers to deliver fee relief and ensure the sector remains open to help drive the COVID-19 recovery. This Child Care Recovery Package includes additional and targeted support for Victorian providers in light of the second wave lockdown. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Recovery Payment of 25% of pre-COVID revenue to child care services in Victoria, until 31 January 2021. The Recovery Payment will start for Centre Based Day Care, Family Day Care and In Home Care on 28 September in Victoria. The 40% Recovery Payment for Outside School Hours Care will also start in Victoria when in-school teaching returns (anticipated to be mid to late October); • an extra payment of 15% of pre-COVID revenue for Victorian Outside School Hours Care services, increasing their total support payments to 40% of revenue; • a child care fee freeze for Victorian families until 31 January; • continuing the Employment Guarantee to ensure that Victorian providers receiving the recovery payment pass support payments on to educators and employees through wages and payments; and 	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">the relaxation of the activity test for Australian families whose activity level has been impacted by COVID-19 will be extended to 4 April 2021.	

Australian Taxation Office

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
22 September	Flexible lodgement support for Victorians	<p>The ATO has announced flexible lodgement support for Victorians. Eligible activity statements due to be lodged in August or September can be lodged late without incurring late lodgement penalties or affecting the lodgement record. This does not apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • instalment notices (Forms R, S, T and N); • large market clients; • significant global entities; • large withholders; or • large excise clients. <p>The ATO has stated that its Large Business specialists can consider requests for large entities not included in the flexible lodgement arrangement.</p> <p>GIC will continue to apply to any late payments. If there is concern that a taxpayer will not be able to pay on time, or has already missed a due date, the ATO should be contacted as early as possible to discuss the situation.</p> <p>It is important that taxpayers continue to lodge activity statements and tax returns where possible and meet as many of the upcoming obligations as they can.</p> <p>The ATO has stated that they are committed to providing taxpayers with the help to get through this difficult period and have a range of practical support options available. These can be accessed through Online services for agents.</p>	ATO - support for tax professionals
14 August	FBT and work cars	<p>The ATO has published a fact sheet to assist employers in determining if they have a fringe benefits tax (FBT) liability where cars are garaged at employees' homes because of COVID-19. The key points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBT obligations may be affected if employees have been garaging work cars at their homes due to the impacts of COVID-19; • where a car is not being driven at all, or is only being driven for maintenance purposes, the ATO will accept that employers are not holding the car for the purposes of providing fringe benefits. If employers elect to use the operating cost method, and maintain 	ATO - fact sheet ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - employers

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>appropriate records, they may not have an FBT liability for a car;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • certain kinds of cars may also be exempt from FBT even where they are garaged at employee homes; • if an exemption does not apply and a work car is garaged at an employee's home, it will be deemed to be available for private use and the employer may have an FBT liability; • employers can take into account the impact of COVID-19 on the business use of a car if it is being driven during the period it is garaged at home. This will require employers to maintain a logbook (or to have kept a logbook in any of the previous 4 years) which will enable them to calculate their FBT liability; • employers' logbook-keeping requirements will depend on whether they are already maintaining an existing logbook for the year; and • for any car fringe benefits calculated using the operating cost method, employers may adjust their business use estimates to reflect changes in employees' driving patterns due to COVID-19. 	
11 August	Trust liquidity issues due to COVID-19	<p>The ATO has provided guidance in relation to trustees experiencing liquidity issues, which may affect their ability to satisfy a beneficiary's entitlement, due to COVID-19. This may happen where financial institutions impose restrictions that affect the way a trustee can deal with its assets.</p> <p>Where a present entitlement arose before any effect of COVID-19, in circumstances that were not a reimbursement agreement, the ATO has stated that a trustee may need to make subsequent arrangements to meet the requirements of the financial institution. If that occurs, these arrangements will not invalidate that entitlement or cause section 100A of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> (Cth) to apply.</p> <p>For present entitlements conferred at the end of the last tax year, the law will apply based on the facts presented.</p> <p>The ATO will not undertake compliance action to consider the validity of an entitlement or the application of section 100A of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> (Cth) in circumstances where a trustee is affected by liquidity issues due to COVID-19 and unable to satisfy the entitlement.</p> <p>The ATO reminds trustees of the importance of complying with the terms of their trust deeds. For cases under review, the ATO will continue to apply the law.</p> <p>This compliance approach is intended to provide relief and certainty to trustees and associated</p>	<p>ATO - trust liquidity issues due to COVID-19</p>

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		private groups who experience genuine liquidity difficulties as a result of COVID-19. The ATO will monitor behaviour to ensure this approach works as intended.	
7 August	Tax treatment for government COVID relief measures	<p>The ATO has provided guidance as to the tax treatment of various government grants and payments during COVID-19.</p> <p>In terms of Federal government measures, the guidance covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the JobKeeper payment; • boosting cash flow payment; • early release of superannuation; and • employment payments for those who have been forced to take leave, stood down or lost their job. <p>In terms of State and Territory government measures, the guidance covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • payroll tax relief; • payments to support business; • electricity rebates; • land tax relief; and • rent relief. 	ATO - Government grants and payments during COVID-19
6 August	Government payments and mutuality for NFPs	<p>As updated on 28 September.</p> <p>The ATO has provided guidance for not-for-profit (NFP) organisations in applying the mutuality principle in the context of receiving COVID-19 government stimulus payments.</p> <p>As a result of COVID-19, many taxable NFP organisations (for example, clubs, societies and associations) applying the mutuality principle to revenue from members have experienced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a rapid decline in revenue from members; and • an increase in assessable income through receiving the JobKeeper payment that has helped them to pay the salary and wages of employees. <p>If a taxable NFP has experienced an increase in assessable income through receiving JobKeeper</p>	ATO - support for NFPs

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>payments, they will need to separate their apportionable expenses (such as employees' salary and wages) into member and non-member amounts when calculating their taxable income.</p> <p>While receiving JobKeeper payments for employees, NFPs can adopt an apportionment method that determines the deductible component of salary and wages by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • including an amount equal to the JobKeeper payments received for each of their eligible employees; and • applying their usual non-member percentage to the amount of any remaining salary and wages in excess of the JobKeeper payments. <p>On 28 September, the ATO stated that if NFPs use surveys to determine visitor and member attendance, for calculating non-member percentage using the Waratahs formula, it recommends conducting a minimum of 2 one-week surveys each year. NFPs should conduct surveys during periods that are likely to be representative of average trading periods.</p> <p>However, if NFPs have not conducted surveys during those periods due to closures or other limitations resulting from COVID-19, they may choose another basis. The chosen basis should reasonably and accurately reflect visitor and member attendance in the relevant income year. It could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using one survey from the relevant income year for one of those periods, and one survey from the previous income year. The survey from the previous income year will cover the period that no survey was conducted in the relevant income year due to COVID-19 related closures or other limitations; or • using two surveys from the previous year if no survey was conducted during those periods in the relevant income year due to closures or other limitations. <p>The ATO has suggested that NFPs should keep accurate records that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflect how they calculated their revenue and expenses; • support their decision in choosing the basis for their non-member percentage; and • reflect how they determined the deductible component of their expense items. 	
4 August	Loans put on hold during COVID-19	<p>The ATO has clarified its position on loans that have been put on hold during COVID-19.</p> <p>The ATO considers a debt to be forgiven for tax purposes if, generally:</p>	<p>ATO - loans put on hold during COVID-19</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the debtor is somehow relieved from the legal obligation to repay it; or there is evidence that the creditor will not insist on repayment or rely on the obligation for repayment. <p>If a creditor only postpones an amount payable and the debtor acknowledges the debt, a debt is not considered forgiven. This is unless there is evidence that the creditor will no longer rely on the obligation for repayment.</p> <p>If a private company forgives a debt, it is considered a deemed dividend under Division 7A. A debt is forgiven if a reasonable person would conclude a creditor will not insist on payment or rely on the borrower's obligation to pay. Without more, allowing more time to repay a debt due to COVID-19 will not result in the debt being treated as forgiven.</p>	
3 August	NFP viability	<p>The ATO has provided guidance to the NFP sector in terms of assessing their viability at this difficult time.</p> <p>Defining viability</p> <p>Viability is defined as the ability to survive. In a business sense, that ability to survive is ultimately linked to financial performance and position.</p> <p>A business is viable where either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it is returning a profit that is sufficient to provide a return to the business owner while also meeting its commitments to business creditors; or it has sufficient cash resources to sustain itself through a period when it is not returning a profit. <p>While NFPs do not operate for the financial benefit of their members or to return a profit, they do have obligations which can include employer obligations and service obligations. For this reason, viability is important.</p> <p>Assessing viability</p> <p>Many NFPs are driven by passion, commitment and drive which can sometimes cloud the true viability of their organisation's operations. Stepping back and looking at operating models objectively has its advantages and can sometimes lead to creative solutions.</p> <p>The ATO has developed a business viability assessment tool, which considers a range of information that is linked to the financial performance and position of a business. This includes the</p>	ATO - NFP support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>organisation's ability to pay its outstanding debts, while meeting its ongoing commitments to creditors. Some questions focus on how a business is being managed and whether a business plan is in place.</p> <p>The tool is designed to provide an overview of business viability and does not constitute a comprehensive business analysis. Seeking advice at the earliest opportunity helps to ensure an NFP organisation addresses financial issues before they escalate or become unmanageable.</p>	
30 June	Tax toolkit for small businesses	<p>The ATO has released a tax time toolkit designed to help small businesses and their tax advisers. The toolkit packages up a series of easy-to-understand fact sheets on topics that small businesses need to know this tax time, especially given the tax implications of COVID-19.</p> <p>The toolkit includes a set of fact sheets on a range of tax time topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • home-based business expenses – if deductions are being claimed by a business owner for the costs of using their home as their main place of business; • pausing or permanently closing your business – if a taxpayer has had to pause or permanently close their business due to COVID-19; • motor vehicle expenses – for claiming a deduction for motor vehicle expenses for a business; • travel expenses – for claiming a deduction for expenses incurred when travelling for a business; and • using the company's money or assets – for a director or shareholder of a company that operates a small business, and who takes money out of the company or uses its assets. <p>The toolkit can be accessed here.</p>	ATO - tax toolkit
26 June	Extension of time for yearly repayments for Division 7A loans	<p>When there is a complying loan agreement between a private company (and certain interposed entities) and a borrower under section 109N of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> (Cth), the borrower must make the minimum yearly repayment (MYR) by the end of the private company's income year. This avoids the borrower being considered to have received an unfranked dividend, generally equal to the amount of any MYR shortfall.</p> <p>As a result of COVID-19, the ATO has announced that it will allow an extension of the repayment period for those borrowers who are unable to make their MYR by the end of the lender's 2019-20 income year (generally 30 June) under section 109RD.</p>	<p>ATO - extension of time for yearly repayments for Division 7A loans</p> <p>ATO - Division 7A administrative relief for minimum yearly repayments</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Borrowers can request the extension by completing a streamlined online application. Once the ATO approves the extension application, the taxpayer must pay the MYR shortfall by 30 June 2021.</p> <p>The ATO has warned that the extension for the time for payment of the shortfall does not alter or amend the loan agreement that a taxpayer has with the lender. This includes penalty interest remedies for default under the loan.</p> <p>Taxpayers can also apply outside the streamlined process above for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an extension of time under section 109RD to pay the MYR shortfall after 30 June 2021; • a change to a condition in a decision under section 109RB; or • the dividend the company would be taken to pay as a result of the MYR shortfall to be disregarded where the dividend would cause undue hardship. 	
25 June	Guidance for rental property owners	<p>As updated on 3 August.</p> <p>The ATO is aware that residential rental property owners may be experiencing reduced income from tenants paying less or entering deferred payment plans due to COVID-19. This includes travel restrictions which have affected demand for short-term rental properties.</p> <p>Owners are advised to include rent as income at the time it is paid, so they only need to declare the rent received as income. If payments by tenants are deferred until the next financial year, owners do not need to include these deferred payments until received.</p> <p>While rental income may be reduced, owners will continue to incur normal expenses on their rental property and will still be able to claim these expenses in their tax return as long as the reduced rent charged is determined at arm's length, having regard to the current market conditions.</p> <p>For short-term rentals adversely affected by COVID-19, including the cancellation of existing bookings, deductions are still available provided the property was still genuinely available for rent. If owners decided to use the property for private purposes, offered the property to family or friends for free, offered the property to others in need or stopped renting the property out, they cannot claim deductions in respect of those periods.</p> <p>To determine the proportion of expenses that can be claimed for short-term rental properties impacted by COVID-19, a reasonable approach is to apportion expenses based on the previous year's usage pattern, unless the property is shown as genuinely available for rent for a longer period of time in 2020.</p>	<p>ATO - guidance for rental property owners</p> <p>ATO - residential rental property</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 3 August, the ATO provided further guidance for residential rental properties.</p> <p>When tenants cannot pay</p> <p>If COVID-19 has affected tenants' income, this may affect the income the property owner receives from their residential rental property. The owner can still claim deductions in their tax return if their tenants cannot pay their rent under the lease agreement because their income has been affected by COVID-19 and the owner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> received less rental income as a result; and continued to incur normal expenses on the property. <p>The owner can also claim deductions if they reduced tenants' rent to allow them to stay in the property due to COVID-19 for commercial, arm's-length reasons.</p> <p>Deductible loan interest</p> <p>Interest is deductible on loans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if it continues to accumulate because it is an expense the owner has incurred; and even if the bank defers the repayments. <p>Back-paid rent or insurance for lost income</p> <p>If an owner receives a back payment of rent or an insurance payment for lost rental income, they should declare this as assessable income in the tax year in which they receive it.</p> <p>Instant asset write-off</p> <p>A property investor cannot access the instant asset write-off deduction for the property.</p> <p>Temporarily stopping or reducing paid advertising</p> <p>To claim deductions for periods when the property is vacant, the owner must show that the property is available for rent. This factor alone will not determine the allowable proportion of deductions. If the owner made a reasonable commercial decision to temporarily stop or reduce advertising for the property during a COVID-19 lockdown, the owner may still be able to claim deductions for this period. Relevant considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the likelihood of renting a property in that locality during the lockdown; how the property had been used before the lockdown; and 	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how the owner plans to use the property during the lockdown. 	
24 June	Changes to reporting contraventions by auditors of super funds – ACR and SMSF IAR	<p>As updated on 7 September.</p> <p>In June, the ATO updated the Independent auditor's report instructions (IAR) so that auditors would not need to modify their opinion in Part B of the IAR with respect to certain contraventions arising from the impacts of COVID-19 for the 2019–20 and 2020–21 financial years.</p> <p>Those amendments were introduced to align the IAR with the changes made to the Auditor Contravention Report (ACR) instructions, where the ATO advised those same contraventions did not need to be reported in the ACR as the ATO would not be taking compliance action against them.</p> <p>However, the ATO has received feedback from some auditors expressing concerns with this approach without also changing the wording in the opinion clause of the IAR to exclude these types of contraventions.</p> <p>The ATO announced that it does not plan to change the current IAR wording for the 2019–20 financial year. Accordingly, the ATO has reverted the IAR instructions back to their original wording to alleviate these concerns and ensure consistent auditor reporting. This means auditors will once again be required to modify their opinion in Part B of the IAR where they identify any material breach of the provisions and regulations listed within the IAR.</p> <p>The addendum to the ACR instructions has not been changed. Those instructions still provide details of certain contraventions the ATO has advised will not need to be reported in the ACR as a result of the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>Auditors who correctly relied on the previous version of the instructions when conducting any 2019–20 audits will have been taken to have met their reporting obligations during this period. They will not need to recall those audit reports and re-issue them.</p>	<p>ATO - changes to the ACR and SMSF IAR instructions</p> <p>ATO - ACR and SMSF IAR instructions</p> <p>ATO - ACR instructions</p>
22 June	COVID-19 business changes and TPAR	<p>As updated on 3 August.</p> <p>Taxpayers may need to lodge a <i>Taxable payments annual report (TPAR)</i>, under the Taxable payments reporting system by 28 August each year if they pay contractors to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> building and construction services; cleaning services; 	<p>ATO - COVID-19 business changes and TPAR</p> <p>ATO – lodging the TPAR</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • courier, delivery or road freight services; • information technology services; or • security, surveillance or investigation services. <p>If, in response to COVID-19 restrictions taxpayers are offering new or expanded services that include these services, and they pay contractors to provide these services, they may need to complete a TPAR.</p> <p>As an example, a restaurant that has delivered meals to their customers during the COVID-19 restrictions, charges a delivery fee and engages contractors to deliver on their behalf, may need to lodge a TPAR. If the restaurant uses their own employees to make the deliveries, they do not need to report payments to employees on a TPAR.</p>	
18 June	COVID-19 stimulus compliance measures	<p>As updated on 22 and 23 June.</p> <p>The ATO has indicated how it will devote compliance resources in relation to the COVID-19 stimulus measures.</p> <p>The ATO stated that if someone has made a claim and made genuine mistakes, the ATO will assist in resolving them. The ATO wants to give the support needed at this time, without adding the worry of accruing a debt, repaying money or getting penalised for genuine mistakes.</p> <p>However, the ATO will not tolerate anyone engaging in illegal behaviour or developing contrived schemes designed to take advantage of the COVID-19 stimulus packages. The ATO stated that it will take action where people deliberately exploit the system.</p> <p>On 22 June, the ATO stated that it will engage in a data-matching program, enabling it to obtain data from Services Australia and State and Territory correctional facility regulators to help confirm eligibility for the various measures. The data will also support post-issue compliance work, enabling the ATO to follow-up any potentially false or misleading declarations.</p>	<p>ATO - COVID-19 compliance measures</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 data matching program</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 fraud</p> <p>Gazette notice: Commissioner of Taxation – Notice of a data-matching program</p>
5 June	Donating refunded membership fees – tax deductibility	<p>Many not-for-profit organisations such as sporting clubs and cultural organisations are providing their members with full or partial refunds for 2020 membership fees. Some organisations are also providing an option to donate the refundable fees. The ATO has clarified the tax treatment for these scenarios.</p> <p>If the organisation provides this option, they must offer their members a clear choice of either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • receiving a refund; or 	<p>ATO - support for NFPs</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> donating all or part of their refund, either to their organisation or another organisation. <p>For members who choose to donate their refunds, they can only claim a tax deduction if they donate to a deductible gift recipient (DGR). To be tax deductible, they must not have received or retained any member benefits in return for their gift or donation. Member benefits include any form of preferred member status in current or future years, including on season resumption.</p> <p>While members can express a preference to the DGR on how they would like their donation to be used, the DGR maintains the right to determine how they use and distribute the funds. Members should keep records of their donation to help them prepare their tax return.</p> <p>A sporting club does not qualify as a DGR so a donor cannot receive a tax deduction for a gift or donation made directly to a sporting club. However, for example, the club may invite its members to donate to the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) which is a DGR. A donor can nominate an ASF registered organisation or project as a preferred beneficiary and receive a tax deduction for their donation or gift. However, the ASF is not required to allocate that donation to the nominated organisation or project.</p>	
27 May	Correct use of scholarship funds for non-government schools	<p>The ATO has stated that many non-government schools have asked if they can use DGR-endorsed scholarship funds to provide fee relief to enrolled students during COVID-19.</p> <p>DGR-endorsed scholarship funds can only be used to award scholarships for reasons of merit or equity and must be open to individuals within a region of at least 200,000 people.</p> <p>A school cannot use a scholarship fund to provide fee relief to families who are unable to pay their school fees, even if only for a limited period. Scholarships can only be awarded in a way that is consistent with tax law and the governing document of the fund.</p>	ATO - correct use of scholarship funds
22 May	Foreign employment income	<p>As updated on 3 August.</p> <p>The ATO has issued a fact sheet about taxpayers who have returned to Australia as a result of COVID-19 and their status in regards of the income tax exemption under section 23AG of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> for foreign earnings.</p> <p>If the taxpayer had already completed 91 days of continuous foreign service and met all the other requirements in section 23AG, the foreign earnings earned while undertaking the foreign service will remain exempt income. However, if the taxpayer had not yet completed 91 days of continuous foreign service, the foreign earnings from that period of foreign service will not be exempt. Furthermore, the earnings earned after returning to Australia, even if they are in relation to previous foreign service, are not earned undertaking foreign service, and therefore will be assessable in</p>	ATO - foreign employment income fact sheet ATO - residency and source of income

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Australia.</p> <p>The ATO also stated that an absence from foreign service because a taxpayer returns to Australia as a result of COVID-19 and commences working in Australia is not a temporary absence from foreign service that falls into the section 23AG exceptions. As the taxpayer is returning without knowing when they can recommence their service in the foreign country, this time in Australia cannot be characterised as a short work-related trip.</p>	
20 May	SMSFs and commutation authorities	<p>The ATO, as part of its COVID-19 related support, is implementing a temporary email service for SMSF trustees and their agents to help where a commutation authority has been issued.</p> <p>Some common errors that may lead to a commutation authority being issued include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • duplicate reporting because a trustee has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ not properly identified or recorded that an event has been reported to the ATO before; ○ changed reporting platforms or administration systems and re-reported events due to a change in pension account numbers; or ○ not checked which events the trustees or previous agent have already reported to the ATO for a new client; and • not reporting the commutations that occur when a member rolls over their pension interest to another fund. <p>Trustees and their agents can use the temporary email service to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand why the ATO has sent the fund a commutation authority and what the trustee needs to do in response; and • identify and rectify any reporting issues which may have led to the ATO issuing the commutation authority in the first instance. <p>This service can also be used if a member of the SMSF has been approached by their APRA fund because the ATO has issued their APRA fund with a commutation authority, and there is a concern regarding issues associated with the SMSF's TBAR reporting.</p> <p>SMSF trustees and their agents can email the early engagement and voluntary disclosure mailbox (SMSFRegulatoryContraventionVoluntaryDisclosure@ato.gov.au) any time between now and 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>ATO - streamlined support for SMSFs issued a commutation authority</p>

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		<p>When using this service, trustees and their agents should provide as much information as possible, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the fund that received the commutation authority; the ABN of the SMSF involved (who has either received the commutation authority or reported information to the ATO that led to the issuing of a commutation authority to another fund); when the commutation authority is due and, if available, the reference number on the commutation authority; the member the commutation authority relates to; and any questions about the commutation authority. <p>This service does not replace the obligation to comply with, and report a response to, a commutation authority within 60 days and is only to provide information to assist meeting the obligations.</p> <p>This service is not available to assist individuals who have exceeded their transfer balance cap and have been sent an excess transfer balance determination.</p>	
13 May	DGR reforms delayed	<p>As updated on 27 May.</p> <p>Reforms to streamline the administration and oversight of deductible gift recipient (DGR) organisations, due to begin on 1 July 2020, have been delayed. The plan to introduce the legislative amendments to parliament was interrupted by COVID-19.</p> <p>This means the following 3 reforms will not proceed until the tax law is amended and passed through parliament:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the requirement for non-government DGRs to register as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC); the transfer of the administration of the 4 DGR registers to the ATO and ACNC; and the removal of certain public fund requirements for DGRs. <p>Although there is no timeframe for when the announced changes will become law, DGRs not already registered as charities can register with the ACNC at any time to be ready for when these amendments are legislated.</p>	<p>Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters - media release</p> <p>ATO - DGR reforms delayed</p>

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8 May	Medicare levy surcharge due to suspension of private health insurance	<p>The ATO has stated that if a taxpayer and all of their dependants are not covered by an appropriate level of private patient hospital cover, and their income for Medicare levy surcharge (MLS) purposes is above a certain threshold, they may be required to pay the MLS. The rate of MLS depends on the taxpayer's income for MLS purposes. This applies unless the taxpayer (and their dependents) are exempt from paying the Medicare levy.</p> <p>If a taxpayer holds hospital cover but temporarily suspends payments for that cover, then the taxpayer may have to pay the MLS to account for the days that they did not hold the appropriate private patient hospital cover. This will be determined from the information provided in the taxpayer's tax return and supplied to the ATO by private health insurance providers.</p>	ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - individuals
8 May	Work-related car expenses	<p>That ATO has stated that taxpayers who claim car-related expenses using the logbook method will not need to keep a new logbook for an updated representative period of private and business usage during COVID-19. This is as long as the taxpayer accounts for any variation in the use of the car when working out business kilometres and business use percentage at the end of the income year.</p> <p>When working out business kilometres at the end of the income year, the taxpayer will need to make a reasonable estimate based on any logbooks, odometer records or other records they have.</p> <p>For the period in which travel has been affected by COVID-19, a taxpayer may keep a new logbook if they think it will provide a more accurate indication of business use of the car. However, if the overall business usage has not changed and the car is merely being used less, the odometer readings will reflect this, and the taxpayer will not need to keep another logbook.</p>	ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - individuals
8 May	Transfer pricing documentation	<p>The ATO has stated its position in relation to transfer pricing documentation for international taxpayers.</p> <p>The transfer pricing rules require certain taxpayers to prepare compliant transfer pricing documentation by the time their income tax return is lodged. Failure to prepare documentation in time means they will generally not have a reasonably arguable position which may result in the imposition of penalties.</p> <p>The ATO had stated that it understands and will work with taxpayers that are affected by COVID-19 and are not able to get their transfer pricing documentation in order before the lodgement of their current income tax return despite their best efforts. To assist, the ATO will take an administrative approach for penalties whereby it may remit the portion of penalties resulting from the lack of a reasonably arguable position (should they arise) if the following criteria are met:</p>	ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - international business

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the lodgement due date for the income tax return was between 1 March and 15 July; transfer pricing documentation compliant with Subdivision 284-E was in place for the previous income year; there has been no material change to related party arrangements since the last income year; the transfer pricing documentation is completed on or before the taxpayer's lodgement due date; and the taxpayer's transfer pricing position is otherwise reasonably arguable. <p>Taxpayers will need to contact the ATO before 15 July 2020 to confirm the penalty remission at International@ato.gov.au or their dedicated relationship manager.</p>	
23 April	Signature requirements for SMSF financial statements	<p>Under the superannuation laws, SMSF trustees are required to sign their SMSF's financial statements before finalising their fund's audit each income year. COVID-19 impacts such as social distancing or isolation requirements or tax agents or accountants working from a home office may prevent a person from signing their SMSF's financial statements in person this year.</p> <p>Alternative options available for signing the financial statements consist of returning a signed scanned copy to a tax agent or accountant by email or using an electronic signature such as a digital signature. Digital signatures should be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> using a secure system, typically through an established third-party provider; and in a way that clearly identifies the trustee signing and indicates the approval they are providing. <p>A secure system would include a system that requires a personal identification number, access code or password to use.</p> <p>If a person cannot use these alternative options to sign the financial statements, the person's agent or accountant should post the financial statements to them.</p> <p>The ATO has cautioned that the signature requirement will not be met if the trustee only acknowledges the financial statements by email or over the phone.</p>	ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - SMSFs
23 April	Short-term rental	<p>As updated on 3 August.</p> <p>For properties rented out as short-term accommodation which have experienced cancellations (and</p>	ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - individuals

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	properties	<p>have previously had some private use), the amount that can be deducted for expenses will depend on how the property had been used before COVID-19 and how it had been planned to be used during the COVID-19 period. If the reason for any adverse effect on demand for the property is because of COVID-19, a person can continue to deduct expenses associated with the property in the same proportion as they were entitled to deduct before COVID-19. Whether the person can continue to claim a deduction for expenses in the same proportion during the COVID-19 period depends on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the property was used before COVID-19; and • how they planned to use the property during the COVID-19 period. <p>If the property had started being used in a different way than before COVID-19, the proportion of expenses claimed as a deduction may change. Examples of changed use include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased private use of the property by its owner, their family or friends; and • a decision to permanently stop renting out the property once the COVID-19 restrictions end. <p>For owners that wish to stop paying for advertising on their short-term rental property during COVID-19 as they are not getting any queries for the property, their ability to still claim deductions associated with holding the property depends on a wide range of factors. Whether active and bona fide efforts are made to ensure a property is available for rent is only one factor to consider when determining the appropriate method to apportion deductions for a short-term rental property. Consideration would need to be given as to how the property had been used before COVID-19 and how it is being planned to be used during the period now adversely affected by COVID-19. During this time the ATO acknowledges it may be a reasonable commercial decision to temporarily reduce the level of paid advertising for the property, depending on the restrictions in the property's locality. However, this factor alone does not necessarily determine the allowable proportion of deductions.</p>	<p>ATO - residential rental property</p>
22 April	STP exemption for small employers extended	<p>As updated on 12 June.</p> <p>The ATO has announced that it has extended the Single Touch Payroll exemption for small employers (those with 19 or fewer employees) in relation to closely-held payees from 1 July 2020 to 1 July 2021 in response to COVID-19. A closely held (related) payee is someone who is directly related to the business, company or trust that pays them, such as family members of a family business, directors or shareholders of a company or beneficiaries of a trust.</p> <p>The ATO has released draft legislative instrument Draft Taxation Administration - Single Touch Payroll - 2019-20 and 2020-21 year Closely Held Payees Exemption 2020 (STP 2020/D3) to</p>	<p>ATO - closely held payees</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>implement this measure.</p> <p>Draft STP 2020/D3 will apply to an entity that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> was not at any time before 1 April 2019 a “substantial employer”; pays an amount described in section 389-5(1) of Schedule 1 to the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1953</i> (Cth) to a closely-held payee; is required to be registered for PAYG withholding purposes under Subdivision 16-BA of Schedule 1 to the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1953</i> (Cth); and is not a large withholder. <p>An entity to which this instrument applies that would otherwise have an obligation to report information to the ATO under Division 389 of Schedule 1 to the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1953</i> (Cth) in respect of an amount paid to a closely held payee will be exempt from that obligation for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years. If a small employer has any other employees (also known as arm’s length employees), they must be reported through STP on or before each payday, unless the employer is eligible for a micro employer (1-4 employees) reporting concession.</p> <p>Once finalised, STP 2020/D3 will commence on 1 July 2019, applicable to the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years.</p>	
22 April	Offshore LREs and GST obligations	<p>The ATO has acknowledged that Limited Registration Entities (LREs), which supply low-value goods or digital products to Australia, may be facing difficulties in their ability to meet their Australian GST obligations.</p> <p>The ATO has stated that it will assist LREs with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lodging GST returns; paying GST; arranging a deferral of the obligation to lodge a GST return and pay the GST in some situations; and requesting a remission of any interest or penalties that may have been applied. 	ATO - additional support
22 April	Automatic tax return lodgement	<p>As updated on 23 April, 13 and 25 May, and 31 July.</p> <p>The ATO has automatically applied deferrals for the lodgement of:</p>	ATO - additional support ATO - COVID-19

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	deferrals (and impact on Division 7A requirements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMSF 2018-19 annual returns (which were due on 15 May and 5 June), until 30 June 2020; FBT 2019-20 annual returns, until 25 June 2020; company 2018-19 income tax returns (which were due on 15 May), until 5 June 2020; and 2018-19 income tax returns for individuals, partnerships, and trusts until 5 June 2020, provided the taxpayer pays any liability by that date. <p>On 13 May, the ATO stated that to avoid Division 7A consequences for certain recipients of payments or loans made by a company during the 2018-19 income year, the company must take the following actions before the relevant deferred lodgement date above (or the actual date of lodgement of its 2018-19 income tax return, if earlier):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> repay in full, or place on terms that comply with section 109N, a loan made by the company during that income year; or convert a payment made by the company during that income year to a loan on terms that comply with section 109N. <p>If a loan is placed on section 109N terms before the deferred lodgement date, the borrower will need to make their first minimum yearly repayment (MYR) by 30 June 2020. The Commissioner will soon be issuing further guidance for those affected by COVID-19 with MYRs due for the year ended 30 June 2020.</p> <p>In relation to unpaid present entitlements (UPEs) and sub-trusts, the ATO noted that in PSLA 2010/4 the Commissioner sets out an administrative practice for UPEs of corporate beneficiaries. Under this practice the Commissioner accepts that there are no Division 7A consequences where funds representing the entitlement are placed on sub-trust for the sole benefit of that beneficiary before the lodgement date for the trust tax return. This practice is being adjusted for entitlements created in the 2018-19 income year so that the UPEs need to be placed on sub-trust by 5 June 2020, or any later lodgement date allowed by the Commissioner.</p> <p>On 25 May, the ATO stated that there will be no further changes to lodgement and payment due dates for obligations due in May and June 2020 that already have automatic deferrals applied. The ATO advised that if tax professionals or their clients are unable to meet lodgement due dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no late lodgement penalties will be imposed for returns lodged by 30 June 2020; tax professionals will not lose access to their lodgement program; and 	ATO - Division 7A ATO - support for tax professionals

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tax professionals will not be adversely affected in their future dealings with the ATO. <p>While the general interest charge will still be applicable, tax professionals can apply for remissions and the ATO will take a reasonable approach in assessing such requests.</p> <p>On 31 July, the ATO clarified that it may be able to defer payment due dates and stop interest accruing for income tax payments that were due after 23 January 2020. Taxpayers lodging themselves online may be eligible for an extra 2 weeks to lodge and pay their quarterly activity statement. Furthermore, the ATO will consider remitting interest and penalties incurred after 23 January 2020, if an entity is affected by COVID-19.</p>	
17 April	Salary packaging arrangements – meals	<p>As updated on 25 August.</p> <p>The ATO stated that whether the provision of meals qualifies as salary-packaged meal entertainment depends on the particular facts and circumstances of the meal and how it is provided. However, given the unprecedented circumstances currently existing, for the FBT year ending 31 March 2021, the ATO will not apply any compliance resources to scrutinising expenditure under these arrangements provided the meals are provided by a supplier that was authorised as a meal entertainment provider as at 1 March 2020.</p> <p>The ATO also confirmed that for the FBT year ended 31 March 2020, it will not apply any compliance resources to scrutinising expenditure under these arrangements during the period where restaurants and public venues were closed.</p> <p>On 25 August, the ATO confirmed that not-for-profits may provide salary-packaged meal entertainment to their employees to take advantage of an exempt or rebatable cap.</p>	ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - employers
17 April	PAYG withholding variations for individuals	<p>Individual taxpayers can apply to have the tax withheld from their pay reduced for the rest of the financial year. This means they do not have to wait to get a refund when they lodge their tax returns.</p> <p>For those considering this course of action, they must lodge a variation form with the ATO. Furthermore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the variation will apply for the remainder of the financial year; the last date for lodgement of a variation application for the current year is 30 April 2020; if the amounts withheld do not cover the actual tax liabilities at the end of the year, the taxpayer will have to pay the balance in their annual tax return; and 	ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - individuals

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a variation cannot be given if any of the following apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the person's tax returns are not up to date; ○ the person has a debit assessment for the previous year as a result of a previous withholding variation; or ○ the person has outstanding tax or superannuation debts. 	
9 April	Thin capitalisation and safe harbour	<p>The ATO has acknowledged that the recent disruption brought about by COVID-19 may affect not only taxpayers' compliance with their reporting obligations, but also the underlying economic fundamentals that inform the choice of method for calculating maximum allowable debt for thin capitalisation purposes. As such, the ATO has said it will be flexible in how it administers its approach to compliance.</p> <p>For the tax years encompassing the February/March 2020 period (the relevant year), a non-ADI taxpayer may no longer be able to rely on the safe harbour or worldwide gearing tests to determine their maximum allowable debt as a result of balance sheet effects brought by COVID-19. These balance sheet effects may be as a result of impairment of asset values or short-term draw downs on debt facilities as a direct result of COVID-19.</p> <p>The ATO has suggested a range of options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the purpose of calculating average values for thin capitalisation amounts, the selection of alternative valuation measurement periods, in testing the suitability of the safe harbour or worldwide gearing tests, may allow a degree of smoothing of values in situations where wide variations have occurred throughout the income year. • If the taxpayer will otherwise need to rely on the arm's length debt test (ALDT) for the relevant year, as a direct consequence of COVID-19, they can expect that the ATO will not dedicate compliance resources to reviewing the application of ALDT if the requirements listed below are met, other than to verify that the use of the test was directly related to a COVID-19 reflex. <p>The requirements for the simplified ALDT approach include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the taxpayer would have satisfied the safe-harbour test but for the COVID-19 related balance sheet effects; • the taxpayer will use its best endeavours to apply all the criteria of the ALDT; • for entities that are classified as inward investing entities (and not also outward investing 	ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - international business

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>entities), the above compliance approach applies only to the extent that no additional related party funding is received, other than short-term (less than 12 months) debt facilities. In these instances, the ATO expects any new capital to be equity; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ATO does not expect inward investing entities to require the use of ALDT because dividends were paid, thereby weakening the Australian balance sheet. <p>The ATO will also take a balanced approach to matters such as record keeping and timing of the creation of records for the purposes of the test. Taxpayers should attempt to prepare documents supporting the application of the ALDT, but the ATO will not apply compliance resources to determine if the documents satisfy the standards set out in draft Practical Compliance Guideline PCG 2019/D3 <i>ATO compliance approach to the arm's length debt test</i>.</p> <p>Furthermore, the ATO have established a dedicated team responsible for the oversight and management of thin capitalisation risks. If a taxpayer wishes to discuss their application of the ALDT, they may contact Shahzeb Panhwar, Assistant Commissioner, International Tax Structuring at International@ato.gov.au, or their dedicated relationship manager.</p>	
9 April	Excise duty on repackaged take-away alcohol	<p>As updated on 15 June and 22 September.</p> <p>The ATO has confirmed that from 23 March until 31 January 2021 (as extended from the original deadlines), it will not take compliance action in the following alcohol repackaging circumstances that would normally require a taxpayer to have an excise manufacture licence and pay excise duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if alcohol service venues are in possession of duty-paid kegged beer for takeaway sale in sealed containers (such as growlers); and if alcohol service venues use duty-paid alcoholic beverages to make 'cocktails' for takeaway sale in sealed containers. <p>This measure applies to alcohol service venues (including venues that have reopened) that remain impacted by State and Territory COVID-19 restrictions. For example, where the 4 square metre rule applies or there are limits on the number of patrons allowed in an enclosed space.</p>	<p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - payments and reporting</p> <p>ATO - alcohol excise</p>
9 April	GST on supplies of medical aids and appliances	<p>The ATO has clarified that the sale of medical aids and appliances will be GST-free if they meet certain conditions, including being listed in the GST law. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cardiovascular, dialysis and diabetes medical aids and appliances are listed in the law as GST-free; 	<p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - payments and reporting</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> respiratory appliances such as ventilators and other respiratory appliances for those with breathing difficulties such as peak flow meters are GST-free; and items such as hand sanitiser and personal protective equipment including disposable face masks, disposable gloves, disposable gowns and protective eye wear in the form of goggles, glasses or visors are not GST-free as they are not listed in the GST law. 	
8 April	RAS and EBN lodgement obligations for funds	<p>The ATO has introduced an alternative approach for superannuation funds to meet their lodgement obligations for Release Authority Statements (RASs) and End Benefit Notes (EBNs).</p> <p>The ATO is providing an electronic lodgement option for First Home Super Saver Scheme, Division 293 and Excess Contributions RASs. Funds can also submit EBNs to the ATO electronically.</p>	<p>ATO - RAS and EBN submission</p> <p>ATO - alert</p>
3 April	Statement of Tax Record	<p>As updated on 7 April.</p> <p>If the ATO has agreed to defer the due date for a company's tax payments or lodgements, that company can still meet the relevant criteria for a satisfactory Statement of Tax Record (STR) for the purpose of tendering for Commonwealth Government contracts. This is because the company will not have an outstanding tax payment or lodgement, however it must still lodge or make your tax payment by the deferred due date.</p> <p>Where the company has a tax debt (for example income tax, PAYGW or GST) on the ATO's system, it must contact the ATO to discuss payment options. Where a payment plan is agreed upon, the company will still meet the criteria relating to the payment of a tax debt.</p> <p>If a company receives an unsatisfactory STR, the ATO will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contact the company to discuss options to correct this; and where possible, assist in obtaining lodgment deferrals or putting payment plans in place. 	<p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - payments and reporting</p> <p>ATO - STR information</p> <p>ATO - support available</p>
3 April	Unclaimed superannuation money reporting and payment deferral	<p>As updated on 21 May.</p> <p>The ATO will soon write to trustees advising that it will grant a deferral of the scheduled statement day and payment day for 31 December unclaimed money day accounts. This will be a deferral of the 30 April 2020 due date to 31 October 2020.</p> <p>The ATO is providing this deferral so funds can focus on assisting their members. It will also avoid potential confusion or complexity for individuals who may be looking to release amounts from their super accounts under coronavirus early release of super measure that may have been paid to the</p>	<p>ATO - unclaimed super money reporting and payment deferral</p> <p>ATO - deferral of USM reporting and payment obligations</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>ATO.</p> <p>The deferral extends the period within which unclaimed superannuation money (USM) accounts can be reported and paid. Any fund wanting to continue with their USM reporting as planned can do so. Funds may want to consider continuing reporting and paying USM for certain categories (such as where members are 65 years or older) where it would be in the member's interests.</p> <p>In anticipation that this deferral will be used by the majority of funds, the ATO will not proceed with hyper-care arrangements for this USM period (including proactive consolidation).</p> <p>On 21 May, the ATO stated that this deferral extends the period in which USM accounts can be reported and paid, however trustees can complete USM reporting at any time before 31 October 2020.</p> <p>The deferral applies to the following reporting and payment obligations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • members aged over 65 years; • deceased members; • non-member spouse; • former temporary residents; • small and insoluble lost member accounts; and • inactive low balance accounts. <p>Opting to exercise the deferral means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the trustee is required to assess its member accounts as at 31 December 2019. This might occur by it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ having already flagged USM accounts at 31 December 2019; or ○ reassessing all of its accounts as at 30 June 2020 (as it would normally and that would practically capture any accounts at 31 December 2019 that still meet a USM category); • the trustee is not required to report and pay these accounts until 31 October 2020; • the trustee will have to reassess these accounts before transferring them to the ATO, and where these accounts: 	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ continue to meet the previously identified category, the trustee is to report and pay them to the ATO on or before 31 October 2020; or ○ no longer meet the previously identified category, the trustee is not required to report and pay them to the ATO; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any accounts reported and paid on or before the 31 October 2020 due date will be accepted with the unclaimed money day of either 31 December 2019 or 30 June 2020. However a USM lodgment file may only contain one of these dates. <p>This deferral does not apply to lost member reporting obligations. If trustees have not already done so, they are still required to assess the lost status of members biannually and report any changes to the lost status attribute.</p>	
27 March	Pausing or ceasing a business – ABN/GST registration	<p>The ATO has stated that if a person has temporarily ceased some trading activities in their business but they intend to restart when they can, they are not required to cancel their ABN or GST registration. This is the case even where the business is paused for a lengthy or uncertain time period.</p> <p>The ABN and GST registration only need to be cancelled if the business is permanently ceased. However, it is important that the business' tax affairs are finalised and a final activity statement is lodged before the ABN is cancelled. The ABN must be cancelled within 28 days and GST registration must be cancelled within 21 days of ceasing business activities. The ATO has also clarified that a business ceases when the activities related to that enterprise cease, which happens when both of the following occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all assets are disposed of or converted to another purpose or use; and • all tax obligations are satisfied. <p>The ATO has also issued further guidance in relation to cessation and pausing of business on the matters of disposing of capital assets, superannuation obligations, record keeping and Single Touch Payroll reporting.</p>	<p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - pausing or ceasing your business</p>
27 March	Hand sanitiser production – excise duty and TGA approval	<p>As updated on 30 March and 15 June.</p> <p>The ATO clarified, for those producing hand sanitiser, that hand sanitiser does not usually attract excise, as its alcohol content has typically been treated (denatured) to make it unfit for human consumption. Denatured spirit may also be suitable for making other commercial cleaning products, and can be purchased without restriction. If a business holds an excise manufacturer</p>	<p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - payments and reporting</p> <p>Minister for Health - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>licence to distil spirits, it can make alcohol to manufacture into hand sanitiser.</p> <p>On 15 June, the ATO further clarified its position in relation to the following entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Licensed distillers: distillers who already hold an excise manufacturer licence to produce or distil spirits can, without additional approvals, produce hand sanitiser and report it by using the free-rate tariff item on their Excise return. If a distiller wishes to repurpose existing alcohol, or manufacture alcohol, to supply hand sanitiser manufacturers without incurring an excise liability, they should simply report that by using the free-rate tariff item on their Excise return. This also applies to supplying other commercial manufacturers with concessional spirits – for example, for the production of other cleaning products.</p> <p>Existing concessional spirit permit holders: the ATO will grant increases to the quantity of spirits that existing permit holders can obtain. Permit holders will need to contact the ATO to organise this.</p> <p>Other entities: other licensed entities (for example, breweries) can apply for permission to manufacture or obtain spirit for the purposes of producing hand sanitiser. Once approved, an entity will report it using the free-rate tariff item on their Excise return. Other non-licensed entities, such as hospitals, pharmacists, health care practitioners, education institutions, and government institutions can all receive an unrestricted amount of concessional spirits to meet their manufacturing, scientific or medical needs. This does not require a permit. For new entrants to the market, regulations concerning the safe and proper handling, storage, transport and use of dangerous goods such as spirit, are governed by other regulatory bodies.</p> <p>On 30 March, the Australian Government Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) relaxed the rules for manufacturing hand sanitiser, whilst maintaining strict safety requirements, to bolster supply in Australia. The TGA has introduced an urgent legislative instrument and guidance to make it easier for local businesses to manufacture hand sanitiser. This includes sanitisers for use in health care facilities – such as hospitals, aged care and other residential facilities – as well as for general consumer use. Production of hand sanitiser can now proceed without the requirement of TGA approval or notification, provided one of the two recipes developed by the World Health Organization and endorsed by the US Food and Drug Administration are used. Furthermore, if these recipes are used, food grade alcohol, which is cheaper and available in larger quantities than medical grade alcohol, can be used to manufacture the hand sanitisers. Strict safety requirements have been placed on the labelling of these products. Manufacturers must also test the alcohol concentrations of each batch, manufacture under sanitary conditions, and maintain records of production to maintain consumer safety.</p>	<p>ATO - alcohol excise</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		Companies wishing to manufacture or import new high-end hand sanitisers with different recipes for use in health care facilities will still require TGA approval. But as per other products related to the COVID 19 pandemic, the TGA will prioritise these applications and review them as quickly as possible.	
26 March	Public guidance program	The ATO has largely paused its Public Advice and Guidance Program, except for critical advice and guidance, and advice relating to COVID-19 and its impacts on taxpayers.	ATO - media release
26 March	Large business compliance program	<p>The ATO will not implement a blanket approach to its compliance program and will instead focus on the individual circumstances of each business. The ATO has indicated that it will contact large market taxpayers currently subject to compliance activity to provide support and determine what changes need to be made to current compliance activities.</p> <p>Issues such as responding to ATO requests for information, dealing with reviews and meeting previously agreed timelines may be managed through alternative or complementary actions, such as alternative dispute resolution and advance pricing arrangements.</p> <p>The ATO has also stated that it will not be commencing any new audit or assurance cases over the coming period. If a business has already been notified that a review will commence in the coming months, the ATO will contact the business to discuss postponing the review.</p> <p>Existing cases will be managed based on the specific circumstances and needs expressed by each taxpayer. The ATO, for example, has paused cases, progressed cases but with revised timelines or proceeded as planned with certain other cases.</p>	ATO - media release
25 March	Significant global entity penalty	<p>As updated on 22 May and 22 July.</p> <p>If a significant global entity (SGE) does not lodge an approved form including the general purpose financial statement (GPFS) on time, the ATO has suggested it will remit the failure to lodge on time SGE penalty for a period of 30 days from the lodgement date of the approved form if all of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the entity is an SGE that is required to lodge an approved form (including the GPFS) by or before 30 June 2020; the entity is unable to lodge that approved form (including the GPFS) due to circumstances beyond its control that arise as a direct result of COVID-19; and the failure to lodge on time SGE penalty is incurred after 23 January 2020 and on or 	ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - international business ATO - ongoing support for large businesses

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		<p>before 30 June 2020.</p> <p>If the lodgement is more than 30 days late, the entity will need to contact the ATO to discuss their specific circumstances. Despite the penalty remission, an SGE still needs to make payments on time.</p> <p>On 22 July, the ATO announced that due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19, it will extend the automatic remission of failure to lodge on time penalties for SGEs. If lodgement is less than 30 days late, the ATO will remit these penalties to nil for the period until 14 August 2020. The ATO also encouraged SGEs or their agents to make contact, if they still need more time to lodge. All lodgement deferral applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>	
25 March	Approved substituted accounting period	<p>As updated on 3 and 9 April, and 31 July.</p> <p>Companies with an approved substituted accounting period (SAP) for an early balance date and that are entitled to a refund can lodge a company tax return before the lodgement due date and receive a refund immediately if the company:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is a full self-assessment taxpayer; and • has an approved SAP with a balancing period that has concluded. <p>On 3 April, the ATO also clarified that taxpayers with an approved SAP can vary their PAYG instalment amount on their activity statement, to the extent that the variation relates to PAYG instalments made during the affected SAP. Any variation must relate to instalments made during the corresponding SAP year as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the 2020 income year for late balancers; and • the 2021 income year for early balancers. <p>Where the PAYG instalments are varied, the ATO will not apply penalties or charge interest to varied instalments for the relevant income year.</p>	<p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - payments and reporting</p> <p>ATO - support for businesses and employers</p>
25 March	Online lodgement of 2019 tax returns	<p>For those with a deferred lodgement date for 2019 tax returns (because the person usually lodges through a tax agent), the ATO will allow those impacted by tax agents closing due to COVID-19 the ability to lodge their own tax return online. The ATO has advised those in this scenario who expect to have an amount to pay from their assessment to contact the ATO after lodgement to ensure a late lodgement penalty is not applied and deferral of the payment date.</p>	<p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - payments and reporting</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
22 March	Superannuation guarantee obligations	<p>The ATO cannot extend the due date to pay the super guarantee (SG) contributions for employees. Therefore, the ATO has recommended that employers, who are not able to pay the SG contributions because of COVID-19, pay as much as they can by the due date, even if they cannot pay in full (as this will reduce the SG charge).</p> <p>If an employer did not pay the full super guarantee by the due date, the ATO has stated that the employer should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lodge a SG charge statement; and pay the charge to the ATO. <p>If this is done within the month, there will be no penalties, however interest will still apply.</p>	<p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - employers</p> <p>ATO - additional support</p>
22 March	Enforcement actions	<p>Another measure which the ATO may take in tailoring solutions to particular businesses includes withholding enforcement actions including Director Penalty Notices and wind-ups.</p> <p>The ATO has yet to comment specifically about this measure.</p>	<p>Australian Government - fact sheet</p>
17 March	FBT – COVID-19 assistance for employees and flu vaccines	<p>As updated on 9 April, 8 May and 25 August.</p> <p>Payments by employers for emergency accommodation, meals, food supplies, transport or other assistance for employees who are, or are at risk of becoming, sick with COVID-19 will generally be Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) exempt, provided the benefit is given for the employee's immediate relief.</p> <p>The ATO has accepted that the emergency assistance FBT exemption will apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the benefit given to the employee is emergency assistance to provide immediate relief; and that employee is, or is at risk of being, adversely affected by COVID-19. <p>In the context of COVID-19, the ATO will accept that the FBT emergency assistance exemption applies an employer has provided emergency accommodation, food, transport or other assistance to an affected employee. This would cover, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expenses incurred relocating an affected employee due to COVID-19, including paying for flights for overseas employees to return to Australia; expenses incurred providing food and temporary accommodation if an affected employee 	<p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - employers</p> <p>ATO - small business newsroom</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>is unable to travel due to travel restrictions (including domestic, interstate or intrastate travel);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benefits provided that allow the affected employee to self-isolate or be quarantined; and • transporting or paying for an affected employee's transport expenses including car hire and transport to temporary accommodation. <p>An FBT exemption also applies to emergency health care that is provided by an employee, on the company premises, or at or adjacent to an employee's worksite. Transport for an employee from the workplace to seek medical assistance is also FBT exempt. Payments for an employee's ongoing medical or hospital expenses, however, are subject to FBT.</p> <p>On 9 April, the ATO clarified that FBT will not be payable for temporary accommodation and meals provided to employees who are unable to return to their normal residence due to domestic and international travel restrictions in response to COVID-19 (particularly in relation to fly-in fly-out and drive-in drive-out employees). These benefits are considered emergency assistance and are exempt from FBT.</p> <p>Furthermore, whether FBT is payable on the provision of gloves, face masks, sanitisers and anti-bacterial spray to employees to protect them from contracting COVID-19 while at work depends on the type of work performed. These benefits will be exempt from FBT under the emergency assistance exemption if they are provided to employees to carry out their duties that require them to have physical contact or be in close proximity to customers or clients, or if they are involved in cleaning premises. Examples of this type of work include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medical industry (such as doctors, nurses, dentists and allied health workers); • cleaning industry; • airline industry; • hairdressing and beautician industry; and • retail, café and restaurant industry. <p>If employees' specific employment duties are not of the kind described above, the minor benefits exemption may apply if they are provided with minor, infrequent and irregular benefits of less than \$300.</p> <p>On 8 May, the ATO stated that FBT is not payable on a voucher or reimbursement for the costs of an employee's flu vaccine from a GP or chemist, as long as it is available generally to all</p>	

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		<p>employees. Providing a flu vaccination to employees is exempt from FBT as it is the provision of work-related preventative health care. It does not matter that an employer cannot provide the flu vaccine at its workplace because some or all of its employees are working from home due to COVID-19. If only some of the employees choose to receive the flu vaccine at the GP or chemist, the voucher or reimbursement will still be exempt from FBT, as long as the employer offered it to all employees.</p> <p>The ATO also stated that FBT is not payable on the provision of COVID-19 testing for employees prior to them entering their workplace, as long as the testing is carried out by a legally qualified medical practitioner or nurse and is made available generally to all employees. The provision of this test will be exempt from FBT as it is work-related medical screening, due to the highly infectious nature of COVID-19, and that any employee is equally susceptible to contracting the virus. If only some of the employees are provided with COVID-19 tests, the tests will still be exempt as long as the employer offered them to all employees.</p>	
17 March	Working from home arrangements	<p>As updated on 7, 17 and 23 April, 5 June, 8 July, 25 August, and 29 September.</p> <p>Where employers provide employees with benefits such as a laptop, printer or other portable electronic devices to enable them to work from home or another location, these will usually be FBT exempt if they are used primarily in the employee's employment.</p> <p>The minor benefits exemption may also apply for minor, infrequent and irregular benefits of less than \$300. The exemption may apply, for example, if an employer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allows its employee to use a monitor, mouse or keyboard they otherwise use in the workplace; or • provides them with stationery or computer consumables or pays for their phone and internet access. <p>Furthermore, the otherwise deductible rule allows employers to reduce the taxable value of benefits by the amount that employees can claim a once-only deduction.</p> <p>Employees working from home may also be able to claim a deduction for additional, running expenses incurred, such as heating, cooling, lighting, phone and internet expenses. On 7 April, the ATO announced a new arrangement which will allow employees to claim a rate of 80 cents per hour for all their running expenses (if they choose to adopt this method), rather than needing to calculate costs for specific running expenses. Multiple people living in the same house can claim this new rate. It will only require a person to keep a record of the number of hours worked from home (the requirement to have a dedicated work from home area has been removed for this measure).</p>	<p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - employers</p> <p>ATO - small business newsroom</p> <p>ATO - new working from home shortcut</p> <p>ATO - employees working from home</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - individuals</p> <p>ATO - PCG 2020/3</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>However, claims for working from home expenses prior to 1 March 2020 cannot be calculated using this new shortcut method. On 23 April, the ATO confirmed that the new shortcut method is intended to cover all taxpayers working from home between 1 March and 30 June 2020, whether the working arrangements are a result of COVID-19 or not. This includes those who worked from home prior to the impacts of COVID-19. On 5 June, the ATO confirmed that no other expenses for working from home can be claimed for the period if a taxpayer elects to rely on this method. On 8 July, the ATO extended the new shortcut method to apply until 30 September 2020. On 29 September, the ATO further extended this shortcut rate to apply until 31 December 2020.</p> <p>On 17 April, the ATO clarified that costs relating to children's education are personal expenses and not deductible. Examples of such costs that cannot be deducted include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting up for online learning; • teaching children at home; or • purchasing school supplies or items like desks, iPads, or sporting equipment. <p>An employee who is working from home can only claim a deduction for expenses that are directly related to their work. This means that generally an employee cannot claim for time spent not working, such as when home schooling children or on lunch break, or for occupancy expenses such as rent, mortgage interest, water and rates. Employees also cannot claim items that they are reimbursed for, paid directly by their employer or the decline in value of items provided by their employer (for example, a laptop or a phone).</p> <p>On 23 April, the ATO confirmed that employees that are on leave or have been stood down cannot claim working from home expenses. The ATO stated that working from home does not include minimal tasks such as occasionally checking emails or taking calls. For example, if an employee has been stood down and they are occasionally receiving email updates from their employer about the situation, the time spent checking those email updates will not be treated as time spent working from home.</p>	
17 March	Residence issues (including PAYG issues)	<p>As updated on 23 April, 1 and 27 July, and 3 and 4 August.</p> <p>Companies</p> <p>The ATO has advised that where a foreign-incorporated company that is not an Australian tax resident is required to hold board meetings in Australia (or has directors attending board meetings from Australia) due to the impacts of COVID-19 travel restrictions, it will not take compliance measures to determine whether the company's central management and control is in Australia.</p>	<p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - international business</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - employers</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - individuals</p>

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		<p>Where the employees of a foreign-incorporated company that is not an Australia tax resident and did not have a permanent establishment in Australia before COVID-19 are temporarily in Australia on an unplanned basis due to COVID-19 travel restrictions or relocation, this will not result in the company having an Australian permanent establishment. This guidance assumes there are no other changes in the company's circumstances. The ATO has also stated that it does not expect the company to register for PAYG withholding if the employee is now working in Australia only because of the impacts of COVID-19 on travel and it is anticipated that they will leave before 30 June 2020.</p> <p>On 1 July, the ATO stated that where employees continue to work in Australia after 30 June 2020, the usual PAYG withholding employer obligations will apply. Employers will need to register and withhold under the PAYG withholding system where the employee's income is Australian sourced. Employers will also need to continue to pay the super guarantee for employees, unless an exemption applies, such as a certificate of coverage for international social security agreements.</p> <p>On 27 July and 4 August, the ATO updated its guidance on employer PAYG withholding registration, for employees working in Australia temporarily due to COVID-19 effects on travel. From 1 July 2020, foreign resident employers must withhold PAYG of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian resident employees; and • foreign resident employees whose employment income is Australian sourced income. <p>The exception is foreign resident employees for whom a double tax agreement exception applies. Australia's double tax agreements may allow foreign residents to earn employment income in Australia for a short period – usually 183 days – without being taxed in Australia. Each double tax agreement must be checked carefully as wording, conditions and time periods vary between agreements. The foreign resident employer must withhold if they believe, at the time which employment income is paid, that the double tax agreement exception will not apply because the employee is likely to remain in Australia for more than the applicable time period.</p> <p>The ATO will continue to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 on businesses and will issue updated guidance where necessary.</p> <p>Individuals</p> <p>For those that usually live and work in Australia but are temporarily overseas due to COVID-19, their Australian tax obligations will not have changed. If they are required to pay foreign income tax overseas, a foreign income tax offset will ordinarily reduce their Australian tax payable.</p> <p>The ATO has advised that those who are not Australian residents for tax purposes, however will be</p>	<p>ATO - residency and source of income</p> <p>ATO - PAYG withholding registration during COVID-19</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>in Australia longer than expected due to COVID-19, will be assessable only on income from an Australian source subject to the application of any applicable Australian double tax agreements</p> <p>These people may need to lodge an Australian tax return if they earn any assessable income from an Australian source. This includes salary or wage income that is assessable in Australia. For those that usually work overseas and earn foreign-source employment income, and have been on leave since arriving in Australia, the income received from their foreign employer for paid leave (such as annual or holiday leave) is not from an Australian source (and so does not need to be declared in Australia).</p> <p>These people may also need to lodge an Australian tax return if they become an Australian resident for tax purposes. As an Australian resident all Australian-sourced income, including salary or wage income and investment income, will be assessable. All foreign-sourced income will also be assessable except for Australian residents who are temporary residents. The ATO has stated that those in Australia temporarily for some weeks or months because of COVID-19 will not become Australian residents for tax purposes as long as they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • usually live overseas permanently; and • intend to return there as soon as they are able to do so. <p>However, the tax residency issue may be more complicated if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • end up staying in Australia for a lengthy period; or • do not plan to return to their country of residency when they can. <p>The ATO has stated more specifically that whether employment income is assessable depends on whether it is from an Australian or a foreign source. It also depends on whether a double tax agreement applies. The source of income always depends on the facts. Usually the place where the employment is exercised is very significant when deciding the source of employment income (salary or wages). However, in certain circumstances other factors may be more significant. COVID-19 has created a special set of circumstances that must be taken into account when considering the source of the employment income of a non-resident who usually works overseas but instead performs that same employment in Australia as a result of COVID-19. In this situation, the ATO will accept that, if the working arrangement is short term (3 months or less), the employment income will not have an Australian source.</p> <p>For working arrangements that last longer than 3 months, all the facts and circumstances will need to be examined to determine if the employment is connected to Australia. This includes whether:</p>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the terms and conditions of the employment contract change; • the nature of the employment activities change; • the person commences performing some work for an Australian entity affiliated with their foreign employer; • the economic impact or result of work shifts to Australia; • the person's economic employer – the entity to which the person is providing their services – is in Australia (see Taxation Ruling TR 2013/1); • the person performs work with Australian clients; • the performance of work is otherwise wholly or to a significant degree dependent upon being physically present in Australia to complete it; • Australia becomes the person's permanent place of work; and/or • the person's intention towards Australia changes. <p>In some limited situations employment income may not have an Australian source. This may be the case if all of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the only thing that has changed about the person's employment is that they are now doing it from Australia as a result of COVID-19; • there are no other connections to Australia; and • the person intends to leave Australia as soon as you they are able to do so. 	
17 March	Cancelled supplies and events	<p>As updated on 25 August.</p> <p>Where a business has reimbursed customers for a cancelled event and has already paid GST to the ATO, the business can make a decreasing adjustment in its next activity statement to reduce the amount of GST payable. The GST reduction can only be claimed once the customer has been refunded or reimbursed, whether through monetary payment, issuing a voucher or setting off of mutual liabilities.</p> <p>Where an employer has paid for employees to attend an event that is cancelled and non-refundable, the employer does not have to pay FBT. Where the employee was liable to pay the cost of attending and was then reimbursed by their employer, the employer may have to pay FBT</p>	<p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - cancelled supplies and events</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - employers</p>

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		unless the otherwise deductible rule applies.	
16 March	Support for large business impacted by COVID-19	Large businesses requiring support should contact the Large Services Team (tel: (02) 9685 8735 or LargeServiceTeam@ato.gov.au) or their existing dedicated ATO relationship manager.	ATO - media release ATO - Deputy Commissioner message
12 March	Deferral of tax amounts to be paid	The ATO is allowing businesses to defer by up to 6 months the payment of tax amounts due up to 12 September 2020 through the BAS (including PAYG instalments), income tax assessments, FBT assessments and excise. Note: the deferral time was increased from 4 to 6 months on 20 March, and the 12 September date was included on 25 March. The ATO further clarified on 25 March that these deferrals also apply for not-for-profits.	ATO - media release ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - payments and reporting ATO - support available ATO - response for NFPs
12 March	GST	As updated on 13 March, 15 April, 1 and 7 May, and 31 July. The ATO is allowing businesses that are currently on a quarterly reporting cycle to opt into monthly GST reporting in order to obtain faster access to any GST refunds. The reporting change also applies to fuel tax credits. On 13 March, the ATO clarified that a business can only make this change from the start of a quarter. On 15 April, the ATO clarified that GST-registered importers may apply to defer payments of GST on all taxable importations into Australia. This means instead of paying GST on taxable imports upfront, importers can defer payment until the first activity statement is lodged after the goods are imported. When lodging the application for deferred GST, the ATO will backdate the GST cycle. This means that if an importer applies in the second or third month of a quarter, the ATO will update their lodgement cycle from quarterly to monthly. This will take effect from the first month of that quarter (July, October, January or April). Importers will need to lodge all the monthly activity statements for that quarter. On 1 May, the ATO provided guidance for NFPs with regards to adjusting GST. An NFP organisation may have had contracts cancelled or had to cancel sales or refund purchases due to the impact of COVID-19. Common examples of when to adjust GST include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a change in the price of a taxable sale; or 	ATO - media release ATO - support available ATO - deferring GST for importers ATO - adjusting GST

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a taxable sale is cancelled. <p>If the GST is adjusted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it must have been reported in a previous activity statement; there is no need to report an adjustment if the event occurs in the current reporting period; and the entity should check if it paid invoices to see if it paid GST, how much and when. <p>An adjustment should be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for the amount paid in each previously lodged activity statement – if accounting for GST on a cash basis; or in the activity statement period in which the entity becomes aware of the adjustment – if accounting for GST on an accruals basis. 	
12 March	PAYG instalment amounts	<p>As updated on 17, 25 and 27 March, 3 and 9 April, 12 August, and 8 September.</p> <p>Businesses may vary PAYG instalment amounts to zero for the March 2020 quarter. Businesses that vary their PAYG instalment to zero can also claim a refund for any instalments made for the September 2019 and December 2019 quarters.</p> <p>On 17 March, the ATO clarified that its coronavirus administrative concession allowing businesses to vary their PAYG instalment amounts to zero applies to activity statements from the March 2020 quarter, so a change now will take effect from 1 April 2020.</p> <p>The ATO clarified that PAYG withholding amounts from employees cannot be varied to zero on the next activity statement. Variations to PAYG instalment liability only apply to instalments paid towards the company's own tax liabilities. It does not apply to tax withheld from employee wages.</p> <p>On 25 and 27 March, the ATO clarified that if investment income has been affected by COVID-19, and the current instalment rate will result in paying more tax than will be due for the year, the PAYG instalment rate can be varied on the next activity statement lodged in line with the estimate of tax due for the year. An amount can be varied to either zero or a reduced amount. If the rate or amount has been varied down, a 5B credit can also be claimed, when the activity statement is lodged, for the amount already paid this financial year. This will generate a refundable credit for the amount already paid and the taxpayer will receive a refund for any credit remaining after offsetting against any other liabilities.</p>	<p>ATO - media release</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - payments and reporting</p> <p>ATO - support available</p> <p>ATO - varying your PAYG instalments</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 3 April, the ATO clarified the position in relation to franking account balances being in deficit for the 2019-20 financial year, as the entity will receive a refund from varying its PAYG instalments because of the impacts of COVID-19. The Commissioner cannot waive or remit franking deficit tax (FDT) liability. If a company's franking account balance is in deficit at the end of the 2019-20 financial year it must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lodge a franking account tax return; and • pay the FDT liability by the last day of the month immediately following the end of the financial year. <p>The FDT liability will generally be due by 31 July 2020. If a company is unable to pay by that date, it can request a payment deferral. The ATO will consider a deferral of the payment up to 30 September 2020.</p> <p>However, the Commissioner will consider exercising his discretion to not reduce the available offset. While the FDT liability cannot be waived or remitted, it can be claimed as a tax offset. In some circumstances, the available tax offset may be reduced by 30% unless the Commissioner exercises his discretion to not reduce the available offset. If the deficit in a company's franking account was due to the unexpected downturn in business directly related to COVID-19, and the deficit relates to franked dividends paid before 1 March 2020, the Commissioner will allow a franking entity to manage their tax affairs as if the Commissioner has exercised the discretion to not reduce the available tax offset. In these circumstances, the full amount of the tax offset entitlement created by the franking deficits tax liability will be available to the franking entity.</p> <p>On 9 April, the ATO clarified that it will not apply penalties for excessive variation or charge interest on instalments if a taxpayer chooses to vary their PAYG instalment amounts due to the effects of COVID-19. However, if the instalments throughout the year are not sufficient to cover the taxpayer's liability, they will have an amount to pay following lodgment of their tax return. To reduce the potential effect of large final tax liability, the ATO is allowing taxpayers to make multiple variations throughout the year as their situation changes.</p> <p>On 12 August, the ATO stated that for the 2020-21 income year, it will not apply penalties or charge interest for excessive variations where a taxpayer has made their "best attempt" to estimate their end of year tax liability. However, general interest charges may apply to outstanding PAYG instalment balances.</p> <p>On 8 September, the ATO reiterated that taxpayers that varied their PAYG instalment amounts in 2019-20 due to COVID-19 may need to vary their instalments again for 2020-21 if the instalment amounts do not reflect their current financial circumstances. The ATO will not apply penalties and</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>interest for excessive PAYG instalment variations.</p> <p>If taxpayers are in the Top 100, Top 1,000 or Top 500 private groups programs, they will need to ensure any variation to their instalment rate or payments reflects their anticipated tax liability for 2020-21. The ATO does not expect them to vary their rate down if they anticipate making an end of year washup payment.</p>	
12 March	Interest and penalties on tax liabilities	<p>As updated on 9 April.</p> <p>For businesses affected by COVID-19, the ATO will consider remitting any interest and penalties, incurred on or after 23 January 2020, that have been applied to tax liabilities, or arrange a low interest payment arrangement.</p>	<p>ATO - media release</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - interest and penalties</p> <p>ATO - support available</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - payments and reporting</p>
12 March	Payment plans	<p>The ATO has invited affected businesses to discuss entering into low-interest payment plans for their existing and ongoing tax liabilities.</p> <p>On 25 March, the ATO also stated that those with a payment arrangement in place who cannot make those payments at the present time due to COVID-19, should contact the ATO, which may suspend, vary or cancel the payment arrangement, and ensure interest is not charged on the outstanding debt.</p>	<p>ATO - media release</p> <p>ATO - support available</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - payments and reporting</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs - interest and penalties</p>
12 March	General assistance	<p>Assistance measures for taxpayers impacted by COVID-19 will not be implemented automatically by the ATO. Therefore, anyone impacted by COVID-19 is required to contact the ATO Emergency Support Infoline (tel: 1800 806 218) when they are ready to request assistance. Once a taxpayer contacts the ATO, a support plan will be tailored for the taxpayer.</p> <p>The ATO has also established a dedicated inbox for taxpayers to submit additional or specific tax questions related to COVID-19: COVID-19Taxissues@ato.gov.au</p> <p>This contrasts with bushfire assistance measures which are applied automatically to particular geographical areas.</p>	<p>ATO - media release</p> <p>ATO - Commissioner's address to Tax Summit</p> <p>ATO - COVID-19 FAQs</p> <p>Australian Government - fact sheet</p> <p>ATO - Commissioner's message</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
			ATO - support available ATO - media release

Australian Securities and Investments Commission

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
24 September	Fee arrangement obligations for Victorian financial advice businesses	<p>ASIC acknowledges that due to COVID-19 restrictions, some financial advice businesses in Victoria may find it difficult to comply with the fee disclosure statement and renewal notice obligations.</p> <p>To assist affected financial advice businesses, ASIC has issued a no-action position in relation to these obligations. ASIC does not intend to take regulatory action against an Australian financial services (AFS) licensee or their representative for a breach of sections 962G, 962K and 962S of the <i>Corporations Act</i> in certain circumstances.</p> <p>This no-action position applies to AFS licensees or representatives where their entire business or a substantial part of it is located in Victoria.</p>	ASIC - media release
22 September	ASIC enforcement update	<p>ASIC released its enforcement update report for the period 1 January to 30 June 2020.</p> <p>The report outlines key actions taken over this period to enforce the law and support ASIC's enforcement objectives.</p> <p>To address the impact of COVID-19 on the Australian financial system, ASIC has developed a set of pandemic-related enforcement priorities to guide the organisation's response to misconduct associated with the pandemic. The priorities are set out in the enforcement update report and ASIC's Office of Enforcement has a number of investigations into pandemic-related misconduct.</p> <p>A copy of the report is available here.</p>	ASIC - media release
31 August	ASIC Corporate Plan for 2020-24	<p>ASIC published its Corporate Plan for 2020-24, which sets out how it aims to achieve its strategic priorities and actions over the next 4 years.</p> <p>The Corporate Plan outlines actions ASIC is taking to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as longer term threats and harms in the regulatory environment. A key consideration in all ASIC's work is the extent to which it is supporting the long term recovery of the Australian economy.</p> <p>ASIC's work to address the COVID-19 pandemic is guided by 5 strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protecting consumers from harm at a time of heightened vulnerability; maintaining financial system resilience and stability; supporting Australian businesses to respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; 	ASIC - media release ASIC - Corporate Plan for 2020-24 ASIC - Interim Corporate Plan for 2020-21

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuing to identify, disrupt and take enforcement action against the most harmful conduct; and continuing to build its organisational capacity in challenging times. <p>ASIC is also committed to other important priorities and workstreams beyond its pandemic-related activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting confident participation in the financial system to support long term economic recovery; detering poor behaviour and misconduct; improving entities' management of key risks to prevent and mitigate harms to consumers and promote a healthy financial system and economic growth; addressing consumer harm as a result of elevated debt levels and hardship, with a particular focus on predatory lending; reducing poor product design and restricting mis-selling; reducing misconduct by company directors and professional service providers; and delivering as a conduct regulator for superannuation. 	
26 August	Frozen funds regulatory relief	<p>ASIC has announced new relief measures for all responsible entities (REs) of registered managed investment schemes (schemes) that have become 'frozen funds', in order to facilitate withdrawals by members facing financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>A fund is frozen when the RE has suspended or cancelled redemptions to prevent withdrawals from destabilising their fund. When a fund is frozen, members will generally not have access to their investments for a period of time.</p> <p>Requirements for REs</p> <p>Hardship relief is available to all REs of frozen funds regardless of whether their scheme was originally liquid or illiquid (as defined in the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth)) provided that the RE has ceased allowing new interests in the scheme, including distribution reinvestments and issues to existing members.</p> <p>A RE seeking to rely on the legislative instrument must:</p>	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - information for responsible entities</p> <p>ASIC - information for members</p> <p>ASIC - RG 136 (updated)</p> <p>ASIC Corporations (Hardship Withdrawals Relief) Instrument 2020/778</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notify ASIC and scheme members of its intention to rely on the relief; • before making a hardship withdrawal, be satisfied that it has adequate cash to fulfil future hardship withdrawal requests and continue the day-to-day operations of the scheme over the following 6 months; • provide quarterly data to ASIC in the prescribed form; and • comply with all other conditions of the relief. <p>If a RE is unable to meet these requirements, it can seek individual relief from ASIC for its particular circumstances. REs of frozen funds will be breaching the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth) if they allow hardship withdrawals without relief.</p> <p>ASIC expects REs relying on the hardship relief to ensure ongoing compliance with their legal obligations, the scheme constitution and the terms of relief.</p> <p>Hardship eligibility criteria for members</p> <p>To be eligible to make hardship withdrawals from frozen funds, a member must meet at least one of the 'hardship criteria' such as severe financial hardship, unemployment for over 3 months, compassionate grounds or permanent incapacity.</p> <p>An eligible member may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • withdraw up to a total of \$100,000 of their investment per calendar year; and • receive up to 4 withdrawals per calendar year. <p>A RE has the discretion to facilitate a hardship withdrawal where the RE is satisfied that the member has met the hardship criteria.</p> <p>Additional relief</p> <p>ASIC will continue to consider relief to REs of illiquid schemes on a case-by-case basis to allow rolling withdrawal offers to be made to members with administrative ease. REs of frozen funds that are illiquid who seek to facilitate a withdrawal offer to all members (or members of a class) can apply for the 'rolling withdrawal relief'.</p>	
13 August	Expectations of retail lenders when loan repayment	<p>As updated on 20 August.</p> <p>ASIC has published its expectations of lenders to assist them to deliver appropriate and fair</p>	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p>

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	deferrals end	<p>outcomes to consumers whose 6 month loan repayment deferrals will expire in the coming months.</p> <p>Lenders must do all things necessary to ensure that the credit activities authorised by their licence are engaged in efficiently, honestly and fairly. As such, ASIC expects lenders to have processes in place that will allow for an orderly transition, and deliver consumers appropriate and fair outcomes.</p> <p>Importantly, ASIC's expectations include how lenders should approach consumers who cannot resume repayments on their mortgages. If a consumer identifies that they cannot resume full repayments on their mortgage, ASIC expects lenders to make reasonable efforts to gather personalised information about the consumer's circumstances. ASIC considers that taking such steps will allow lenders to make a decision about the consumer's loan in a fair and appropriate manner, including better enabling lenders to offer assistance that genuinely meets the needs of each consumer.</p>	ASIC - expectations of lenders
24 July	Minor updates to RG 97	<p>ASIC has slightly amended Regulatory Guide 97 Disclosing Fees and Costs in PDSs and Periodic Statements (RG 97) to adjust the transitional timeframes in response to COVID-19 and to provide greater clarity on the obligations following additional feedback from industry.</p> <p>They key changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Disclosure Statements (PDSs) given on or after 30 September 2022 must comply with the new requirements; • issuers can choose to apply the new requirements from 30 September 2020; and • once an issuer has elected to apply the new requirements, all subsequent PDSs for that financial product must comply with the new requirements. <p>There is no change to the transition arrangements for periodic statements.</p>	ASIC - media release
7 July	Focuses for financial reporting	<p>ASIC has announced its focus areas for financial reporting for the year ending 30 June 2020 in the COVID-19 environment.</p> <p>Entities with businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic should focus on the reporting of asset values and financial position. Investors will expect clear disclosure about the impacts on an entity's businesses, any risks and uncertainties, key assumptions, management strategies and future prospects.</p> <p>Given the adverse impacts on many entities from the COVID-19 pandemic, ASIC stated that directors, preparers and auditors should focus on:</p>	ASIC - media release

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asset values; • provisions; • solvency and going concern assessments; • events occurring after year end and before completing the financial report; and • disclosures in the financial report and Operating and Financial Review. <p>ASIC has also provided an attachment with further information on these focus areas.</p> <p>ASIC stated that entities facing uncertainties in future economic and market conditions should make reasonable, supportive and realistic assumptions underlying estimates and assessments for financial reporting purposes. Directors and auditors should be given sufficient time to consider reporting issues and to challenge assumptions, estimates and assessments. ASIC also highlighted the importance of disclosures in the financial report to investors such as uncertainties, key assumptions, sensitivity analysis, underlying drivers of the results, risks, management strategies and future prospects.</p> <p>However, where possible, entities should continue to lodge within the normal statutory deadlines having regard to the information needs of shareholders, creditors and other users of their financial reports, or to meet borrowing covenants or other obligations.</p> <p>ASIC also said that it will be reviewing the full-year financial reports of about 200 larger listed entities and other public interest entities, as at 30 June 2020. It will focus on those adversely affected by the current conditions as well as the adequacy of disclosure by those whose businesses have been positively affected.</p>	
6 July	ASIC Regulatory Portal	<p>On 27 July 2020, the ASIC Regulatory Portal will replace the current submission channels as the primary method to submit applications for relief (as well as various fundraising and corporate finance documents) to ASIC.</p> <p>The new transactions available in the portal from 27 July 2020 are named:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for a no-action letter; • Apply for a waiver from ASIC market integrity rules; • Apply for an ASIC approval, consent, statement, nomination, or other; • Apply for an exemption, declaration or order; and 	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - changes to how you apply for relief</p> <p>ASIC - changes to how you lodge fundraising and corporate finance documents</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of time for a company to hold its annual general meeting. <p>Anyone needing to use the portal to transact with ASIC will need to register their own account.</p> <p>Transactions are structured on the portal to make it easier for applicants to ensure the information ASIC requires is provided upfront. The status of transactions can also be tracked with messaging features that record correspondence with ASIC. Users can also invite others, representatives and agents to act on their behalf in the portal.</p>	
26 June	Super fund internal dispute resolution	<p>ASIC registered an Instrument preserving until 5 October 2021 the existing internal dispute resolution (IDR) policy for superannuation funds for the purposes of section 101(1)(b) of the SIS Act.</p> <p>Section 101(1)(b) of the SIS Act provides that trustees of regulated superannuation funds (other than SMSFs) are subject to the same IDR obligations as financial services licensees under s 912A(2)(a)(i) of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i>. However, the original transitional Instrument (<i>ASIC Corporations and Credit (Internal Dispute Resolution - Transitional) Instrument 2019/965</i>) preserved the existing IDR policy for super funds until 30 June 2020, pending the finalisation of ASIC's new IDR standards, which have been delayed due to COVID-19. ASIC is now expected to release its new IDR standards in July 2020 for application to complaints received by financial firms on or after 5 October 2021.</p>	<p>ASIC Corporations, Superannuation and Credit (Amendment) Instrument 2020/99</p>
25 June	COVID-19 changes to the Banking Code approved	<p>ASIC has approved a variation of the Banking Code of Practice (Code).</p> <p>The variation, as proposed by the Australian Banking Association (ABA), involves the insertion of a 'Special Note' into the Code to allow for special application of specified Code provisions until 1 March 2021. The ABA has proposed the variation due to the extraordinary external environment caused by COVID-19.</p> <p>The changes acknowledge that during the pandemic and its aftermath, banks are dealing with very high volumes of customers in distressed circumstances and operating in very uncertain economic conditions. Many customer solutions offered as part of the banks' COVID-19 assistance are tailored, and require banks to ensure the right support to suit customer circumstances.</p> <p>The changes provide that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in certain circumstances banks may not always be able to meet the timelines for customer communication outlined in some provisions of the Code (paragraphs 101(b)&(c), 102, 148, 164, 205, and 206); and a bank's obligations when lending to small business customers, to engage in a fair, 	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC Corporations (Approval of Variation of March 2020 Banking Code of Practice) Instrument 2020/602</p> <p>ABA - media release</p>

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		<p>reasonable and ethical manner, and to exercise the care and skill of a diligent and prudent banker, will be informed by the circumstances and effects of COVID-19 generally.</p> <p>Under these changes, the substantive obligations of the Code remain in place, but non-compliance with the specified times will not constitute a breach of the Code if banks are making good faith efforts to comply.</p> <p>The Special Note commits banks to informing customers of the changes within the usual timeframes.</p>	
23 June	End of COVID-19 deferrals and payments	<p>With September marking the end of many COVID-19 stimulus measures, ASIC has asked banks and lenders to work with their customers in the lead-up to September.</p> <p>The ASIC Chair stated that there should be no surprise for businesses and lenders, who should already be putting measures in place for the end of COVID-19-related loan-repayment deferrals in September.</p> <p>ASIC has also established 3 taskforces – false and misleading advertising, scams, and the appropriateness of financial advice – to focus on issues that have arisen during the pandemic.</p>	ASIC - media release
18 June	Advertising financial products and services – obligations and ASIC's expectations	<p>ASIC is actively monitoring financial services advertising during the COVID-19 pandemic. ASIC's newly established cross-team advertising working group is focused on 2 areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advertisements that are misleading or deceptive; and • advertisements that help identify products or services which are unsuitable or inappropriate and may be seeking to exploit people in the current environment. <p>ASIC is monitoring advertising of a wide range of products and services across a broad range of media, including social media, using a mix of traditional and innovative regtech monitoring tools.</p> <p>ASIC has reminded advertisers of financial services and products that compliance with legal obligations, specifically the prohibition of false or misleading representations, is paramount during this time of uncertainty. In particular, warnings, disclaimers and qualifications should not be inconsistent with other content in an advertisement, including any headline claims. Warnings, disclaimers and qualifications should have sufficient prominence to effectively convey key information to a reasonable member of the audience on first viewing the advertisement.</p>	ASIC - media release
15 June	Managed investment	As updated on 27 July.	ASIC - managed investment schemes

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	schemes – document lodgement guidance	<p>ASIC has provided guidance for lodging documents for managed investment schemes.</p> <p>Electronic copies and signatures</p> <p>The following electronic documents may be lodged online through either the AFS licensee portal or the registered agent portal for current AFS licensees, or through the registered agent portal for new AFS licence applicants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Form 5100 Application for registration of a managed investment scheme; initial constitution for a managed investment scheme; initial compliance plan for a managed investment scheme; and Form 5103 Directors' statement relating to application for registration of a managed investment scheme. <p>Scanned copies of the documents set out in (b) to (d) can be lodged via the AFS licensee portal or the registered agent portal.</p> <p>In addition, breach reports are now submitted electronically via the transaction 'Submit Australian financial services licensee breach report', via the ASIC Regulatory Portal.</p> <p>All other documents and forms required to be lodged pursuant to Chapter 5C of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth) (Corporations Act) must be lodged by post in paper form.</p> <p>ASIC will accept an electronic signature on the Form 5100 Application for registration of a managed investment scheme when the form is lodged through the AFS licensee portal or the registered agent portal. Furthermore, until 6 November 2020, ASIC will accept electronic signatures on company documents lodged with ASIC, including those accompanying an application for registration of a scheme.</p> <p>Execution of documents</p> <p>Where the following documents are signed by more than 1 person, ASIC will accept them for lodgement in counterparts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 5103 Directors' statement relating to application for registration of a managed investment scheme; the scheme's compliance plan (including a modification or new plan); and company documents signed under s127 of the Corporations Act (including the scheme 	<p>FAQs</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>constitution).</p> <p>Where any of these documents are signed in counterparts and lodged as part of an application to register a scheme through the AFS licensee portal or the registered agent portal, the applicant must provide all separately signed counterparts of the document. These portals allow 2 documents to be uploaded for each of the compliance plan and constitution, and 1 document to be uploaded for the Form 5103. If the number of counterparts exceeds the number of documents that may be uploaded, the counterparts must be scanned and uploaded as a single document.</p> <p>Where any of these documents are signed in counterparts and lodged by post, the applicant must provide all separately signed counterparts of the document.</p> <p>In circumstances where directors are not able to sign a compliance plan, modification or replacement compliance plan, an agent of the directors may sign these documents on their behalf. The agent's authority or a copy verified by a director of the entity, must be attached to the plan or modification. Where a compliance plan is lodged via the portal, the agent's authority, or a copy verified by a director, must be uploaded with the compliance plan.</p> <p>Applications for relief or no-action</p> <p>Applications for relief should be submitted through the ASIC Regulatory Portal. The portal has replaced the email channel as the primary method to submit applications for relief.</p> <p>Lodgement deadlines</p> <p>As previously announced (see below), ASIC has extended the deadline for listed and unlisted entities to lodge financial reports under Chapters 2M and 7 of the Corporations Act and the timeframe for completion of compliance plan audits by 1 month.</p> <p>This applies to responsible entities, which must prepare and lodge, for each financial year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for themselves and their registered schemes – financial reports, directors' reports and auditor's reports under Chapter 2M of the Corporations Act, and • for themselves – profit and loss and balance sheets (and other associated information) under Chapter 7 of the Corporations Act as an AFS licensee. <p>The relief also provides for an additional month for the completion of the compliance plan audit required under Chapter 5C of the Corporations Act.</p> <p>The relief applies to financial reports of unlisted entities for year ends from 31 December 2019 to 7 July 2020. Listed entities will be able to take 1 additional month to report for full year and half-year financial reports for 21 February 2020 to 7 July 2020 balance dates. The extended deadlines will</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>only apply where the normal reporting deadline has not already passed at the time that the relevant instrument of relief was registered.</p> <p>Listed entities are required to inform the market when they rely on the extended period for lodgement. These entities may also find it desirable to explain the reasons for relying on the extended deadlines.</p>	
12 June	Executive remuneration	<p>In 2019, ASIC conducted a targeted review of board oversight of variable remuneration schemes. The review covered 21 ASX listed companies across 7 industry sectors. ASIC has proceeded to provide entity specific observations and findings directly to the 21 entities that were subject of the review.</p> <p>In addition, ASIC has released an information sheet drawing on the review's factual findings and framed to assist boards and remuneration committees of listed companies to navigate decisions on executive variable pay in the context of COVID-19.</p> <p>Information Sheet 245 Board oversight of executive variable pay decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic (INFO 245) focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the importance of a robust remuneration governance framework, especially to ensure informed decision making; and specific factors to consider when exercising discretion on executive variable pay in the current environment. 	ASIC - media release
26 May	Managed investment schemes – transitional arrangements for PDSs	<p>ASIC has announced that it will be amending the transitional arrangements for Product Disclosure Statements (PDSs) shortly to allow entities to come into the new disclosure regime from 30 September 2020 and require any PDS given on or after 30 September 2022 to comply with the new disclosure regime. This is in relation to the transitional arrangements in RG 97 instrument <i>ASIC Corporations (Disclosure of Fees and Costs) Instrument 2019/1070</i>.</p> <p>There will be no change to the periodic statement transition arrangements.</p>	ASIC - managed investment schemes FAQs
19 May	Financial advisers and superannuation	<p>ASIC is concerned that some advisers may use the current uncertainty from COVID-19 as part of their pitch to consumers to carry out broader superannuation activities, such as the possibility of early release of superannuation, searching for lost super and consolidating their accounts.</p> <p>ASIC has already seen some 'lost super search providers' re-brand as 'COVID-19 access providers'. ASIC has stated that it will be closely monitoring this area for misconduct.</p>	ASIC - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
14 May	Maintaining equity market resilience	<p>ASIC has issued a letter to all equity market participants outlining its expectations to ensure Australia's equity markets remain resilient. During March and April 2020, Australian equity markets experienced significant volatility and record trade numbers, at a time when most firms were operating under business continuity arrangements. While the markets remained orderly, this placed strain on the trade processing capabilities of market infrastructure, market participants and other service providers.</p> <p>ASIC has requested all equity market participants to take reasonable steps to ensure the number of trades matched from their orders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are capable of being handled by their internal processing and risk management systems and, if applicable, their clearing and settlement operations; and support the fair and orderly operation of Australian equity markets. <p>ASIC will closely monitor the behaviour of participants and take further action where necessary. ASIC will also undertake a review of the broader trends in trading activity, and where appropriate consult with industry on any proposed regulatory changes.</p>	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - letter to equity market participants</p>
8 May	Mortgage broker reforms and design and distribution obligations	<p>As updated on 27 May and 24 June.</p> <p>ASIC announced that it will defer the commencement date of the mortgage broker best interest duty and remuneration reforms, and the design and distribution obligations for 6 months from their original commencement dates, given the significant impact of COVID-19 on the Australian economy, especially on the financial system and consumers.</p> <p>ASIC will defer the commencement date for the mortgage broker reforms until 1 January 2021. ASIC will defer the commencement date for the design and distribution obligations until 5 October 2021.</p> <p>ASIC has deferred the commencement dates so industry participants can focus on immediate priorities and the needs of their customers at this difficult time. In making this decision, ASIC also had regard to the important protections for consumers that these requirements introduce. ASIC expects entities will continue preparing for commencement on the extended timeline. ASIC has also conveyed its expectations of meeting consumer needs at this time, including directly to lenders and insurers.</p> <p>On 24 June, ASIC published Regulatory Guide 273 Mortgage brokers: Best interests duty to assist in the application of the new best interests duty for mortgage brokers. From 1 January 2021, ASIC will closely monitor conduct and outcomes to ensure mortgage brokers are complying effectively</p>	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC Corporations (Deferral of Design and Distribution Obligations) Instrument 2020/486</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		with the best interests duty.	
7 May	Investment advertising	<p>As updated on 22 September.</p> <p>ASIC has announced that it is concerned about investment advertising that compares fixed-term investment products to bank term deposits.</p> <p>ASIC is monitoring such advertising and the entities involved, because of reports about fixed-income products being advertised as term deposit ‘alternatives’ or ‘substitutes’, and consumers investing significant sums as a result.</p> <p>ASIC views these investment products as riskier than term deposits because they may be issued by entities that are not well-capitalised, not protected by the Government’s Financial Claims Scheme, and not supervised by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. Some are also backed by concentrated portfolios of higher risk unlisted and illiquid assets.</p> <p>In addition to the above concerns, on 22 September, ASIC announced that it had conducted surveillance of 37 managed funds operated by 20 responsible entities and found that fund managers must do more to ensure their products are ‘true to label’. In particular, ASIC identified 2 concerns regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confusing and inappropriate product labels of “cash” funds; and • redemption features not matching the liquidity of underlying assets. <p>Following this review, ASIC sought corrective action from 13 responsible entities. ASIC’s engagement with some responsible entities is continuing.</p>	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p>
7 May	Director trading	<p>ASIC has issued guidance to directors trading during COVID-19.</p> <p>ASIC stated that directors may decide to buy or subscribe for shares or other financial products to indicate positive support for their listed entity at a time of uncertainty. Conversely, a change in personal or financial circumstances may underpin a decision to sell. Regardless of their motivation for trading, before doing so directors must be mindful of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the legal restrictions that may apply to their ability to buy and sell; and • the impact their trading may have on both their reputation and that of the market – including any contribution it may make to investor perceptions about the entity and, more broadly, information asymmetries between insiders and other investors in the entity. 	<p>ASIC - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>ASIC's guidance further addresses the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consideration of the entity's trading policy; consideration of the information in the director's possession – and accounting for the current uncertain and volatile market conditions; notification to the market; and consideration of conflicts and disclosure obligations arising from margin loans and similar arrangements. 	
6 May	Retail investor trading during COVID-19 volatility	<p>ASIC has announced that it is particularly concerned by the significant increase in retail investors' trading in complex, often high-risk investment products during his time. These include highly-g geared exchange traded products, but also Contracts For Difference (CFDs).</p> <p>Trading activity in CFDs has increased significantly during this period of heightened volatility. Leverage inherent in CFDs magnifies investment exposure and sensitivity to market volatility, so retail clients should be particularly cautious about investing in leveraged products at this time. In the week of 16-22 March 2020, for example, retail clients' net losses from trading CFDs were \$234 million for a sample of 12 CFD providers.</p>	<p>ASIC - media release ASIC - paper</p>
29 April	Retail lenders' obligations during COVID-19	<p>ASIC has announced that it is closely monitoring how lenders are assisting consumers who are experiencing financial difficulties due to COVID-19.</p> <p>ASIC has reminded lenders of their obligations under section 72 of the National Credit Code, whereby a lender must consider varying a consumer's credit contract if a consumer notifies them that they are or will be unable to meet their credit obligations. Lenders must also do all things necessary to ensure that the credit activities authorised by their licence are engaged in efficiently, honestly and fairly.</p> <p>ASIC has suggested that lenders should consider the following five points in their processes to respond to consumer financial difficulties fairly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Advise consumers of different available options that may assist them. Ensure all communications with consumers are clear and provide consumers with sufficient information to make an informed decision about the assistance available. This should include details of how different assistance options will affect the consumer's loan and repayments over the short and long term, including the effect of capitalising interest (where relevant). 	<p>ASIC - media release ASIC - media release ASIC - letter to ABA</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>3. Be flexible and offer tailored solutions to consumers where a standardised approach may not meet the consumer's needs. For example, if a consumer has had their loan repayments deferred, a lender should ensure that how a consumer will catch up on missed repayments is manageable and offer alternatives.</p> <p>4. Have ongoing communications with consumers throughout the period of assistance to ensure that any assistance offered remains appropriate and continues to meet their needs.</p> <p>5. Communicate with consumers as their period of assistance comes to an end to understand their financial circumstances at that time, respond as appropriate and ensure each consumer understands what will happen next.</p> <p>ASIC encourages lenders to continue to work closely with their customers to develop options that provide short-term assistance to customers experiencing difficulty due to COVID-19 and also longer-term viability post COVID-19.</p> <p>ASIC has also written to lenders to provide clarity on issues of hardship, responsible lending and communication. Responsible lending obligations apply to new lending (i.e. new loans or an increase to a credit limit on an existing loan). These obligations do not apply, and should not be considered by lenders as a barrier to, making appropriate changes to the terms of existing loans in response to hardship situations.</p>	
29 April	Enforcement priorities	<p>As updated on 11 June.</p> <p>ASIC has stated in its July to December 2019 Enforcement Update, that in response to the COVID-19 crisis, it is currently in the process of revising its enforcement priorities to ensure it can deal with the most significant and urgent matters, and also respond quickly to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serious market misconduct and abuse; • instances of immediate consumer harm, including predatory lending; and • other egregious unlawful conduct. <p>On 11 June, ASIC published its Interim Corporate Plan, which sets out 5 priorities to tackle the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting consumers from harm at a time of heightened vulnerability; • maintaining financial system resilience and stability; • supporting Australian businesses to respond to the effects of COVID-19; 	<p>ASIC - July to December 2019 Enforcement Update (Report 660)</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuing to identify, disrupt and take enforcement action against the most harmful conduct; and continuing to build ASIC's organisational capacity in challenging times. <p>The Plan is a result of ASIC's modified strategic planning process for the 2020-21 year, in response to the impact of COVID-19 on the financial system. ASIC's immediate focus has been on assessing the key vulnerabilities in its regulated sectors in the current environment and developing targeted strategic priorities.</p> <p>Examples of new activities that flow from the Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cross-ASIC working groups on scams, unlicensed advice and misleading advertising; expanding markets supervision work to support fair and orderly operation of markets and to ensure investors are appropriately informed; providing relief in relation to capital raising, shareholder meetings and reporting, and financial advice; ensuring that there are measures in place to assist consumers who experience hardship, especially in relation to credit and insurance; and facilitating access to effective advice when individuals are considering seeking early access to their superannuation. 	
27 April	General and life insurers expectations	<p>ASIC has written directly to general insurers and life insurers regarding its expectations in the current environment.</p> <p>ASIC is committed to working constructively and pragmatically with insurers to help Australians affected by the COVID Pandemic to recover, and to aid the general functioning of the economy. However, ASIC expects insurers to handle insurance claims with utmost good faith and to deal with complaints genuinely, promptly, fairly and consistently.</p> <p>Insurers should be flexible in dealing with consumers' specific circumstances. Where consumers are no longer able to pay premiums due to reduced income, insurers should consider how they can best respond to this issue in order to help consumers continue to maintain key insurance coverage. This might include, where appropriate and reasonable, measures including premium 'holidays', deferrals, or reductions for a reasonable period of time.</p> <p>ASIC also expects insurers to communicate proactively, clearly and accurately with consumers</p>	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - letter to general insurers</p> <p>ASIC - letter to life insurers</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		about their insurance cover, recognising the rapidly changing situation they are facing.	
24 April	Reporting for unlisted entities	<p>The <i>ASIC Corporations (Extended Reporting and Lodgment Deadlines - Unlisted Entities) Instrument 2020/395</i> was registered and has extended various reporting and lodgment deadlines for unlisted entities, including unlisted public companies, proprietary companies, registered schemes, disclosing entities and Australian Financial Services licensees.</p> <p>This temporary relief allows unlisted entities up to 1 additional month to complete financial reports and have those reports audited. The extensions seek to facilitate financial reporting by unlisted entities whose reporting processes can take additional time due to current remote work arrangements, travel restrictions and other impacts of COVID-19. The Instrument also allows 1 additional month to report to members and lodge reports with ASIC. It applies for full and half-years ending from 31 December 2019 to 31 March 2020 where the reporting deadline has not already passed.</p>	ASIC Corporations (Extended Reporting and Lodgment Deadlines - Unlisted Entities) Instrument 2020/395
22 April	Financial reporting	ASIC has commented that, in general, the impacts of COVID-19 have been disclosed as non-adjusting subsequent events for the purposes of 31 December 2019 financial reporting.	ASIC - media release
14 April	Next steps with various workstreams	<p>As updated on 11 June and 30 July.</p> <p>ASIC has announced its next steps with regards to reviews and processes that have not been deferred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASIC is currently working on amendments to address issues that have arisen since the release of the revised Regulatory Guide 97. ASIC is also considering amending the transitional arrangements for Product Disclosure Statements (PDSs) to allow entities to come into the new disclosure regime from 30 September 2020 and requiring any PDS given after 30 September 2022 to comply with the new disclosure regime; • ASIC is providing school banking providers additional time until 31 July 2020 to respond to its school banking review findings. ASIC will continue work on drafting the school banking review report; • in relation to total and permanent disability insurance, ASIC will contact insurers by the end of April 2020 to seek information about the steps taken so far to meet the expectations outlined in its report; • in relation to registered liquidator registration and renewal, ASIC is monitoring the impact 	ASIC - COVID-19 priorities ASIC - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>of COVID-19 on the number and type of insolvency appointments and the capacity in the existing registered liquidator population to deal with resulting corporate failures;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASIC continues to work with Phoenix Taskforce members to target illegal phoenix activity. ASIC also continues to fund registered liquidators through the Assetless Administration Fund to investigate and report on serious misconduct including illegal phoenix activity; and • ASIC is conducting desk-based surveillance work to assess the level of decision-useful climate related disclosure by listed companies. ASIC is also identifying key challenges faced by companies in this area. However, discussions with companies have been delayed as a result of COVID-19. <p>On 11 June, ASIC published a revised timetable of ongoing work. This includes information on proposed timing of consultation and release of regulatory guidance in relation to legislation implementing the recommendations of the Financial Services Royal Commission. For those Royal Commission measures deferred for introduction by 30 June 2021, ASIC will continue to engage with stakeholders in relation to the timing of consultations of associated guidance.</p> <p>More specifically, ASIC announced that it will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publish the following regulatory guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in June 2020, on how it will use the product intervention power (RG 272); ○ in July 2020, outlining updated IDR standards and requirements in Regulatory Guide 271 Internal Dispute Resolution (ASIC has given industry until 5 October 2021, to comply with the new IDR standards and requirements); and ○ in Q3 2020, on product design and distribution obligations; • commence its second phase of targeted consultation on IDR data collection and reporting in Q3 2020; • in Q3 2020, consult on its proposals to extend the application of its remediation policy in <i>Regulatory Guide 256 Client review and remediation conducted by advice licensees</i> beyond financial advice; • publish an information sheet in June 2020 to help boards with the governance of executive variable pay decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic; • publish a report on its review of industry progress on improving insurance outcomes for consumers by December 2020; 	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> release a follow up report on industry performance and regulation of buy now pay later services in Q3 2020; consult on the ePayments Code in Q4 of 2020; contact life insurers seeking information about the steps they have taken in response to the concerns ASIC raised in Report 633 <i>Holes in the safety net: A review of TPD insurance claims</i>; explore options to reduce the 2020 accreditation burden for market intermediaries and their derivative advisers; review automated order processing controls for futures market participants where there are risks to the resiliency of the market; and delay the publication of formal consultation papers until industry has the capacity to consider and respond to the proposals. 	
14 April	Follow-up work and publication of reports	<p>As updated on 20 April.</p> <p>ASIC has delayed a number of activities not immediately necessary in light of COVID-19, including consultations, regulatory reports and reviews.</p> <p>These measures include deferring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> public consultation on ASIC's platform fees consultation paper until further notice. ASIC will continue to develop its proposals on fees and costs disclosure for platforms; public consultation 'Timeshare stage 2' paper for up to one year. ASIC will continue to develop its proposals on selling practices in timeshare (cooling off versus deferred sale) and on secondary sales. ASIC will proceed with release of an updated regulatory guide and instrument to introduce the remainder of our proposed amendments to the policy settings for timeshare schemes; industry engagement activities in relation to the recurrent managed funds data pilot until further notice. ASIC is also considering how it can best access data about the managed funds industry at this time to support its regulatory work in relation to managed funds; the review on the surveillance of compliance with changes to fees and costs disclosure for superannuation (RG 97). This deferral is to align with the timing of the implementation of the revised fees and costs disclosure requirements. ASIC is continuing to monitor and 	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - COVID-19 priorities</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>may take action where it identifies non-compliance with the current regime;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the finalisation and release of the ‘buy now pay later’ products follow-up report until further notice. ASIC will be engaging with the sector on their responses to COVID-19. ASIC will also be engaging with consumer representatives and closely monitoring the use of small amount and alternative credit products, especially by vulnerable consumers; • the release of the second consultation paper on the ePayments Code until the second-half of 2020; • the collection of data for the debt collection industry review until 30 September 2020. ASIC will continue to consult with consumer representatives and monitor developments in the debt collection industry; • further collection of data for the purposes of the guarantee and co-debtor loans industry review. ASIC will continue to monitor developments and analyse the information already received; • collection of further data regarding fees in deposit and savings account industry review. ASIC will continue to monitor developments and analyse the information already received; • industry engagement activities relating to the recurrent mortgage data collection pilot, however ASIC will continue its analysis of the pilot data; • detailed data requests relating to the natural disaster working group. However, ASIC will continue to monitor claims handling and outcomes, utilising existing data sources and reports of misconduct, and will take further action if necessary. Insurers should be prepared to respond to future data collection notices; • follow up work on the consumer credit insurance lender review. ASIC will continue to oversee remediation and plans to issue a data request but will not seek to collect the data until further notice; • travel insurance review work until further notice; • publication of a report on the better and poorer practices observed in debt capital market transactions. ASIC will undertake periodic reviews of transactions to test compliance with the law and best practice; • the publication of the final report setting out ASIC’s position on the market integrity rules. ASIC expects that the final report will set out the expected timetable for implementation of 	

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		<p>the rules;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the publication of consultation papers regarding the miscellaneous market integrity rule amendments – securities and future markets until the industry has the capacity to consider and respond to the proposals. ASIC will review automated order processing controls for futures market participants where there are risks to the resiliency of the market; • the release of ASIC report on 'listed market structure: dark liquidity report'; • the release of internal market structure analyses on market making and market data access and fees; • the publication of a report on observations about historical deeds of company arrangement until further notice. However, ASIC is continuing surveillance of registered liquidators; • the next phase of the post-audit review and root cause analysis processes undertaken by audit firms until further notice. ASIC will continue to review the material already provided; • work on the consultation of routine reporting of inspection findings to the audit committee; and • the biannual Corporate Finance Liaison Meetings due to be held in most capital cities in April and May. Restrictions permitting, ASIC intends to hold these meetings later this year. 	
14 April	Onsite supervisory work	<p>ASIC is deferring onsite supervision programs for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • market intermediaries and instead undertaking desk-based reviews, focusing on conduct and resilience in a COVID-19 environment; • conflict of interest of exchanges and wholesale trading platforms under enhanced supervision programs; and • the audit inspection program, however ASIC will continue to audit files remotely through the use of technology and teleconferences. <p>ASIC has published guidance on business continuity and supervision arrangements to help intermediaries comply with their regulatory obligations in the current environment.</p>	<p>ASIC - media release ASIC - COVID-19 priorities</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
14 April	Financial advice relief	<p>As updated on 12 June, 22 July and 23 September.</p> <p>ASIC has announced that it is providing relief to industry to provide affordable and timely financial advice during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>ASIC will conduct surveillance activities to monitor the advice provided under this relief, to ensure that advisers, registered tax agents and superannuation trustees are acting in the interests of their clients and members. Furthermore, ASIC will consider market developments and consult with stakeholders before revoking the Instrument of relief, providing 30 days' notice to the industry. The no action position for superannuation trustees expires when applications for early release can no longer be made (31 December 2020).</p> <p>The relief includes three temporary measures:</p> <p>Facilitating advice about early access to superannuation</p> <p>To assist the provision of affordable advice on early access to super, ASIC has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> allowed advice providers not to give a statement of advice (SOA) to clients when providing advice about early access to superannuation; permitted registered tax agents to give advice to existing clients about early access to superannuation without needing to hold an Australian financial services licence; and issued a temporary no-action position for superannuation trustees to expand the scope of personal advice that may be provided by, or on behalf of, the superannuation trustee as 'intra-fund advice' (intra-fund advice is provided free of charge to the recipient of the advice). <p>ASIC's relief and no-action position are temporary and subject to conditions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clients must be provided with a record of advice (ROA), which meets certain content requirements; the advice fee, if any, is capped at \$300; the advice provider must establish that the client is entitled to the early release of their superannuation; and the client must have approached the advice provider for the advice. <p>Extending the timeframe for providing time-critical SOAs</p>	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC Corporations (COVID-19 – Advice-related Relief) Instrument 2020/355</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - Changes to regulatory work and priorities in response to COVID-19</p> <p>ASIC - COVID-19 information for financial advisers and advice licensees</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>ASIC has provided temporary relief allowing advice providers up to 30 business days (instead of 5 business days) to give an SOA after time-critical advice is provided.</p> <p>Enabling an ROA to be given in certain circumstances</p> <p>ASIC has provided temporary relief to allow the provision of an ROA to existing clients even though:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the clients' personal circumstances have changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and the client sees an adviser from the same AFS licensee or practice, not their original adviser. <p>ASIC has also announced measures to reduce the regulatory burden on financial advisors by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deferring its review of life insurance advice as part of the LIF review until further notice; deferring its work on grandfathered conflicted remuneration until further notice. ASIC will not ask product issuers for data at this time. ASIC expects product issuers to turn-off their grandfathered commission arrangements as soon as possible and by no later than 1 January 2021. All rebates and/or reductions in fees should be passed on to consumers as quickly as possible; allowing additional time for industry to respond to ASIC notices. If additional time to respond to an ASIC notice is required, the company should contact ASIC to ask for an extension; and on 22 July, delaying collecting the first round of life insurance advice files from advice licensees until the second half of 2020. <p>On 23 September, ASIC announced that it is extending the temporary financial advice relief related to the COVID-19 early release of superannuation scheme. ASIC's no-action position for superannuation trustees will be extended until 31 December 2020. Furthermore, the <i>ASIC Corporations (COVID-19 – Advice-related Relief) Instrument 2020/355</i> will now be repealed on 15 April 2021 (instead of 15 October 2020).</p>	
9 April	Financial reports for listed and unlisted entities	<p>As updated on 13 May.</p> <p>ASIC announced that it will extend the deadline for both listed and unlisted entities to lodge financial reports under Chapters 2M and 7 of the Corporations Act by 1 month for certain balance dates up to and including 7 July 2020 balance dates. This means that:</p>	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC Corporations (Extended Reporting and</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unlisted entities will now be able to take 1 additional month to lodge financial reports for year ends from 31 December 2019 to 7 July 2020; and listed entities will be able to take 1 additional month to report for full year and half-year financial reports for 21 February 2020 to 7 July 2020 balance dates (7 July accommodates entities that use a provision in the Corporations Act that allows their financial year to be changed by plus or minus 7 days each year). <p>Where possible, entities should continue to lodge within the normal statutory deadlines, having regard to the information needs of shareholders, creditors and other users of their financial reports, or to meet borrowing covenants or other obligations.</p> <p>Listed entities will be required to inform the market when they rely on the extended period for lodgement. These entities may also find it desirable to explain the reasons for relying on the extended deadlines.</p> <p>ASIC also stated that it understands that ASX listed entities will need to lodge their Appendix 4E under ASX Listing Rules 4.3A and 4.3B by the due date (ie 31 August 2020 for 30 June 2020 year ends). If the entity does not have audited accounts by that date to append to its Appendix 4E, it will need to lodge unaudited accounts with its Appendix 4E.</p>	<p>Lodgment Deadlines— Listed Entities) Instrument 2020/451</p> <p>ASIC Corporations (Amendment) Instrument 2020/452</p>
8 April	LIBOR transition arrangements	ASIC, as supported by APRA and the RBA, recognises that disruptions from the COVID-19 outbreak may affect the timing of some aspects of institutions' transition plans in respect of LIBOR.	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - feedback</p>
8 April	Expectations for responsible entities of managed investment schemes	<p>As updated on 15 June and 11 August.</p> <p>ASIC has issued its expectations for responsible entities (REs) of registered managed investment schemes (MISs) about their fundamental duties and legal obligations to members as they face the market volatility, disruption and other challenges associated with COVID-19.</p> <p>On 15 June, ASIC put REs of all MISs 'on notice' that they must ensure their investment fund advertising provides clear, balanced and accurate information. This follows ASIC's risk based surveillance of advertising material, website disclosure and product disclosure statements from managed funds during the COVID-19 pandemic. ASIC was concerned to find some funds were providing inadequate information or were not accurately and clearly presenting key features of their investment products.</p> <p>Examples of the issues that ASIC is seriously concerned about include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> unbalanced comparisons – comparisons focussing on one aspect of a fund (e.g. higher 	<p>ASIC - letter to responsible entities</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>returns), without providing a fair and balanced indication of key differences and risks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety and stability representations – promoting the funds as having little or no risk of capital loss, despite the fund’s underlying assets being subject to considerable risk and market volatility; and • withdrawal representations – giving the impression to consumers that it is easy to withdraw funds on short notice, where the liquidity of the fund assets does not support this claim. <p>ASIC has also reminded REs that they must ensure their advertising and websites are not misleading or deceptive. Extreme care must be taken when using any terms and phrases which might give the impression that a product is safe or that withdrawals will be available at short notice, especially in the current environment.</p> <p>ASIC will continue to monitor the advertising and disclosure by managed funds during COVID-19. ASIC stated that it is aware of a number of funds that are promoting (implicitly or expressly) their products as ‘high yield’ or ‘low risk’ when that is not the case. ASIC is considering enforcement action where inappropriate, false or misleading statements could end in significant financial harm to investors.</p> <p>On 11 August, ASIC reminded responsible entities of their obligation to ensure that valuations of their managed fund assets are regular and reasonably current having regard to the nature of the assets. ASIC stated that it is aware that valuations of illiquid assets have been challenging as a result of increased economic and financial uncertainties due to COVID-19. However, ASIC stated that in this context, it is more important than ever that valuations of managed fund assets are regular, robust and reasonable.</p> <p>Accurate valuation of fund assets, including illiquid assets, is needed for a responsible entity to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the value of the units of a scheme for performance measurement; • the unit price to allow for investors to enter into and exit from a scheme; • the price for the selling and buying of specific assets, including stakes in a company; and • the value of assets in financial reports required by the Corporations Act. <p>Ensuring fund assets are valued regularly and valuation processes are robust are part of responsible entities’ statutory duties to:</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exercise a reasonable degree of care of care and diligence; • ensure scheme property is valued at regular intervals appropriate to the nature of the property; • act in the best interest of members of the fund; and • carry on their financial services business efficiently, honestly and fairly. <p>During COVID-19, responsible entities may face issues such as a lack of comparable transactional data, and uncertainties around cash flow forecasts, the shape and timing of any economic rebound, the selection of an appropriate discount rate in an environment of very low government bond yields, and the risk premiums that should be attached to the risk free rate. As a result, responsible entities may need to carry out valuations more often to ensure reliable asset values and member unit prices. Where valuations are uncertain for a material proportion of a fund's assets, the responsible entity needs to consider whether it is in a position to establish a reliable unit price. If not, the responsible entity may need to temporarily suspend entry and exit from the fund.</p> <p>While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt financial markets, ASIC encourages responsible entities to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • valuations are reasonably current and regular; • valuations are performed using appropriate methods and assumptions for that asset class; • assets are promptly written down should the cash flows of an asset be negatively impacted directly or indirectly by COVID-19 restrictions; • estimates are developed on a sound and reasonable basis, and that they consider whether past performance and historical inputs are still reflective of future outcomes; • valuation policies are regularly reviewed by the responsible entities' management and board; and • valuations are carried out by unbiased valuers and valuers are periodically rotated by the responsible entity. <p>Responsible entities should also ensure that they provide their members and investors with timely, full and fair disclosure of asset values. They should inform their members about the processes they are implementing to support the valuations given the current circumstances and uncertainties.</p> <p>ASIC is actively monitoring the valuation practices of responsible entities during this period of market disruption. ASIC may take regulatory action against responsible entities that do not comply</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		with their obligations to provide fair and reasonable valuations of fund assets.	
1 April	Superannuation trustees guidance from ASIC (also see guidance from APRA)	<p>As updated on 14 and 16 April, and 3 July.</p> <p>APRA and ASIC issued a joint letter to superannuation trustees on COVID-19. The letter gives trustees guidance to help them manage the financial and operational challenges associated with COVID-19, while continuing to meet their obligations to look after members' best interests.</p> <p>The letter gives the following guidance:</p> <p>Liquidity</p> <p>Trustees should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertaking regular and detailed liquidity stress testing, ensuring that scenarios reflect changes in future net cash flows of the RSE, member behaviour and market conditions; identifying specific areas for heightened attention with respect to liquidity, such as increased member switching activity or deterioration in the liquidity profile of their investments, and taking appropriate action; assessing the impact on liquidity of their liabilities and contractual commitments, such as currency hedging programs, and reviewing their securities lending arrangements; and ensuring that the valuation of unlisted and illiquid assets remains appropriate, and considering whether any assets need to be revalued. <p>Communication</p> <p>Trustees should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> proactively communicating often, clearly and accurately to their members. Communication should also be balanced, factual, provide context and be member-centric across all communication channels; having regard to official Government information sources related to COVID-19 and its financial impacts, such as Treasury, the Australian Tax Office or ASIC's MoneySmart website; responding promptly, clearly and accurately to members' questions, which should be subject to ongoing monitoring and adjustment. In particular, being able to draw on complaints information to action and adjust communications and resourcing to meet 	<p>APRA and ASIC - joint letter</p> <p>APRA - trustee FAQs</p> <p>ASIC - trustee FAQs</p> <p>ASIC - article</p>

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		<p>member needs is likely to be key at this time; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicating with APRA and ASIC. This must be done reactively in response to requests for information, but should also be conducted proactively, particularly where emerging or evolving risks are identified. <p>Insurance</p> <p>Trustees should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand how members' insurance may be affected by economic conditions and public health restrictions – for example, policy clauses relating to employment, work hours, and exclusions (such as pandemic clauses); consider how members' insurance might be affected by a reduction in account balances due to market downturns and the early release of funds by some members; communicate these impacts clearly to their members in an accurate and balanced manner; and work closely with their insurers, assisting members who may face additional challenges in making a claim – for example, difficulties with obtaining medical appointments or providing evidence of disability. <p>Trustee obligations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the priorities of both regulators and trustees must inevitably shift during this period, unless APRA or ASIC has granted specific relief, trustees' legal, regulatory and reporting obligations remain unchanged. Trustees must therefore ensure key business activities, such as administration, are operationally resilient to ensure ongoing processing of member benefits. Trustees should be scenario testing their critical functions and determining (in conjunction with outsourced providers) essential staffing levels and contingency plans to ensure essential member transactions proceed in a timely manner, particularly where such activities are undertaken offshore. Given the unusual and demanding circumstances, both regulators recognise that meeting legal and regulatory requirements may be challenging for some trustees. They encourage early and regular engagement in these cases and trustees can expect a constructive and pragmatic approach. To the extent that non-COVID related requests from either regulator remain outstanding, trustees may seek an extension from the relevant regulator where 	

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		<p>necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help trustees understand their new and ongoing responsibilities during this period of disruption, APRA and ASIC have published superannuation FAQs on each agency's website. These FAQs will be updated periodically. <p>ASIC's FAQs include the following clarifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASIC will not be providing relief from the requirement to hold an annual members' meeting under section 29P of the <i>Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993</i> at this stage; and ASIC, in agreement with APRA, is deferring for 6 months public communication of the joint industry-level findings regarding the robustness of existing governance and assurance arrangements for fees charged to members' superannuation accounts. <p>On 3 July, ASIC further detailed its expectations of trustees in the current environment. ASIC stated that trustees' compliance with their legal obligations cannot take a backseat in the current environment. Staying true to the core of trustee duties — that is, focusing on members' interests — remains crucially important. In the absence of specific relief, trustees' obligations are unchanged. ASIC particularly highlighted the need to support members through good communication, as well as providing timely and accurate financial information, and protection from scams.</p>	
31 March	Capital raising relief (ASIC and ASX)	<p>As updated on 22 and 23 April, 12 June, 9 July, and 15 and 23 September.</p> <p>ASIC and ASX announced that each would grant temporary capital raising relief to facilitate emergency capital raisings for ASX-listed entities.</p> <p>ASIC has issued legislative instruments relating to providing relief to allow certain 'low doc' offers (including rights offers, placements and share purchase plans) where a listed entity has been suspended for a total of up to 10 days in the previous 12-month period. Companies can rely on the legislative instruments without making an individual application.</p> <p>The ASX has issued class order waivers relating to the allowing of 2 consecutive back-to-back (4 day) trading halts to consider a capital raising, a placement capacity uplift to 25% and a relaxing of the 1 for 1 non-renounceable entitlement offer cap.</p> <p>On 22 April, the ASX made further amendments to the Class Waiver, as well as, recently publishing Compliance Update no 04/20. Issuers are now required to give to ASX and ASIC the detailed allocation spreadsheets for capital raisings completed in reliance on the class waiver. ASIC will be reviewing the allocation spreadsheets and monitoring the disclosures made by companies about</p>	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC Corporations (Trading Suspension Relief) Instrument 2020/289</p> <p>ASIC Corporations (Amendment) Instrument 2020/290</p> <p>ASX - compliance update</p> <p>ASX - compliance update</p> <p>ASX - media alert</p> <p>ASX - media alert</p>

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		<p>placements, rights offers and SPPs to ensure they are accurate, sufficiently detailed and provide meaningful, rather than 'boiler plate', disclosure.</p> <p>More generally, ASIC will also be continuing surveillance work following on from the findings of Report 605. This will examine the conduct of licensees and directors in capital raising activities beyond those using the temporary emergency capital raising relief.</p> <p>On 9 July, the ASX announced that it will extend its temporary emergency capital raising measures until 30 November 2020.</p> <p>On 15 September, the ASX announced that from 16 September 2020, any entity wishing to rely on the relief measures must satisfy ASX that it is raising capital predominantly for the purpose of addressing the existing or potential future financial effect on the entity from the COVID-19 health crisis, and/or its economic impact.</p> <p>On 23 September, ASIC announced that it is extending the temporary relief for capital raisings and financial advice. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the earlier amendment to the <i>ASIC Corporations (Share and Interest Purchase Plans) Instrument 2019/547</i> will now be repealed on 1 January 2021 (instead of 2 October 2020); and the <i>ASIC Corporations (Trading Suspensions Relief) Instrument 2020/289</i> will now be repealed on 1 January 2021 (instead of 2 October 2020). 	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>KWM Insight</p> <p>KWM Insight</p> <p>KWM Insight</p>
23 March	Refocusing regulatory priorities	<p>As updated on 14 April, 7 and 21 May, and 30 June</p> <p>ASIC has announced that it will refocus its regulatory priorities for the challenges created by COVID-19.</p> <p>ASIC will prioritise COVID-19 issues, matters that pose a risk of significant consumer harm, serious breaches of the law, risks to market integrity, time-critical matters and matters in the public interest, until at least 30 September 2020. ASIC has suspended a number of non-urgent, including consultation, regulatory reports and reviews, such as the ASIC report on executive remuneration, updated internal dispute resolution guidance, a review on insurance in super, a review of lender responses to consumers experiencing financial hardship and a consultation paper on managed discretionary accounts. ASIC has also suspended its enhanced on-site supervisory work such as the Close and Continuing Monitoring Program. Furthermore, ASIC relief or waivers from regulatory requirements will also be provided where warranted.</p> <p>However, ASIC has announced that the following remain 'business as usual':</p>	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - COVID-19 information</p> <p>ASIC - COVID-19 priorities</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unless ASIC has indicated to a licensee that it should adopt a different approach for a particular remediation program, it is acceptable for licensees to provide ASIC with updates consistent with their internal firm reporting in lieu of the current form and scheduling of reporting arrangements. ASIC expects that once the situation normalises the, until now, existing reporting arrangements would resume. ASIC will continue to receive and assess applications for Australian Financial Services and credit licences and audit-related professional registrations. ASIC is now seeking additional information on how applicants will manage their obligations due to the changed operating environment in light of COVID-19. ASIC will continue to receive and act on reports of misconduct, including those related to COVID-19. ASIC will pay particular attention to reports of scams, misleading conduct including in advertising and unlicensed behaviour. ASIC will continue to receive and act on reports of misconduct or breaches of the law from whistleblowers, including those related to COVID-19. ASIC will continue to provide information and guidance to potential whistleblowers about their rights and protections, and to companies, company officers and company auditors about their obligations under the regime. ASIC understands its regulated community may experience disruption and be under significant stress as a result of the novel COVID-19 outbreak. If a company has been issued with a notice or received a request for data or information, and it needs more time to respond, it should contact ASIC and seek an extension. <p>On 7 May, ASIC announced that until at least 30 September 2020, the other matters that it will afford priority are where there is the risk of significant consumer harm, serious breaches of the law, risks to market integrity and time-critical matters. ASIC will maintain its enforcement activities and continue to investigate and take action where the public interest warrants it to do so against any person or entity that breaks the law.</p>	
20 March	AGM and financial reporting	<p>As updated on 13 May.</p> <p>ASIC has adopted a 'no action' position where public companies do not hold their Annual General Meetings (AGMs) within the prescribed 5 months after the end financial years that end from 31 December 2019 to 7 July 2020, but do so up to 7 months after year end. For public companies with 1 June 2020 to 7 July 2020 year ends, the 'no action' position also applies where holding an AGM in January or February 2021 results in the requirement to hold an AGM in the 2020 calendar year</p>	<p>ASIC - media release</p> <p>ASIC - media release</p>

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		<p>not being met.</p> <p>The no action position also allows additional time for distribution of financial reports to members prior to the AGM for those companies that have relied on the extension of time for lodgement of financial reports.</p> <p>Companies who choose to delay their AGM should refrain from holding their AGMs in the peak holiday period in late December 2020 and early January 2021.</p>	

Australian Prudential Regulation Authority

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
1 October	JobKeeper payments and the 'work test' rules	<p>APRA has published a new FAQ relating to its view on the interaction between JobKeeper payments and satisfying the 'work test' for the purpose of voluntary superannuation contributions.</p> <p>APRA's view is that where an employer is receiving the JobKeeper wage subsidy for an individual, RSE licensees should consider the individual to be 'gainfully employed' for the purpose of the 'work test', even if that individual has been fully stood down and is not actually performing work.</p> <p>In APRA's view, it is appropriate for an RSE licensee to take this approach because the individual is still employed and is obtaining a valuable benefit from his/her employer.</p> <p>APRA also acknowledges that an individual may be on JobKeeper and still be working reduced hours and that it may be difficult for an RSE licensee to differentiate between an individual member who is working, and a member who is not, but who is nonetheless receiving the JobKeeper payment.</p> <p>As such, in APRA's view, RSE licensees need not distinguish between individual members on JobKeeper who are working reduced hours or those who have been stood down, and can assume that all members in receipt of the JobKeeper subsidy satisfy the 'work test' for the purpose of voluntary superannuation contributions.</p>	<p>APRA - media release</p> <p>APRA - Superannuation FAQs</p>
17 September	ADI liquidity reporting standards	<p>APRA has released a consultation on updates to Reporting Standard ARS 210.0 Liquidity. The consultation letter is available here.</p> <p>In March 2020, APRA requested 136 ADIs submit a weekly or bi-weekly modified version of ARF 210.5 to APRA, commencing from 1 April 2020. The request was aimed at the provision of timely information on ADIs' liquidity risk in response to the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>The proposed changes extend data items currently collected and align the Reporting Form ARF 210.5 Daily Liquidity Report with the modified version submitted by certain ADIs.</p>	<p>APRA - media release</p>
31 August	APRA 2020-2024 Corporate Plan	<p>APRA has published its 2020-2024 Corporate Plan, which has been updated to account for the substantial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>APRA's Corporate Plan continues to be founded on delivering 4 key community outcomes over the planning horizon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining financial sector resilience; 	<p>APRA - media release</p> <p>APRA - 2020-2024 Corporate Plan</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving outcomes for superannuation members; transforming governance, culture, remuneration and accountability across all regulated institutions; and improving cyber resilience across the financial system. <p>COVID-19 has necessitated a rescheduling of planned activities to generate the necessary capacity within APRA and regulated entities to address the most immediate challenges. In the past 6 months, APRA has announced a range of initiatives – delays to policy consultation and supervisory activity, and targeted regulatory concessions – designed to aid financial institutions to navigate the current difficult environment and continue to support their customers.</p> <p>APRA's 2020-2024 Corporate Plan reflects this uncertain environment. It has a high degree of emphasis in the short term on sustaining the resilience of the financial system, given this has been critical to supporting the community so far, and is essential to the economic recovery from the pandemic.</p> <p>Priority is therefore being given to protecting the financial stability and soundness of regulated entities, fostering their operational resilience and enhancing contingency planning for adverse events. At the same time, APRA will continue its work in other areas with a view to ensuring the longer-term objectives will still be achieved over the 4-year planning horizon.</p>	
26 August	Operational resilience	<p>While the financial industry has managed to maintain essential business services under extremely difficult circumstances, APRA has published some important lessons from the pandemic. These include the need for entities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use agile risk governance to manage end-to-end processes; consider a broader range of possible/likely disruptions in their business continuity planning, including those seen during COVID-19 relating to overseas lockdowns affecting global offshore providers and the extended work-from-home situation; effectively manage and contingency-plan for critical suppliers, as certain suppliers may not be able to provide the service they were contracted to deliver; assess strategic impact on their operating models, such as shifts towards wholesale branch closures, and the on-shoring of previously offshore processes; implement rapid changes in relation to entities' workforce planning, such as the need for a flexible workforce to fill critical processes arising from failure of offshore hubs, requiring 	APRA - insight article

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>changes to on-boarding and training while maintaining the work-from-home arrangements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pay attention to system stability; • engage in frequent and effective communication with both internal and external stakeholders to manage and direct health and organisational change, and to manage financial services and impacts on customers, shareholders and other external stakeholders; and • make quick decisions in relation to customer relief, communicate these consistently and clearly, and adjust supporting systems to reflect business decisions. <p>COVID-19 is emphasising to APRA important lessons about the maintenance of sufficient operational resilience, the factors that can undermine that resilience, and the need to consider a variety of plausible shocks. APRA is now applying these lessons to improve its supervision practices.</p>	
24 July	Commercial property valuations	<p>APRA's requirements on valuations for commercial property collateral are set out in Prudential Standard APS 113 <i>Capital Adequacy: Internal Ratings-based Approach to Credit Risk (APS 113)</i> and Prudential Standard APS 220 <i>Credit Quality (APS 220)</i>. APS 220 requires regular assessment of values. APS 113 requires ADIs to monitor the value of the collateral on at least an annual basis, and more frequently where the market is subject to significant changes in value.</p> <p>From a practical perspective, the COVID-19 environment is creating challenges for ADIs in regard to updating commercial property valuations (in some instances relating to physical access, and more generally because of a high degree of uncertainty around valuation fundamentals, recent sales evidence and market outlook). This uncertainty is more pronounced for some asset classes and geographies than others.</p> <p>APRA has stated that it accepts that ADIs may consider deferring revaluations for existing commercial property collateral (which fall due under their valuation policies), where the challenges noted above would impact obtaining a reliable updated valuation in the current environment.</p> <p>APRA expects that any deferral will only be for a limited period, until the ADI is confident that the updated valuations can be obtained and will reasonably reflect current market conditions. ADIs should not defer valuations that are due after 31 March 2021, and should complete previously deferred valuations within 6 months after this point. ADIs may, however, continue to conduct revaluations for broader risk management and other purposes, and nothing is intended to discourage ADIs from doing so where they consider it prudent.</p> <p>This approach applies to existing commercial property collateral only. In most cases, APRA</p>	<p>APRA - banking FAQs</p>

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		<p>expects ADIs to continue to obtain updated valuations where material new lending is to be provided, or where a commercial property secured exposure has either defaulted or is assessed as being at significant risk of default. Depending on the applicable capital framework, APRA will review whether a capital overlay is required as at 31 March 2021, taking into account an ADI's level of deferred valuations outstanding and any material adverse movements in commercial property markets apparent at that time.</p>	
7 July	Securitisation expectations	<p>APRA has released its expectations for securitised loans on repayment deferrals.</p> <p>APRA stated that it is aware that some ADIs have or intend to repurchase loans from their securitisations due to COVID-19 repayment deferrals (or loan restructuring either after a repayment deferral or as an alternative to a repayment deferral).</p> <p>Prudential Standard APS 120 <i>Securitisation (APS 120)</i> permits ADIs to repurchase loans from capital relief and funding-only securitisations only in limited circumstances, including where the borrower is granted a 'further advance' (or similar purpose) and if the loan is not in default. It is not the intent of APS 120 for these provisions to facilitate the repurchase of loans on COVID-19 repayment deferrals (or loan restructuring either after a repayment deferral or as an alternative to a repayment deferral).</p> <p>For the purposes of APS 120, APRA considers a 'further advance' to be monies advanced rather than the loan balance being increased due to the capitalisation of interest, expenses or other costs. Similarly, any extensions in loan terms associated with COVID-19 repayment deferrals (or loan restructuring either after a repayment deferral or as an alternative to a repayment deferral) is not considered a 'similar purpose'.</p> <p>Any ADI that has or intends to repurchase loans from a securitisation due to COVID-19 repayment deferrals (or loan restructuring either after a repayment deferral or as an alternative to a repayment deferral) should consult APRA, and where appropriate prior to repurchasing, to confirm how they will comply with APS 120. APRA does not expect to provide any concessions regarding APS 120 compliance. Where APRA identifies ADIs that are in breach of APS 120, supervisors will review the capital and other implications of actions taken.</p>	<p>APRA - banking FAQs</p>
24 June	COVID-19 Pandemic Data Collection request	<p>As updated on 22 July.</p> <p>APRA is releasing a COVID-19 Pandemic Data Collection (PDC) to enable ongoing assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the superannuation industry and the outcomes being delivered to members. The PDC will continue until issues that are being faced by registrable superannuation entity (RSE) licensees relating to the COVID-19 pandemic have abated. In this regard, a review of</p>	<p>APRA - media release</p> <p>APRA - letter to registrable superannuation entity licensees</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>the continued need for the PDC will occur in late September 2020.</p> <p>The purpose of the PDC is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide APRA with enhanced data surrounding the early release of superannuation, enabling analysis of impacted demographics; • provide APRA and ASIC with monthly data on complaints, member accounts with insurance that have been cancelled, insurance claim activity and intra-fund advice provided; • provide APRA with quarterly data on investment options, foreign currency exposure and hedging, and member switching; and • allow APRA to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the superannuation industry and provide reporting to the Government and other agencies. <p>The PDC comprises 2 components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information that is required to be reported monthly, which will cover information in relation to complaints, insurance, advice and operational resilience; and • information that is required to be reported quarterly, which will cover information on liquidity, early release demographics and, in addition, a one-off collection of insurance cancellations relating to the Protecting Your Super reforms. <p>The information required to be provided monthly is due on 31 July 2020 and will cover the period of April 2020 through June 2020. Going forward, the collection for monthly information will be due 15 business days following the end of the month.</p> <p>The information required to be provided quarterly will also be due on 31 July 2020. Going forward, the collection for quarterly information will be due 15 business days following the end of the quarter.</p> <p>On 22 July, APRA published a range of FAQs in relation to the PDC.</p>	
17 June	Credit risk capital requirements – revaluation of residential properties	<p>ADIs are currently required to revalue property used as security for residential mortgage exposures for the purposes of measuring regulatory capital, when they become aware of a material change in the value of property in an area or region. This is a requirement in Prudential Standard APS 112 <i>Capital Adequacy: Standardised Approach to Credit Risk (APS 112)</i> Attachment C paragraph 6.</p> <p>APRA has previously proposed to remove this requirement as part of broader revisions to the prudential standards on regulatory capital. This was foreshadowed in APRA’s consultation on</p>	APRA - banking FAQs

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		<p>revisions to the ADI capital framework in June 2019.</p> <p>The rationale for this change in part recognised that the calibration of the residential mortgage risk weights in APS 112 already includes an allowance for increases in the risk of residential mortgage exposures, including from house price movements. Additional movements in risk weights from the revaluation of residential mortgage properties has the potential to be excessively pro-cyclical in amplifying ADI capital requirements.</p> <p>Given these considerations and the intention to remove the revaluation requirement, APRA is clarifying that ADIs will not be expected to revalue residential mortgage properties for the purpose of meeting APS 112 Attachment C paragraph 6. This applies with immediate effect. ADIs may, however, consider it appropriate to continue to conduct revaluations for broader risk management and other purposes, and nothing in this announcement is intended to discourage ADIs from doing so where they consider it prudent.</p>	
19 May	Capital requirements for ADIs that use internal models	<p>APRA has stated its expectations for ADIs that use internal models to determine their capital requirement under <i>APS 116 Capital Adequacy: Market Risk</i>.</p> <p>An inherent part of the APS 116 Market Risk framework is that where there is increased risk, there is an increased capital requirement. Increased volatility experienced during March and April 2020 is consequently and appropriately expected to result in increased market risk capital.</p> <p>One aspect of the market risk internal model capital framework relates to model reliability being confirmed through back-testing of model results to actual outcomes. Where model reliability falls, capital requirements are appropriately adjusted. Through mid-March to mid-April 2020, internal modelling banks are likely to have experienced an unusually high number of VaR back-testing exceptions. APRA's view is that many of the exceptions experienced during that period are not evidence of deficiencies in an ADI's model.</p> <p>Accordingly, APRA will allow modelling ADIs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> disregard back-testing exceptions that occurred in the months of March and April 2020 in determining a plus factor for an ADI (under paragraph 85 of APS 116); and disregard those exceptions in determining whether to apply a plus factor of one (under paragraph 86 of APS 116). <p>APRA believes this measure will prevent capital requirements from increasing in a way that is not consistent with the intent of the prudential standard. Modelling ADIs must still include exceptions from March and April 2020 in the number that is compared to a threshold of 10 exceptions (under</p>	APRA - banking FAQs

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		<p>paragraph 86 of APS 116) to determine whether to submit an analysis of exceptions to APRA.</p>	
7 May	Residential mortgage lending	<p>As updated on 13 August.</p> <p>APRA has published frequently asked questions to provide authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs) with up to date guidance on its expectations regarding residential mortgage lending, during the period of disruption driven by COVID-19.</p> <p>APRA's guidance on better practice in residential mortgage lending has been that there should be a full serviceability assessment for borrowers where there is a material change in loan conditions (as outlined in <i>Prudential Practice Guide APG 223 – Residential Mortgage Lending</i>).</p> <p>In the current environment, APRA acknowledges that there may be operational challenges for ADIs in evaluating the long-term impact of economic stress on borrowers due to COVID-19. However, this should not prevent changes to loan conditions where these are otherwise assessed to be prudent. Over the period to 31 March 2021, APRA therefore accepts that some ADIs may not be able to complete a full serviceability assessment for borrowers seeking a change in their loan conditions. Such changes may include converting from principal and interest to interest only, or for the extension of a loan term. Where changes to loan conditions are made that result in an interest-only period being granted without a normal serviceability assessment, APRA expects that a reasonable period for such an arrangement would not exceed 12 months. This guidance also applies to loans that are transitioning off temporary repayment deferrals.</p> <p>Appropriately assessing a borrower's ability to service and repay a loan continues to be an important component of new residential mortgage lending. APRA also noted ASIC's clarifications on 29 April regarding the range of circumstances that lenders can consider when assessing a borrower's current and likely future capacity to meet repayment obligations. APRA considers that ASIC's clarifications are consistent with APG 223 (paragraph 38), which states that, as part of its serviceability assessment, an ADI would typically assess and verify a borrower's income and expenses having regard to the particular circumstances of the borrower.</p>	<p>APRA - banking FAQs</p>
7 May	Loan repayment deferrals	<p>As updated on 8 and 9 July, 13 August, and 9 and 22 September.</p> <p>APRA has published frequently asked questions to provide authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs) with up to date guidance on its expectations regarding loan repayment deferrals, during the period of disruption driven by COVID-19.</p> <p>APRA's treatment of loans impacted by COVID-19 is outlined in a new attachment, to Prudential Standard APS 220 <i>Credit Quality (APS 220)</i>. The new Attachment E will operate on a time-limited</p>	<p>APRA - banking FAQs</p> <p>APRA - media release</p> <p>APRA - letter to ADIs</p> <p>APRA - media release</p>

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		<p>basis, and modifies the application of APS 220 requirements for loans affected by COVID-19. The main adjustments to APRA's capital treatment cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loans offered temporary repayment deferrals; and • loans that have been restructured to return to a regular repayment schedule. <p>With the exception of small business loans, ADIs should conduct a check at the end of the initial 3 month deferral period. The check should determine whether there is any objective evidence that it is no longer appropriate to maintain the regulatory capital approach, given for example more permanent changes in the borrower's financial circumstances. ADIs should not be avoiding recognition of losses where inevitable. This check is not expected to involve a full credit risk assessment, but it should not be an automatic decision to extend the regulatory capital approach. ADIs can use information gathered through proprietary sources, credit reporting agencies and inquiries with borrowers where necessary to inform the check. There should also be a record to evidence the check.</p> <p>APRA also expects that ADIs will provide appropriate public disclosures of affected loans and, where there are material volumes, this should include additional information to that contained in any APRA publications. Appropriate disclosure would cover the scale, trends and overall risk profile of loans subject to repayment deferrals. Given the level of relief provided and to promote transparency on a matter of broad public interest, APRA intends publishing entity level data from a subset of ADIs on loans affected by COVID-19. APRA's reporting requirements are detailed in Reporting Standard ARS 923.2 <i>Repayment Deferrals</i>. The APRA publications are not, however, a substitute for appropriate disclosure by individual ADIs.</p> <p>On 8 July, APRA announced an extension of its temporary capital treatment for bank loans with repayment deferrals. This regulatory approach will be extended to cover a maximum period of 10 months from the start of a repayment deferral, or until 31 March 2021, whichever comes first. APRA's expectation is that ADIs grant new or extended loan repayment deferral arrangements after undertaking an appropriate credit assessment to ascertain if an extension or new deferral is appropriate for the particular borrower given their circumstances.</p> <p>APRA will also provide an adjustment to the normal regulatory treatment of loans that are restructured. Where an ADI restructures an affected borrower's facilities before 31 March 2021 with a view to putting the borrower on a sustainable financial footing, the loan may continue to be regarded as a performing loan for capital and regulatory reporting purposes.</p> <p>Given the volume of deferrals, APRA considers it reasonable to provide ADIs more time to determine the best approach for each borrower. While some customers are able to return to making normal payments in the near future, for others it may be preferable for an ADI to restructure</p>	<p>APRA - letter to ADIs</p> <p>APRA - media release</p> <p>APRA - letter to ADIs</p> <p>APRA - media release</p>

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		<p>or renegotiate the loan to provide a revised repayment schedule. In some cases, banks will need to recognise that loans are permanently impaired.</p> <p>ADIs are also expected to have a comprehensive plan that demonstrates how they will systematically work through the large volume of impacted customers, as well as avoid operational constraints as deferral periods come to an end.</p> <p>To maintain transparency, APRA will also require ADIs to provide regular disclosures regarding the status of their deferred, restructured and impaired loan portfolios. APRA also intends to publish monthly aggregate data on the extent and nature of loans currently subject to repayment deferrals.</p> <p>On 9 July, APRA released a letter to ADIs concerning the above arrangements. In addition, APRA stated that ADIs should ensure that they take a prudent approach to the assessment and management of loans with repayment deferrals. At a high-level, APRA expects that ADIs will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a comprehensive plan for how they will manage the borrower assessment process; • conduct an appropriate credit assessment process; • monitor, manage and report on loans that have been restructured or granted a repayment deferral; • ensure adequate policies, processes, resourcing and systems are in place; and • reliably measure and record the impact of repayment deferrals on provisions and regulatory capital, and consider the forward-looking implications for risk profile, capital projections and stress testing. <p>On 13 August, APRA issued a consultation letter to ADIs regarding capital measures and reporting requirements for loans impacted by COVID-19. The consultation formalises the capital treatment outlined in APRA's letter on 9 July.</p> <p>On 9 September, APRA issued a letter to ADIs outlining APRA's response to its consultation on capital measures and reporting requirements for loans impacted by COVID-19. APRA has accordingly registered updated final versions of APS 220 and ARS 923.2, such that both standards are now in force.</p> <p>On 22 September, APRA issued a further letter to ADIs confirming it has now completed its review of all ADI comprehensive plans for the assessment and management of loans with repayment deferrals, provided in response to APRA's 9 July letter (discussed above). At a high-level, APRA</p>	

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		<p>encourages ADIs to consider the following areas of better practice identified through the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> governance and oversight; customer engagement and contact strategies; credit assessment processes; and credit management and resourcing. 	
16 April	New commencement dates for prudential and reporting standards	<p>APRA has announced new commencement dates for 6 prudential and reporting standards that have been finalised but are yet to fully come into effect due to COVID-19. The relevant standards and their revised commencement dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPS 226 Margining and Risk Mitigation for Non-Centrally Cleared Derivatives (phase-in of initial margin requirements): 1 September 2021, 2022; CPS 234 Information Security (third-party arrangements transition provision): 6 month extension to 1 January 2021 available on a case-by-case basis; APS 220 Credit Risk Management: APS 220 Credit Risk Management; and APS 222 Associations with Related Entities, ARS 222.0 Exposures to Related Entities and ARS 222.2 Exposures to Related Entities – Step-in risk: 1 January 2022. 	APRA - media release
8 April	Temporary suspension of issuing new licences	<p>As updated on 10 August.</p> <p>APRA has written to applicants for new banking or insurance and superannuation licences to advise that it is temporarily suspending issuing new licenses for at least 6 months in response to the economic uncertainty created by COVID-19.</p> <p>On 10 August, APRA announced that it will begin a phased resumption of the issuing of new licenses. APRA's recommencement of assessing and issuing new banking, insurance and superannuation licences will occur in two phases, with phase 1 starting in September 2020 and phase 2 in March 2021.</p> <p>New licences issued during phase 1 will be issued to applicants that are branches or subsidiaries of foreign entities with significant financial resources and a strong operational track record in a similar business. APRA will also accept new licence applications from any entity from September 2020.</p> <p>From March 2021, APRA envisages new licences may be issued to any entity that meets the relevant prudential requirements. APRA is also reviewing the pathways to an ADI licence, including</p>	<p>APRA - approach to licensing</p> <p>APRA - media release</p>

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		the Restricted ADI licensing framework that was launched in 2018, to incorporate experiences to date, while continuing to support competition in the sector.	
7 April	Capital management for ADIs and insurers	<p>As updated on 29 July.</p> <p><i>This guidance applies to all ADIs, Life, General and Private Health insurers, including foreign subsidiaries.</i></p> <p>Due to the COVID-19, APRA has provided Boards with the following additional guidance in relation to capital management for ADIs and insurers. APRA expects ADIs and insurers to limit discretionary capital distributions in the months ahead, to ensure that they instead use buffers and maintain capacity to continue to lend and underwrite insurance. This includes prudent reductions in dividends, taking into account the uncertain outlook for the operating environment and the need to preserve capacity to prioritise these critical activities.</p> <p>During at least the next couple of months, APRA expects that all ADIs and insurers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take a forward-looking view on the need to conserve capital and use capacity to support the economy; • use stress testing to inform these views, and give due consideration to plausible downside scenarios (periodically refreshed and updated as conditions evolve); and • initiate prudent capital management actions in response, on a pre-emptive basis, to ensure they maintain the confidence and capacity to continue to lend and support their customers. <p>During this period, APRA expects that ADIs and insurers will seriously consider deferring decisions on the appropriate level of dividends until the outlook is clearer. However, where a Board is confident that they are able to approve a dividend before this, on the basis of robust stress testing results that have been discussed with APRA, this should nevertheless be at a materially reduced level. Dividend payments should be offset to the extent possible through the use of dividend reinvestment plans and other capital management initiatives. APRA also expects that Boards will appropriately limit executive cash bonuses, mindful of the current challenging environment.</p> <p>On 29 July, APRA updated its guidance in relation to these matters. In particular, APRA has eased restrictions around paying dividends as institutions continue to manage the disruption caused by COVID-19. APRA has written to banks and insurers advising they should maintain caution in planning capital distributions, including dividend payments.</p> <p>In additional guidance for the banking sector, APRA has indicated that for the remainder of the</p>	<p>APRA - capital management letter</p> <p>APRA - media release</p> <p>APRA - letter to ADIs</p> <p>APRA - letter to all insurers</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>calendar year boards should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek to retain at least half of their earnings when making decisions on capital distributions (and utilise dividend reinvestment plans and other initiatives to offset the diminution in capital from capital distributions where possible); • conduct regular stress testing to inform decision-making and demonstrate ongoing lending capacity; and • make use of capital buffers to absorb the impacts of stress, and continue to lend to support households and businesses. <p>APRA stated that the updated guidance balanced the need for banks and insurers to keep supporting households and businesses, while also maintaining a prudent approach in the face of a very sharp and severe economic contraction.</p> <p>APRA's letter to ADIs also highlights the importance of utilising current capital buffers to absorb losses and meet the needs of customers.</p> <p>APRA expects that all ADIs and insurers will embed the principles detailed in the letters in their capital management for the period ahead.</p>	
1 April	Changes to reporting obligations for ADIs and RFCs	<p>As updated on 29 September.</p> <p>APRA announced that reporting obligations for all authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs) and registered financial corporations (RFCs) would be changed in light of COVID-19.</p> <p>In summary, the changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • granting a temporary extension of the notification period for changes to accountability statements and maps under the Bank Executive Accountability Regime; • the introduction of a new reporting standard for ADIs and RFCs regarding lending to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to support the Commonwealth Government's Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme; • early implementation of APRA's November 2019 proposal to standardise reporting due dates for ADI quarterly forms, only where that represents an extension of due dates, and extending this to RFCs; • deferral of the introduction of certain new reporting standards until the March 2021 reporting period, being Reporting Standard ARS 730.1 ABS/RBA Fees Charged and 	<p>APRA - media release</p> <p>APRA - media release</p>

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		<p>Reporting Standard ARS 722.0 ABS/RBA Derivatives;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deferral of APRA's proposal to determine certain ADI data non-confidential until further notice; and a continuation of parallel reporting of Reporting Standards ARS 331.0 Selected Revenues and Expenses (ARS 331.0); RRS 331.0 Selected Revenue and Expenses (RRS 331.0) and the ABS Quarterly Business Indicators Survey (QBIS) until the June 2020 quarter. <p>On 29 September, APRA wrote a letter to ADIs, advising that it will resume its consultation regarding its proposal to determine certain ADI data non-confidential.</p>	
1 April	<p>Superannuation trustees guidance from APRA</p> <p>(also see guidance from ASIC)</p>	<p>As updated on 14 and 16 April, 23 July, and 26 August.</p> <p>APRA and ASIC issued a joint letter to superannuation trustees on COVID-19. The letter gives trustees guidance to help them manage the financial and operational challenges associated with COVID-19, while continuing to meet their obligations to look after members' best interests.</p> <p>The letter gives the following guidance:</p> <p>Liquidity</p> <p>Trustees should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertaking regular and detailed liquidity stress testing, ensuring that scenarios reflect changes in future net cash flows of the RSE, member behaviour and market conditions; identifying specific areas for heightened attention with respect to liquidity, such as increased member switching activity or deterioration in the liquidity profile of their investments, and taking appropriate action; assessing the impact on liquidity of their liabilities and contractual commitments, such as currency hedging programs, and reviewing their securities lending arrangements; and ensuring that the valuation of unlisted and illiquid assets remains appropriate, and considering whether any assets need to be revalued. <p>Communication</p> <p>Trustees should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> proactively communicating often, clearly and accurately to their members. Communication should also be balanced, factual, provide context and be member-centric across all 	<p>APRA and ASIC - joint letter</p> <p>APRA - trustee FAQs</p> <p>ASIC - trustee FAQs</p> <p>APRA - media release</p> <p>APRA - insight article</p>

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		<p>communication channels;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> having regard to official Government information sources related to COVID-19 and its financial impacts, such as Treasury, the Australian Tax Office or ASIC's MoneySmart website; responding promptly, clearly and accurately to members' questions, which should be subject to ongoing monitoring and adjustment. In particular, being able to draw on complaints information to action and adjust communications and resourcing to meet member needs is likely to be key at this time; and communicating with APRA and ASIC. This must be done reactively in response to requests for information, but should also be conducted proactively, particularly where emerging or evolving risks are identified. <p>Insurance</p> <p>Trustees should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand how members' insurance may be affected by economic conditions and public health restrictions – for example, policy clauses relating to employment, work hours, and exclusions (such as pandemic clauses); consider how members' insurance might be affected by a reduction in account balances due to market downturns and the early release of funds by some members; communicate these impacts clearly to their members in an accurate and balanced manner; and work closely with their insurers, assisting members who may face additional challenges in making a claim – for example, difficulties with obtaining medical appointments or providing evidence of disability. <p>Trustee obligations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the priorities of both regulators and trustees must inevitably shift during this period, unless APRA or ASIC has granted specific relief, trustees' legal, regulatory and reporting obligations remain unchanged. Trustees must therefore ensure key business activities, such as administration, are operationally resilient to ensure ongoing processing of member benefits. Trustees should be scenario testing their critical functions and determining (in conjunction with outsourced 	

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		<p>providers) essential staffing levels and contingency plans to ensure essential member transactions proceed in a timely manner, particularly where such activities are undertaken offshore.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the unusual and demanding circumstances, both regulators recognise that meeting legal and regulatory requirements may be challenging for some trustees. They encourage early and regular engagement in these cases and trustees can expect a constructive and pragmatic approach. To the extent that non-COVID related requests from either regulator remain outstanding, trustees may seek an extension from the relevant regulator where necessary. To help trustees understand their new and ongoing responsibilities during this period of disruption, APRA and ASIC have published superannuation FAQs on each agency's website. These FAQs will be updated periodically. <p>APRA's FAQs include clarifications relating to the COVID-19 early release of super scheme.</p> <p>On 23 July, APRA wrote a letter to RSE licensees reaffirming its expectations regarding 2 key regulatory requirements aimed at improving outcomes for superannuation members. In the letter, trustees are reminded of their obligations to undertake a Business Performance Review by 31 December 2020, and an outcomes assessment by 28 February 2021, that are commensurate with the complexity of their operating models and diversity of their product offerings. APRA stated that RSE's actions with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic will be important to consider in preparing their responses.</p> <p>On 26 August, APRA released further guidance stressing the importance of trustees focusing their attention on the importance of liquidity risk management. APRA stated that trustees will need to place particular emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reviewing their Liquidity Management Plan and liquidity stress testing practices to take into account new information, and to ensure the underlying assumptions remain appropriate, particularly if the maintenance of the strategic asset allocations in their investment strategies proves challenging; ensuring their Liquidity Management Plan includes clearly defined 'liquidity events' such as investment option switching (member-generated events) or capital drawdowns arising from specific investments (investment/asset-specific events), and that these events or triggers are regularly reviewed to take into account changes in the environment or actual experience; ensuring their liquidity stress testing considers the likelihood that the underlying drivers of 	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>liquidity risk such as significant market downturns, member switching and increased redemption requests may occur simultaneously under certain extreme scenarios. Assumptions should be regularly updated to reflect the fact that certain assets become less liquid under stressed market conditions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> embedding the results of liquidity stress testing into the formulation and review of investment strategies, taking into account recent and future liquidity requirements and the impact on actual versus strategic asset allocation; and where liquidity stress testing is outsourced to a third party (such as an asset consultant), ensuring the necessary arrangements are in place to enable stress testing to be adequately updated to reflect rapidly changing environments, and the outcomes from stress testing are made available in a timely manner. <p>As the economic environment remains uncertain and this is expected to continue for the foreseeable future, APRA will continue to monitor how trustees are managing factors that may impact fund liquidity, to ensure appropriate outcomes continue to be delivered for superannuation fund members.</p>	
31 March	Reporting standard on private health insurance reforms data collection postponed	APRA has postponed the implementation of Reporting Standard HRS 605.0 Private Health Insurance Reforms Data Collection (HRS 605.0) to allow private health insurers to focus their resources on handling the impacts of COVID-19.	APRA - media release
30 March	Basel III reforms delayed	APRA has announced it is deferring its scheduled implementation of the Basel III reforms in Australia by a year to 1 January 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	APRA - media release
23 March	Refocusing regulatory priorities	<p>As updated on 21 May and 10 August.</p> <p>APRA has announced that it will refocus its regulatory priorities for the challenges created by COVID-19.</p> <p>APRA has suspended most of its planned policy and supervision initiatives (outlined in January 2020) until at least 30 September 2020, particularly where they involve intensive engagement with regulated entities.</p>	APRA - media release APRA - media release APRA - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 10 August, APRA announced that it will recommence public consultations on select policy reforms and begin a phased resumption of the issuing of new licenses. The policy reforms that will be recommended in 2020 through a process of public consultation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cross-industry prudential standard for remuneration; • ADI capital reforms incorporating APRA's unquestionably strong framework, Basel III and measures to improve transparency, comparability and flexibility; • insurance capital reforms to incorporate changes in the accounting framework (AASB 17); and • the prudential standard for insurance in superannuation, and updated guidance on the sole purpose test. <p>Aligned with its policy agenda, APRA will also restart consultation on a limited number of its data collections, including the recommencement of its Superannuation Data Transformation project.</p>	
19 March	Bank capital adequacy ratios	<p>APRA has announced temporary changes to its expectations regarding bank capital ratios, to ensure banks are well positioned to continue to provide credit. APRA envisages that banks may need to utilise some of their current large buffers to facilitate ongoing lending to the economy, including taking advantage of new facilities announced by the RBA. APRA has said that it would not be concerned if banks were not meeting the additional capital adequacy benchmarks announced in 2017 during the period of disruption caused by COVID-19. However, banks will still have to demonstrate that they can continue to meet their various minimum capital requirements.</p>	<p>APRA - media release</p>

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
19 June	ACCC directed to monitor domestic air passenger services	<p>As updated on 17 September.</p> <p>The Government has directed the ACCC to monitor domestic air passenger services for a period of 3 years. This will assist in protecting competition in the domestic passenger airline market, for the benefit of all Australian airline travellers, in the COVID-19 recovery phase.</p> <p>In conjunction with the airport monitoring work already undertaken by the ACCC, the direction will also assist the ACCC to obtain relevant information and provide another avenue for those wishing to raise concerns about anti-competitive conduct in the domestic air passenger sector.</p> <p>The direction will be issued under section 95ZE of the <i>Competition and Consumer Act 2010</i> (Cth) and will require the ACCC to monitor prices, costs and profits in the domestic air passenger sector. A key matter covered will be the level of capacity the airlines are putting on each route and whether this is occurring in a way that may damage competition. The ACCC will release reports at least quarterly.</p> <p>On 17 September, the ACCC released its Airline Competition in Australia report which explores the significant impact of COVID-19 on the sector and outlines the approach the ACCC will take to protect competition. This approach will include monitoring, reporting, advocacy, investigation and, where, necessary, enforcement action. The report is available here.</p>	<p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>ACCC - media release</p> <p>ACCC - media release</p>
27 April	Home Loan Price Inquiry Report timeframe	<p>In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government will extend the timeframe for the ACCC's Home Loan Price Inquiry Report final report until 30 November 2020.</p> <p>The final report will examine the impediments consumers face when switching lenders and will provide recommendations focused on driving further competition in the home loan market.</p>	<p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p>
24 April	Consumer Data Right	<p>The ACCC has granted 3 month exemptions to financial services providers required to share product reference data by 1 July 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The temporary exemptions under the Consumer Data Right, until 1 October, will apply to non-major ADIs, including non-major banks, building societies and credit unions, and extend to non-primary brand products offered by the major banks.</p> <p>A revised draft of the Consumer Data Right Rules has also been published. The proposed amendments to the Rules include:</p>	<p>ACCC - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clarifications on the types of accounts in scope for sharing consumer banking data; new rules on the function of the Accreditation Register and Registrar; and rules relating to the use of the Consumer Data Right logo. <p>The proposed amendments will come into effect from July 2020.</p>	
27 March	ACCC authorisations	<p>The ACCC announced that it will actively engage with governments and businesses about potential authorisations that support coordination between competitors that is ordinarily prohibited but which is necessary and in the public interest at this time.</p> <p>The following authorisations have been granted in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 & 30 March: allowing the ABA and banks to work together to implement the small business relief package (see below). On 1 July, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation to the ABA. This conditional authorisation was granted on 14 August 2020, and applies until 14 August 2021. 24 March (as amended on 10 June): allowing Coles, Woolworths, Aldi and Metcash (and any other grocery retailer wishing to participate) to coordinate to ensure consumers have reliable and fair access to groceries during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will allow them to coordinate with each other when working with manufacturers, suppliers, and transport and logistics providers. On 15 July, the ACCC announced that it is proposing to grant authorisation to allow grocery retailers to continue coordinating as per the interim authorisation until March 2021. This conditional authorisation was granted on 3 September, and applies until 31 March 2021. 25 March: allowing medical technology companies to work together to coordinate the supply and potential manufacture in Australia of ventilators, testing kits, personal protective equipment and other medical equipment needed to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. 26 March: allowing Regional Express Pty Ltd to coordinate flight schedules with Qantas Airways Limited and Virgin Australia Holdings Limited to reduce capacity on 10 regional routes and enter into agreements to share revenue on the routes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. On 30 July, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until 30 June 2021. 31 March: allowing wholesalers of medicines to cooperate in relation to the supply, inventory management, distribution, logistics, and import of pharmaceuticals needed by 	<p>ACCC - media release</p> <p>ACCC - media release (ABA & banks)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (ABA & banks)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (ABA & banks update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (ABA & banks update #2)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (supermarkets)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (supermarkets update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (supermarkets update #2)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (supermarkets update #3)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (medical technology)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (airlines)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (medicine wholesalers)</p> <p>ACCC - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>consumers and hospitals. On 24 July, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until 27 September 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 March: allowing NBN Co and five retail service providers (RSPs) to work together to take measures necessary to keep Australia's telecommunications networks operating effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as support consumers and small businesses adversely impacted by the pandemic. On 23 July, the ACCC announced that it had revoked the above interim authorisation, and replaced it with a narrower interim authorisation that limits authorisation to a smaller set of conduct related to the Special Working Group that was formed at the request of the Minister of Communications, and to conduct related to the NBN only. On 5 August, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until 31 January 2021. 2 April: allowing insurance companies and brokers to work together to implement COVID-19 relief measures for certain small businesses. The authorisation applies to Suncorp, Allianz, and QBE Insurance, as well as any other insurers or insurance brokers who choose to take part, as long as they notify the ACCC. On 10 June, the ACCC announced that it is proposing to grant authorisation to allow insurers and brokers to continue coordination of relief measures until 30 June 2020, and to keep these relief measures in place until 31 December 2020. 3 April: allowing shopping centre owners and managers to discuss and implement rent relief measures for small to medium shopping centre tenants facing hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic. 3 April: allowing the Australian Energy Market Operator Limited (AEMO) to permit gas and electricity industry participants to cooperate on measures to ensure secure and reliable energy supply and integrity of wholesale markets during the COVID-19 pandemic. On 20 April, the ACCC granted a new interim authorisation for an expanded range of measures. On 24 July, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until 31 March 2021. The conditional authorisation was granted on 17 September. 3 April: allowing major oil refiners and the Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP), the industry's representative body, to discuss and put in place measures so fuel supplies remain available during the COVID-19 pandemic, and after the economic shutdown ends. On 23 July, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures for a further 6 months. On 10 September, the ACCC granted this authorisation. The authorisation will come into force on 2 October 2020, for a 	<p>(medicine wholesalers update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (NBN Co & RSPs)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (NBN Co & RSPs update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (NBN Co & RSPs update #2)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (insurers)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (insurers update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (shopping centres)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (AEMO & energy)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (AEMO & energy expanded)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (AEMO & energy update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (AEMO & energy update #2)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (fuel companies)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (fuel companies update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>period of 6 months, ending on 31 March 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 April: allowing Medicines Australia (MA), the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) and their members to work together to support the continued supply of essential medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic. On 26 June, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until 27 March 2021. The conditional authorisation was granted on 24 September, and will apply until 30 September 2021. 7 April: allowing private hospitals in Victoria and in Queensland respectively to cooperate with their state health agencies, public hospitals and each other, as they prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. 8 April: allowing members of the Australian Securitisation Forum to work together to assist smaller lenders to maintain liquidity and issue loans to consumers and small businesses during the economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. 8 April: allowing private health insurers to coordinate on providing financial relief to policy holders during the COVID-19 pandemic, and broadening insurance coverage to include COVID-19 treatment, telehealth and medical treatment provided at home. On 2 June, the ACCC revoked the urgent interim authorisation granted on 8 April, and issued conditional interim authorisation to strengthen reporting conditions under the interim authorisation, and to ensure appropriate transparency of activities occurring pursuant to the interim authorisation. On 15 July, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until March 2021. 14 April: allowing the Financial Services Council and its members to coordinate to ensure frontline healthcare workers are not excluded from life insurance coverage due to potential or actual exposure to COVID-19. On 16 July, the ACCC granted conditional authorisation to the Financial Services Council and its life insurance members, to allow them to implement a commitment that healthcare workers will not be denied life insurance, will not be charged higher premiums, and will not have benefits excluded, purely due to exposure or potential exposure to COVID-19. Authorisation is granted until 31 July 2021. 17 April: allowing private hospitals and health agencies in the Northern Territory and South Australia respectively to cooperate in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. 17 April: allowing the Medical Technology Association of Australia Limited, its members, and relevant non-members in the medical technology industry, to coordinate the supply of medical equipment and related supplies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On 26 	<p>(fuel companies update #2)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (medicine manufacturers)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (medicine manufacturers update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (medicine manufacturers update #2)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (hospitals)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (ASF)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (private health insurers)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (private health insurers update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (private health insurers update #2)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (life insurance for frontline workers)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (life insurance for frontline workers update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (NT and SA health agencies)</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>June, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until 24 March 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 April: allowing the Australian Retailers Association and its current and future members to collectively bargain with landlords about rent relief during the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Retail Association has requested a similar authorisation in a separate application. It will also allow retailers to share information relevant to the negotiations including in relation to requests by landlords for certain information as part of considering and negotiating support to be provided in the context of COVID-19. On 3 July, the ACCC issued 2 draft determinations (for the Australian Retailers Association and National Retail Association applications respectively) proposing to grant authorisation to allow retail tenants to collectively bargain with their landlords until 1 September 2021. The conditional authorisation was granted on 6 August. 24 April: allowing 7-Eleven and its franchisees to discuss potential temporary store closures or reduced trading hours in light of reduced customer demand because of COVID-19 restrictions. 7-Eleven owns and operates stores in competition with its franchisees in some areas and therefore discussions and agreements between them risk breaching the competition laws. On 8 July, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until 31 March 2021. The conditional authorisation was granted on 29 July. 24 April: allowing members of the Minerals Council of Australia and other mining associations to work together to manage critical services and supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic. On 5 August, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until 30 June 2021. The conditional authorisation was granted on 27 August. 29 April: allowing Western Australia's Department of Health, private hospitals and public health agencies to work together in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 1 May: allowing private healthcare facilities and health agencies in Tasmania and New South Wales (separately) to cooperate in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. 1 May: allowing the Australian Energy Council and wholesale and retail energy businesses to cooperate to provide financial relief to residential and business customers who may be financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. On 5 August, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until 30 June 2021. The conditional authorisation was granted on 2 September. 	<p>ACCC - media release (medical equipment suppliers)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (retailers and landlords)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (retailers and landlords update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (retailers and landlords update #2)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (7-Eleven)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (7-Eleven update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (7-Eleven update #2)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (mining associations)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (mining associations update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (mining associations update #2)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (WA health agencies)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (Tas and NSW health agencies)</p> <p>ACCC - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 May: allowing the Australian Medical Association (NSW) Limited to collectively bargain with private hospitals about the contract terms of Visiting Medical Officers who are working in private hospitals, but are providing public patient services that have been transferred there from public hospitals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On 5 August, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until 30 September 2021. The conditional authorisation was granted on 26 August. 19 May: allowing private healthcare facilities and health agencies in the Australian Capital Territory to cooperate in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. 9 June: allowing the Australia New Zealand Industrial Gas Association, its members and their related bodies, and other suppliers of medical oxygen to hospitals and similar medical facilities in Australia, to exchange information and make and give effect to contracts, arrangements and understandings to ensure security of supply of medical oxygen to hospitals and similar medical facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. On 2 September, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until 30 September 2021. The conditional authorisation was granted on 2 October. 9 July: allowing private and public hospital operators, along with government health authorities in each Australian state and territory, to continue working with each other in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (as outlined under various authorisations above). The ACCC proposes to grant authorisation to the parties in each jurisdiction to coordinate their response to the pandemic until 30 September 2021. The conditional authorisations were granted on 13 August. 10 August: allowing Ingham's, Turosi, Hazeldene's Chicken Farm and the Australian Chicken Meat Federation to cooperate on a range of measures relating to their plants, aimed at ensuring sufficient supply of chickens and chicken meat, reducing the extent of any job losses, and managing the impact of the stage 4 COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria on chicken growers and other parts of the supply chain. On 24 September, the ACCC issued a draft determination proposing to grant conditional authorisation for these measures until 31 December 2020. 	<p>(energy companies)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (energy companies update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (energy companies update #2)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (AMA NSW)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (AMA NSW update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (AMA NSW update #2)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (ACT health agencies)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (national health authorities)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (national health authorities update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (medical oxygen)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (medical oxygen update)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (chicken processors)</p> <p>ACCC - media release (chicken processors update)</p>

Reserve Bank of Australia

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
5 May	Broadening eligibility of corporate debt securities	<p>The Reserve Bank has broadened the range of corporate debt securities that are eligible as collateral for domestic market operations to investment grade.</p> <p>The minimum criteria for unsubordinated debt securities issued in Australian dollars by corporations that are not authorised deposit-taking institutions (corporate debt securities) is now an average credit rating of investment grade. This also applies to debt securities issued by entities established under an Australian Government, state or territory law without an explicit Australian Government guarantee.</p> <p>For long-term corporate debt securities, the minimum criteria corresponds to an average credit rating of BBB-. For short-term corporate debt securities the minimum criteria corresponds to an average credit rating of A-3. Previously, the minimum requirements for repo eligibility were an average credit rating of AAA for long-term corporate securities and A-1 for short-term corporate securities.</p> <p>The eligibility of corporate debt securities for purchase by the Reserve Bank under a repurchase agreement (repo) remains subject to an approval process, as with all securities except Australian Government and semi government securities.</p>	RBA - market announcement
19 March	Purchase of Government securities	<p>As updated on 6 October.</p> <p>The RBA has set a target for the yield on 3-year Australian Government bonds of around 0.25 per cent. This will be achieved through purchases of Government bonds in the secondary market. This action will begin on 20 March.</p> <p>Early in September, the RBA bought a further \$2 billion of Australian Government Securities in support of its 3-year yield target, bringing total purchases of government securities since March to \$63 billion as at 6 October. In the weeks leading up to 6 October, 3-year yields have fallen to around 18 basis points as markets price in some probability of further monetary policy easing.</p>	RBA - media release RBA - market announcement RBA - media release
19 March	Term funding facility for the banking system	<p>As updated on 1 September and 6 October.</p> <p>The Reserve Bank will provide a three-year funding facility to ADIs at a fixed rate of 0.25%. ADIs will be able to obtain initial funding of up to 3 per cent of their existing outstanding credit. They will have access to additional funding if they increase lending to business, especially to small and medium-sized businesses. This facility is for at least \$90 billion.</p>	RBA - media release RBA - market announcement APRA - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 1 September, the RBA announced an expanded Term Funding Facility, which will be implemented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing a new supplementary funding allowance available to all ADIs from 1 October 2020 through to 30 June 2021. The supplementary allowance will be fixed at 2% of an ADI's overall credit, which amounts to \$57 billion across all ADIs; and • extending the deadline for drawdowns of the additional funding allowance based on an ADI's lending to businesses from 31 March 2021 to 30 June 2021. The additional funding allowance, which can rise or fall with an ADI's lending to businesses, was \$68 billion across all ADIs at the start of September. <p>As at 6 October, \$81 billion of low-cost funding for ADIs has been advanced under the initial allowance of the Term Funding Facility. ADIs have access to a further \$120 billion under this facility.</p> <p>APRA will allow ADIs to include the benefit of the initial funding in the calculation of the Liquidity Coverage Ratio, Minimum Liquidity Holdings Ratio and Net Stable Funding Ratio from 31 March 2020, to the extent they have the necessary unencumbered collateral to access the facility.</p>	<p>RBA - media release</p> <p>RBA - market announcement</p> <p>RBA - Minutes of the Monetary Policy Meeting</p> <p>RBA - media release</p>
19 March	Exchange settlement balances	Exchange settlement balances at the Reserve Bank will be remunerated at 10 basis points, rather than zero as would have been the case under the previous arrangements.	RBA - media release

Other Regulatory Bodies (ABA, OECD, ACNC, AFCA and AOFM)

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
Australian Banking Association (ABA)			
6 April	Credit ratings	The ABA announced that any Australian who is granted a deferral on loan repayments on their mortgage or other credit products, such as a credit card, will not have their credit rating affected as a result of that deferral, provided they were up to date with repayments prior to COVID-19.	ABA - media release
29 April	Debit cards issuance	<p>Australian banks will issue a record number of debit cards (Mastercard or VISA debit) to customers who do not have them and who may be self-isolating to make sure they can continue to pay for their goods and services online or over the phone throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Currently there are over half a million Australian bank customers who actively use a passbook account or transaction account with no linked debit card, with many of these being customers over 70 years of age. This means they pay for goods and services using cash or EFTPOS but are unable to shop online or over the phone.</p> <p>The regulators, in particular ASIC, have provided the relevant approvals needed to implement this project.</p>	ABA - media release
23 April	Support for businesses struggling to pay staff	<p>As updated on 24 April.</p> <p>ANZ, NAB, Westpac and the CBA have agreed to bolster their efforts to fast-track any outstanding applications from businesses seeking funding (e.g. bridging loans) to help them pay staff until the JobKeeper supplement is paid in May. It was agreed special hotlines would be set up to help manage the applications from businesses. The banks will also bring JobKeeper-related applications to the front of the queue and work with the ATO to accelerate the assessment process.</p> <p>Other ABA member banks are looking to take actions relevant to their own customers.</p> <p>The various hotlines have now been established, with further details here.</p> <p>On 24 April, the Treasurer amended the JobKeeper Rules to allow ADIs to confirm an entity's election to participate in the JobKeeper payment program with the ATO.</p>	<p>ABA - media release</p> <p>Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Amendment Rules (No. 1) 2020</p>
6 April	Credit ratings	The ABA announced that any Australian who is granted a deferral on loan repayments on their mortgage or other credit products, such as a credit card, will not have their credit rating affected as	ABA - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		a result of that deferral, provided they were up to date with repayments prior to COVID-19.	
20 March	Small business and household bank loan repayments relief	<p>As updated on 30 March, 15 May, 8 July, 20 August, and 7 September.</p> <p>The ABA has announced that banks will defer small business and household loan repayments for 6 months. Any small business who has not already been contacted have been advised to contact their bank to apply.</p> <p>The ACCC granted interim authorisation to allow the ABA and banks to work together to implement the small business relief package.</p> <p>On 30 March, the ABA announced that businesses with total business loan facilities of up to \$10 million (up from the \$3 million small business threshold) will now be able to defer repayments for loans attached to their business for six months. During this period banks have also agreed to not enforce business loans for non-financial breaches of the loan contract (such as changes in valuations). These new measures will apply in all sectors of the economy, and on an opt-in basis, under the conditions that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for commercial property landlords, they provide an undertaking to the bank that for the period of the interest capitalisation, they will not terminate leases or evict current tenants for rent arrears as a result of COVID-19; • the customer has advised that its business is affected by COVID-19; • the customer was current in terms of existing facilities 90 days prior to applying; and • interest is capitalised – meaning either the term of the loan is extended or payments are increased after the deferral period. <p>This new measure has been granted interim ACCC approval.</p> <p>On 15 May, the ABA released FAQs about the deferral of repayments scheme. These were updated on 20 August.</p> <p>On 8 July, the ABA confirmed that banks will continue to support customers who need it with up to another 4 months of deferred repayments on already deferred loans. This initiative has been agreed with APRA who will provide the banks with extended regulatory relief so that they can continue to support their customers with greater flexibility during this time.</p> <p>However, customers who can restart paying their loans will be required to do so at the end of their 6 month deferral period. The deferral extension of up to 4 months will not be automatic, it will be</p>	<p>ABA - media release</p> <p>ACCC - media release</p> <p>ABA - media release</p> <p>ACCC - media release</p> <p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>ABA - media release</p> <p>ABA - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>provided to those who genuinely need the extra time.</p> <p>On 7 September, the ABA confirmed that banks have begun to contact customers for their 6 month assessment and to discuss the next stage of support and assistance. The next steps presented to customers, in line with earlier announcements, will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those who can resume repayments at the end of their deferral, will be required to do so; • those still in difficulty, will work with their bank to restructure or vary their loan, including converting to interest only payments for a period of time, or extending the term of the loan; • in some cases a further 4 month deferral may be granted; and • customers unable to pay their loan over the longer term will be offered tailored assistance that addresses their needs. <p>In relation to credit reporting, for customers who recommence repayments on their existing loan or enter into a new repayment arrangement, their credit report will not be impacted, provided they meet the new repayment arrangements. If a customer is granted an extended deferral period approved by their bank, their credit report will also not be impacted.</p>	
OECD			
3 April	Tax treaties	<p>The OECD has issued a guidance on COVID-19 tax issues with cross-border elements. The guidance addresses concerns related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • permanent establishments; • residence status of a company (place of effective management); • cross-border workers; and • change to the residence status of individuals. 	OECD - COVID-19 and tax treaties guidance
Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)			
2 July	Charity spending	<p>The ACNC has cautioned that being prudent with charity spending is crucially important in the current environment.</p> <p>This may mean having honest discussions with the board about budgets, carefully considering the</p>	ACNC - Commissioner's media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>use of reserves, and being frank about risk. The ACNC has also encouraged charities to seek expert professional advice if they believe they may be at risk of insolvency to protect their legacy and remaining assets.</p> <p>To assist, the ACNC will be hosting a free webinar 'Managing charity money in the wake of COVID-19' on 16 July. Registrations for the webinar can be accessed here.</p>	
26 March	Regulatory relief for charities	<p>To reduce the administrative burden on charities in this uncertain time, the Commissioner of the ACNC (ACNC Commissioner) has approved blanket extensions to charities whose 2019 Annual Information Statement (AIS) is due between 12 March and 30 August 2020. These charities will now need to submit their AIS by 31 August 2020.</p> <p>Furthermore, in recognition of the unique challenges brought about by COVID-19, the ACNC Commissioner has decided that the ACNC will not investigate certain breaches of the Governance Standards and the External Conduct Standards that occur from 25 March until 25 September 2020 (see the table here). However, if the ACNC identifies significant breaches that harm the public interest, even if it involves activities related to COVID-19, it may still investigate the issue and take regulatory action.</p>	<p>ACNC - media release</p> <p>ACNC - Commissioner's media release</p> <p>ACNC - Commissioner's media release</p>
Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA)			
14 May	Small business relief measures and AFCA rules	<p>AFCA has made changes to its rules which will affect how it deals with complaints from small business owners regarding certain COVID-19 relief measures.</p> <p>The changes will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limit the matters AFCA may take into account when considering a complaint about a loan provided under the Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme; and • require AFCA to exclude complaints about repayment deferrals provided to small business borrowers for existing loans, where the deferral is provided between 25 April 2020 and 24 April 2021. <p>The changes to AFCA's rules follow the issue of a notifiable instrument made by the Treasurer on 24 April 2020 which amended AFCA's Authorisation Conditions and required AFCA to amend its Rules.</p> <p>ASIC has directed AFCA to make the required amendments without public consultation given the urgency of the Government's COVID-19 economic responses, and the requirement that AFCA</p>	<p>AFCA - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		amend its rules and apply those amendments to complaints received from 25 April 2020.	
21 April	Income protection benefits in superannuation	<p>AFCA has released a new factsheet about income protection benefits in superannuation to answer consumers' frequently asked questions. The new guide sets out what income protection benefits are, how a consumer can find out if they are protected, and what information consumers need to submit a claim.</p> <p>During the COVID-19, some consumers have asked whether income protection benefit can be claimed due to loss of work. AFCA has stated that, with this issue, it is important to remember that an income protection benefit is not the same as an unemployment benefit. Loss of work due to the economic impact of COVID-19 will generally not be covered by income protection benefit.</p> <p>If an individual is unable to work because they are suffering from COVID-19, they may be eligible for income protection benefits if there is no exclusion for that type of illness in the policy. The first step is to contact the fund's trustee.</p>	AFCA - media release
23 March	Dispute resolution approach	<p>As updated on 14, 16 and 21 April, and 27 May.</p> <p>AFCA will modify its approach to dispute resolution to take into account all regulatory and legislative changes announced as part of Australia's COVID-19 response.</p> <p>Complaints about COVID-19 will be prioritised and fast-tracked to ensure those impacted have their issues resolved as quickly as possible. AFCA will take into account the circumstances and context in which lenders and other financial firms are currently operating when considering complaints. AFCA understands that firms may be putting in place alternate staffing arrangements and may not be in a position to quickly act on requests for information.</p> <p>AFCA encourages financial firms to continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work constructively and reasonably with affected consumers and small businesses during any period of disruption, particularly consumers and small businesses in hardship, or who may be experiencing difficulty repaying debt; and • openly and transparently communicating with consumers and small businesses about any delays they may experience in decision making, claims or complaints handling caused by the impact of COVID-19 on their business. <p>On 14 April, AFCA announced that it will pause processing complaints against insolvent firms, including in relation to existing and new complaints. AFCA will accept future complaints about insolvent financial firms, but we will hold them over until there is more clarity about the</p>	AFCA - media release AFCA - media release AFCA - media release AFCA - media release AFCA - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>compensation scheme of last resort, which has been delayed due to government focusing on COVID-19.</p> <p>On 16 April, AFCA announced that it will give consumers, small businesses and financial firms extra time to respond to complaints due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 90 extension comes into effect immediately and will apply to all complaints, including those relating to financial difficulty. Financial firms currently have 21 days to respond when AFCA notifies them that a complaint has been lodged, they will now have 30 days. AFCA is also providing as standard, a flat 21-day timeframe to provide an initial response, once the dispute reaches the case management stage. The changes are a temporary measure which AFCA anticipates will be in place for up to 6 months and will be reviewed and adjusted as appropriate. All internal dispute resolution refer-back timeframes remain unchanged.</p> <p>On 21 April, AFCA stated that it will take into account ASIC's changed approach (announced on 14 April) to advice about early access to superannuation when dealing with complaints that arise due to COVID-19. AFCA will consider these changes, including the form of the advice and the timeframe extensions, when dealing with complaints.</p> <p>On 27 May, AFCA encouraged financial firms to minimise COVID-19 related disputes by communicating with consumers early, speaking in plain English, proactively setting customer expectations around delays, reviewing internal dispute resolution processes and regularly engaging with AFCA.</p>	
Australian Office of Financial Management (AOFM)			
21 May	Forbearance trust	<p>As updated on 14 July.</p> <p>The AOFM has worked with the securitisation industry, represented by the Australian Securitisation Forum, to establish a special purpose vehicle that will support the capacity of small lenders to make forbearance provision for COVID-19 related hardship cases among their borrowers.</p> <p>Expressions of interest to participate in the forbearance special purpose vehicle (fSPV) have been sought and the AOFM has released a separate notice regarding proposals for access to the fSPV. The AOFM expects that the fSPV will be in a position to on-board participants during the course of July, with drawdowns to be aligned with the payment cycles of the participating trusts. The AOFM will use the Structured Finance Support Fund to invest in the senior ranking securities issued by the fSPV.</p>	<p>AOFM - fSPV expressions of interest</p> <p>AOFM - SFSF update</p> <p>AOFM - fSPV</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
22 March	Investment for small ADIs and non-ADI lenders	<p>As updated on 27 and 31 March, 3 and 9 April, 11 May, and 14 July.</p> <p>The Government is also providing AOFM an investment capacity of \$15 billion (the Structured Finance Support Fund (SFSF)) to invest in wholesale funding markets used by small authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADI) and non-ADI lenders.</p> <p>On 3 April, AOFM announced a round of funding from the Australian Business Securitisation Fund (ABSF) to enable smaller lenders to continue supporting Australian SME's. AOFM will invest \$250 million of ABSF funding in securities issued by a warehouse facility to support lending to SME's. The investment will fund a portfolio of loans for a period of up to 4 years and will assist with deepening the market for SME asset backed securities. This funding complements the \$15 billion fund announced above.</p> <p>There are 3 main work streams for the provision of SFSF support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public (primary and secondary) markets; • private (warehouse) markets; and • forbearance (see above). <p>The AOFM has released this guidance for how to access SFSF support.</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p> <p>Treasurer of Australia - media release</p> <p>AOFM - SFSF</p> <p>AOFM - SFSF update (9 April)</p> <p>AOFM - investments update</p> <p>AOFM - quarterly SFSF update</p>

NEW SOUTH WALES MEASURES

Tax, Grants, Concessions and Sector Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
22 August	Southern Border Small Business Support Grant	<p>Businesses in 13 Local Government Areas along the NSW and Victorian border will be able to apply for \$5,000 and \$10,000 grants through Service NSW from Tuesday 8 September, as part of a new \$45 million grant program designed to reduce the economic impacts of the border closure.</p> <p>Employing and non-employed small businesses, such as non-employed sole traders, that have suffered at least a 30% decline in turnover as a result of the border closure will be eligible for the first tier of \$5,000 grants. Employing small businesses that have suffered at least a 75% decline as a result of the closure will be eligible for the second tier of \$10,000 grants.</p> <p>The funds can only be used for eligible expenses incurred following the introduction of the NSW and Victoria border permit scheme on 8 July 2020. The grants must only be used for expenses for which no other government support is available (for example, the grants cannot be used to pay wages for staff eligible for JobKeeper).</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>Service NSW - media release</p>
16 August	Grants for PPE manufacturers	<p>The NSW Government has launched a \$5 million grants scheme for the local manufacture of critical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The grants program is intended to establish a reliable, domestic supply of PPE products that have been critical in the response to COVID-19 including masks, gowns, disinfectant, handwash and soap or their components.</p> <p>The grant scheme seeks to deliver assistance to manufacturers or businesses that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> currently manufacture and can increase production; or are looking to “retool” and pivot their existing manufacturing lines to produce specified PPE products. This can also include the materials used to make those specified PPE products. <p>The program will fund manufacturers on a competitive basis that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> can meet the program guidelines and eligibility requirements; and demonstrate an ability to increase or pivot their manufacturing capability to produce critical PPE in the near-term. 	<p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>Business NSW - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Successful manufacturers will also be provided with support to develop their supply chain, find commercial partners and potentially explore export opportunities.</p> <p>Applications will be assessed against criteria to be released by NSW Treasury. The application process, program guidelines and eligibility criteria will be released shortly.</p>	
26 July	Stamp duty concessions	<p>The NSW Government has announced targeted stamp duty concessions for first-home buyers and the construction industry. Under the changes, the threshold above which stamp duty will be charged on new homes for first home buyers will increase from the current \$650,000 to \$800,000, with the concession reducing on higher values before phasing out at \$1 million. The stamp duty threshold on vacant land will also rise from \$350,000 to \$400,000 and will phase out at \$500,000.</p> <p>The change to the thresholds will only apply to newly-built homes and vacant land, not to existing homes, and will last for a 12-month period, commencing on 1 August 2020. Other purchases will continue to benefit from existing schemes.</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>RevenueNSW - media release</p>
26 June	Regional events boost	<p>The NSW Government, through its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, will provide \$1 million funding for a new 2020 Regional Event Fund, to assist event organisers across the State to deliver events that will attract visitors and drive economic activity for local businesses.</p> <p>The Regional Event Fund will support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 events through \$20,000 annual Flagship Event Fund grants; • 12 events through \$30,000 cash and in-kind triennial Flagship Event Fund grants; and • 29 events through \$10,000 Micro Event Fund grants. 	<p>NSW Government - media release</p>
25 June	Fine reductions	<p>From 1 July 2020, the NSW Government will introduce a 50% fine reduction for people facing financial hardship due to COVID-19. People who hold a fine will also be able to pay by instalments and request more time for their fine to be reviewed.</p> <p>To be eligible, the person must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be on government benefits at the time of the fine being issued; and • apply for a fine reduction through Revenue NSW before the fine is overdue. <p>Any penalties including suspension, cancellation, disqualification or loss of demerit points on a driver licence will still apply.</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>The 50% fine reduction will not apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fines issued by a court (including a penalty that originated as a penalty notice prior being dealt with by a court); • voting related fines; • jury duty related fines; or • fines issued to a body corporate. 	
11 June	Support for independent brewers	The NSW Government will provide \$135,000 of funding to provide resources and support to the independent brewery industry through the Independent Brewers Association. The package recognises that breweries around NSW, many of which are located in regional areas, rely heavily on tourism and have been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. The package will cover the annual membership fees to the Association, allowing it to continue providing services to over 150 independent brewing operations, including supporting a range of initiatives to foster growth as they rebuild after COVID-19.	NSW Government - media release
9 June	COVID check for businesses	Businesses will be able to check, test and promote their COVID Safe credentials with the launch of the NSW Government's online COVID Safe Check. The tool combines industry-specific information in one location, including downloadable badges for businesses with COVID Safe plans to display in their premises. Customers can also use the tool to provide feedback in real-time. Feedback is sent to the business and, if necessary, to the regulator for action.	NSW Government - media release NSW Government - COVID Safe businesses
31 May	Infrastructure and Job Acceleration Fund	The NSW Government has announced a new \$3 billion acceleration fund to go towards job-creating projects. The fund will be used for smaller, shovel-ready projects across the State, and is expected to support up to 20,000 extra jobs. The Government will no longer proceed with the refurbishment of Stadium Australia, redirecting around \$800 million towards the new fund for job-creating infrastructure projects.	NSW Government - media release
26 May	Workers insurance	Workers insurance premiums for the Nominal Insurer, icare, will be frozen from 30 June 2020. Business employers experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 are also invited to contact icare to discuss their circumstances and the possibility of a pause or reduction in premiums.	NSW Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
24 May	Arts and culture package	<p>As updated on 13 June.</p> <p>The NSW Government has announced a \$50 million Rescue and Restart package for arts and cultural organisations to ensure the sector can continue to contribute to the economy during and after COVID-19.</p> <p>The Rescue and Restart package will be delivered in 2 stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding available now to enable not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations to hibernate temporarily; and • funding available in the coming months to enable not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations to restart operations after COVID-19. <p>Funding will be available to NSW not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations assessed as being in financial distress across the State on a case by case basis.</p> <p>On 15 June, the Government announced the new Great Southern Nights initiative, which aims to provide 1000 COVID-safe live music events, which will feature Australian artists throughout Sydney and regional NSW during November 2020. The initiative aims to boost the live music industry in recovering from COVID-19. All music events will be programmed in line with Government health advice regarding physical distancing and venue capacity of public gatherings. NSW live music venues and artists are invited to submit an expression of interest to be involved in Great Southern Nights.</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p>
22 May	Taxi industry support	<p>The NSW Government has announced a \$12.6 million support package for the taxi industry to provide operators with financial relief due to a decrease in passenger trips during the COVID-19 shutdown. The support package provides owners of Wheelchair Accessible Taxis and taxis operating as at 1 May 2020 with a \$2,900 subsidy per vehicle for 6 months' costs including CTP insurance, registration fees and other on-road costs.</p> <p>In addition, those currently holding a renewable annual taxi licence issued by the NSW Government will receive a 50% waiver of their annual licence fee.</p> <p>The package also provides a \$500 waiver of 2018/19 authorisation fees for all authorised service providers, which represents a full annual fee waiver for over 1,800 smaller service providers.</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p>
12 May	COVID-19 legislation	<p>Three Bills have been introduced into NSW Parliament related to measures that aim to equip people, businesses and the State's justice system to respond to the impacts of COVID-19.</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>The Bills include proposals for regulation-making powers to enhance social distancing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the modification or suspension of laws requiring people to hold meetings in person, for example a board meeting or physical examination by a medical practitioner for a particular purpose; the facilitation of wholly electronic signing of documents (the Government continues to consult on what classes of documents will be affected); and the extension of limitation periods to account for delays caused by the pandemic. <p>The Bills also propose a number of other arrangements in areas of health, justice, employee relations, Treasury, energy, environment and local government.</p>	<p>COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures – Attorney General) Bill 2020</p> <p>COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures – Miscellaneous) Bill 2020</p> <p>COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures – Miscellaneous) Bill 2020</p>
11 May	Insurance premiums	<p>The NSW Commissioner of State Revenue has issued a practice note which provides guidance for insurers dealing with issues arising from COVID-19. The practice note provides guidance on the circumstances in which duty may be payable where life insurance policies are ‘paused’ during COVID-19 or where refunds are paid on premiums for life and general insurance, as well as the particular record keeping obligations of insurers in relation to these matters.</p> <p>This practice note will remain in force until the end of the 2020/2021 financial year. An extension will then be considered in consultation with the insurance industry.</p>	<p>RevenueNSW - Commissioner's practice note - COVID-19 and insurance premiums</p>
6 May	Fast-tracked court and corrections facility upgrades	<p>A \$9 million package of improvements to courtrooms and correctional facilities will be fast-tracked to support jobs and the justice system in NSW. The works will include upgrades to fire safety and security, as well as structural repairs and maintenance. The projects will focus on awarding construction work to small and medium-sized local businesses where possible.</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p>
6 May	Hunting licence extension	<p>Hunters in NSW who hold a Restricted Licence (R-Licence) will have the duration of their licences extended by 4 weeks as reimbursement for the closure of recreational hunting areas in state forests during COVID-19. Hunters with valid written permission will be allowed back into state forests from 8 May as part of the easing of movement restrictions.</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>Department of Primary Industries, NSW - hunters information</p>
4 May	Liquor law reform for	<p>As updated on 16 June.</p>	<p>NSW Government - media</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	hospitality sector	<p>The NSW Government is seeking industry and community feedback on the draft <i>Liquor Amendment (24-hour Economy) Bill 2020</i>. The draft Bill aims to support NSW's hospitality sector in recovering from the economic effects of COVID-19 by creating a vibrant and safe 24-hour economy, with risk-based liquor laws that support business. Key proposals in the draft Bill include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new incentives and sanctions system with ongoing fee discounts for licensed venues that maintain a clear record; • removal of certain live music restrictions; • allowing small bars to offer more family friendly services to customers, by permitting minors in certain circumstances; • reducing red tape by aligning liquor licensing and planning processes; and • enhancing same day alcohol delivery regulations. <p>The Bill is expected to be introduced into NSW Parliament in the second half of 2020.</p> <p>The consultation period has been extended until 28 June 2020.</p> <p>On 16 June, the Government announced that its intention to relax late night trading restrictions and lift the long-standing freeze on new liquor licences across Sydney's CBD later in 2020, following the public consultation. The Government is working with stakeholders on a framework for approving new licences.</p> <p>Trading restrictions for existing venues ended on 1 June 2020, and the interim guidelines are being prepared for existing businesses to help manage the risks of alcohol-related harm and to identify eligible locations for new applications.</p>	<p>release</p> <p>Liquor Amendment (24-hour Economy) Bill 2020</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p>
29 April	Cleaning businesses stimulus package	<p>A \$250 million stimulus package has been announced to support 550 new and redeployed cleaning businesses to improve the cleaning of public facilities in NSW and boost its defence against COVID-19.</p> <p>The funding will support small to medium-sized cleaning businesses by providing temporary employment to help existing contractors. Supplementary contracts available to cleaning businesses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general cleaning in low-risk areas; • enhanced cleaning for COVID-19 risk reduction; and • environment cleaning of facilities after a suspected COVID-19 diagnosis and cleaning 	<p>NSW Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		auditing services.	
28 April	Fast-tracked planning assessments	<p>As updated on 30 April, 4, 5, 19, 21 and 22 May, 18 and 22 June, and 18 July.</p> <p>The NSW Government has announced the first 24 projects to undergo a fast-tracked assessment process as part of the new Planning System Acceleration Program to help keep the construction industry moving during COVID-19. The 24 projects identified in the first tranche of fast-tracked assessments have the potential to create almost 9,500 new jobs. The Planning System Acceleration Program will also provide a central process to clear a backlog of proposals that are stuck in the system or in the Land & Environment Court.</p> <p>To be considered for an accelerated assessment, the development application (DA) or rezoning must already be progressed within the planning system, deliver a public benefit, demonstrate an ability to create jobs, and be able to commence construction or lodge a DA within 6 months.</p> <p>On 30 April, the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 was amended to set out the minimum legal requirements for all planning panels holding public hearings and meetings using telephone and video conferencing. The amendment will assist in ensuring planning bodies can continue to operate without delay during COVID-19, in line with the goals of the Planning System Acceleration Program.</p> <p>On 4 May, a residential development in Sydney's North West was the first project approved under the Acceleration Program, the construction of which is expected to support 572 jobs and inject \$404 million into the NSW economy.</p> <p>On 5 May, the Government announced a \$9.7 million investment to enhance its ePlanning platform, which allows planning applications to be lodged online for faster processing and real-time updates. It will be mandatory for all greater metropolitan councils to process all applications via ePlanning by the end of 2020.</p> <p>On 19 May, the Government announced various new projects approved as part of the Planning Acceleration Program, including rezoning in St Leonards, North Sydney, and a development in South West Sydney. So far, approvals through the program have totalled \$2.4 billion and have created opportunities for 17,500 jobs.</p> <p>On 21 May, the Government announced 2 further projects in Western Sydney that were approved through the Planning Acceleration Program, which will be worth \$27.8 million and will support 130 jobs.</p> <p>On 22 May, a further 24 projects were announced as approved through the Planning Acceleration</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>Planning NSW - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Program including a new retail centre, industrial precincts, 3 new schools and the relocated Sydney Fish Markets, which could inject more than \$5.37 billion into the State's economy.</p> <p>On 18 June, further projects to be approved under the Planning Acceleration Program were announced, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revitalisation projects for 2 town centres in Villawood and Fairfield Heights, and changes to local environmental plans in both Auburn and Parramatta to allow for more housing and offices (expected to inject \$500 million into the economy); and • 3 new public schools in Blacktown, Wagga Wagga and Camden (expected to inject \$127 million into the economy). <p>On 22 June, the Government announced a further 19 projects as part of the Planning Acceleration Program, which are expected to inject \$4.7 billion into the economy. The projects include an over-station development at Sydney Metro Victoria Cross, a new solar farm, a new school in Camden, affordable housing in Gosford, and a land release in Yass Valley that will allow more than 5,000 new homes to be built.</p> <p>On 18 July, a further tranche of fast-tracked developments was announced, including 13 projects with an estimated economic value of \$4.3 billion.</p>	
24 April	Mining sector relief	The NSW Government will defer payment periods for Exploration Licences and Assessment Lease applications for 6 months and will extend the commencement dates for new licences. This gives explorers additional time to secure funding where necessary. The NSW Government also announced \$2.2 million in drilling grants for explorers looking for new deposits in regional NSW.	NSW Government - media release
22 April	Witnessing documents remotely	A new temporary regulation under the <i>Electronic Transactions Act 2000</i> has been made to allow for legal documents to be witnessed remotely through video conferencing technology. The witness must see the person signing the document in real time, and can then attest to the signature on a scanned copy of the document, or an identical counterpart of the signed copy.	NSW Government - media release KWM Insight
20 April	Business Connect funding	<p>As updated on 29 April and 2 June.</p> <p>The NSW Government will inject \$14 million into Business Connect, its small and medium-sized business advisory program, to assist businesses suffering impacts as a result of COVID-19. The funding will be used to engage an additional 30 advisors and to ensure the program can continue for another 12 months until June 2021. Businesses can register online or by phone (tel: 1300 134 359).</p>	NSW Government - media release NSW Government - media release NSW Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 29 April, the Government announced that it would fund free webinars for small businesses struggling because of COVID-19. More than 60 webinars are available online via Business Connect, covering various topics including maximising cashflow, diversifying creative income, marketing to pivot a business and business disruption and innovation.</p> <p>On 2 June, the Government announced that 40 new Business Connect advisors would be deployed across metropolitan and regional NSW to provide advice and support to small businesses in hard-hit industries, including the arts and creative industries, retail and tourism.</p>	<p>release</p>
16 April	Regional infrastructure projects fast-tracked	<p>As updated on 17 and 23 April.</p> <p>Infrastructure projects across regional NSW will be fast-tracked to help local communities and industries recover from the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>Funding committed under the COVID-19 stimulus package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$46 million as an equity injection into Forestry Corporation to repair damaged public infrastructure, and expand Blowering and Grafton nurseries and begin planting activities in bushfire affected State forests; • \$25 million for local councils to rebuild and refurbish infrastructure for up to 171 local showgrounds; • \$20 million to Aboriginal Housing for minor projects and maintenance across NSW; • \$9.5 million to Health to accelerate regional hospital minor projects and maintenance; and • \$9 million to the Stronger Communities Cluster to accelerate minor projects and maintenance on assets such as regional courthouses and correctional facilities. <p>One of the first projects to be fast-tracked will be the development of a purpose-built COVID-19 recovery ward at Royal North Shore Hospital.</p> <p>The NSW Government is also fast-tracking planned transport maintenance projects, taking advantage of reduced vehicle and public transport traffic during COVID-19. This includes resurfacing work on the M5 East Motorway and maintenance on the Sydney Harbour Tunnel.</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p>
13 April	Land tax and rental relief	<p>As updated on 15, 21 and 25 April, 7 and 13 May, 1 and 4 June, 9 and 29 July, and 23 and 24 September.</p> <p>The NSW Government has announced \$440 million in relief for renters and landlords affected by COVID-19 restrictions. The support will be split between commercial and residential tenants and is</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>Retail and Other Commercial Leases</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>aimed at keeping tenants in rental properties over the next 6 months.</p> <p>A 6 month moratorium on forced evictions for rental arrears has also been announced for residential tenants who have lost 25% or more of their income, or commercial tenants where revenue is down by 30% or more. Landlords will need to negotiate with the tenant before being able to seek a forced eviction, and the tenant will be protected from eviction until the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal is satisfied that the negotiations are finalised. An interim 60-day moratorium is also in place for new applications to the Tribunal for forced evictions over COVID-19 related rent arrears.</p> <p>In turn, landlords who have a land tax liability in 2020 will receive a 25% waiver or rebate if they pass on an equivalent amount of rental relief to their tenants, including residential or business tenants with an annual turnover up to \$50 million. Land tax will also be deferred for 3 months if not already paid for 2019/20. On 25 April, the Government indicated that the relief would be available to landlords within weeks.</p> <p>Applications for land tax relief opened on 7 May 2020. Once approved, a concession will be applied to any unpaid 2020 land tax notices, and refunds will be issued for payments already made this year.</p> <p>On 13 May, RevenueNSW published guidelines about the land tax relief measures. The guidelines confirm the above announcements and address common questions about the measures. The guidelines have been updated (most recently on 9 July) to include example scenarios to assist taxpayers in understanding how the measures may apply in different circumstances.</p> <p>On 29 July, the Government announced that it will introduce a land tax discount for new build-to-rent housing projects until 2040 to provide more housing options, greater surety for renters, boost construction and support jobs during the COVID-19 recovery. The discount will be equivalent to at least a 50% reduction in land tax, dependent on the unimproved land value.</p> <p>To be eligible for the discount, a build-to-rent development in metropolitan areas must be at least 50 units, with a different threshold for regional areas to be considered. Construction must have commenced on or after 1 July 2020, and the projects must provide purpose built rental units, be managed under unified ownership, and include options for longer leases. Full eligibility criteria for build-to-rent projects will be set-out in relevant guidelines.</p> <p>On 23 September, the Government announced that the <i>Retail and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19) Regulation 2020</i> is to be extended until 31 December 2020. This new concession is in addition to the concession provided to landlords that reduced rent between April and September. Eligible landlords that reduce the rent of eligible commercial and residential tenants between October and December can apply for a land tax concession on relevant properties. Tenants will be</p>	<p>(COVID-19) Regulation 2020</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>RevenueNSW - 2020 land tax COVID-19 relief guidelines</p> <p>KWM Insight</p> <p>NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>RevenueNSW - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>required to re-establish their eligibility under the extension to the Regulation if they wish to request further rent relief, while landlords will also be required to respond to a tenant's request for further rent relief in a reasonable timeframe.</p> <p>On 24 September, RevenueNSW clarified the eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible landlords that reduce the rent of eligible tenants between 1 October 2020 and 31 December 2020 can apply for a land tax concession on relevant properties. This concession is in addition to the concession provided to landlords that reduced rent before 30 September. • Once approved, the concession will be applied to any unpaid 2020 land tax notices, and refunds will be issued for payments already made this year. 	
3 April	Small business grants and support	<p>As updated on 24 and 29 April, 30 May, 16 June, and 27 August.</p> <p>The NSW Government will put \$750 million into the Small Business Support Fund, allowing small businesses to receive grants of up to \$10,000 under a new assistance scheme.</p> <p>To be eligible, businesses will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have between 1-19 employees and a turnover of more than \$75,000; • a payroll below the NSW Government 2019-20 payroll tax threshold of \$900,000; • have an Australian Business Number as at 1 March 2020, be based in NSW and employ staff as at 1 March 2020; • be highly impacted by the Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020 issued on 30 March 2020; • use the funding for unavoidable business costs such as utilities, overheads, legal costs and financial advice; and • provide appropriate documentation upon application. <p>Applications are available through Service NSW and will remain open until 30 June 2020.</p> <p>On 24 April, the Government announced that it had approved more than \$100 million in Small Business Support Fund grants in the first 10 days since applications for the program opened.</p> <p>On 29 April, the Government announced that it would fund free webinars for small businesses struggling because of COVID-19. More than 60 webinars are available online via Business</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Connect, covering various topics including maximising cashflow, diversifying creative income, marketing to pivot a business and business disruption and innovation.</p> <p>On 16 June, the next phase of grants from the Small Business Support Fund was announced. Small Business Recovery Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to cover marketing and advertising expenses, make fit-out changes and to train staff in how to work safely under the current COVID-19 health conditions. Applications open on 1 July and close on 31 August. More information about the grant can be found here.</p>	
2 April	New government department and agency	<p>As updated on 6 April.</p> <p>The Government has established a new Department of Regional NSW to better coordinate support for communities, businesses and farmers in the bush that have endured drought, bushfire and flood and now face the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Department will bring together Primary Industries, Local Land Services, Resources and Geoscience and regional coordination across government to form a central agency dedicated to regional issues.</p> <p>A new government agency has also been established, Resilience NSW, which will spearhead the state's approach to disaster preparation and recovery following the bushfire season and COVID-19.</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p>
27 March	Deferral of gaming and parking levies, and government commercial rent	<p>As updated on 1 May, 10 July, 3, 7, 20 and 24 August, and 2 September.</p> <p>Gaming tax for clubs, pubs and hotels, and lotteries tax normally paid from 1 March to 31 August 2020 will be deferred to 1 September 2020. The deferral will apply automatically. Customers will continue to receive invoices as normal but will not have their accounts debited.</p> <p>On 10 July, further gaming tax deferrals were announced. In addition to the measures above, gaming machine tax normally paid between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2020 by hotels will be deferred to 1 October 2020.</p> <p>The parking space levy will also be deferred for 6 months until 30 September 2020. The 2020/21 annual return for the parking space levy, which was previously due on 1 September 2020, can now be lodged until 30 September 2020. Taxpayers can elect to pay the levy in full on that date or in equal quarterly instalments.</p> <p>Rents will be deferred for 6 months for commercial tenants with less than 20 employees in all Government-owned properties.</p> <p>On 3 August, RevenueNSW provided updated guidance on the gaming tax deferral measures. An</p>	<p>Premier of NSW - media release</p> <p>RevenueNSW - COVID-19 (coronavirus) and gaming machine tax</p> <p>RevenueNSW - COVID-19 (coronavirus) and parking space levy</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		online portal will be made available by the end of August 2020, to allow taxpayers to set up a payment arrangement for the deferred tax. Payment arrangements can be up to 24 months, with no interest applied for the first 12 months, after which interest will apply to the outstanding balance. This guidance was further updated on 20 and 24 August and 2 September to provide further information about the online portal and payment arrangements, and to answer taxpayer FAQs.	
27 March	Working for NSW fund	The NSW Government announced the creation of a \$1 billion Working for NSW fund to sustain business, create new jobs and retrain employees.	Premier of NSW - media release
26 March	General support	Service NSW has launched a 24/7 contact centre (tel: 13 77 88) for businesses and workers to access advice on non-health related COVID-19 enquiries. The centre can provide information on financial support for businesses, implementing social distancing in businesses and workplaces, and the latest updates on restrictions. Service NSW is recruiting 1000 additional workers to staff the centre.	Premier of NSW - media release
25 March	Extended business operating hours	<p>The NSW Government has passed legislation allowing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to make orders for certain developments to be carried out without normal planning approval processes. The first order made under the Act allows for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retail premises such as supermarkets, pharmacies and corner stores to operate 24 hours per day; and • home businesses to operate 24 hours per day and to employ up to five people (other than permanent residents of the dwelling) subject to compliance with social distancing rules. <p>These orders are in addition to policy changes on 20 March 2020 to allow supermarkets and other retail outlets to receive deliveries 24 hours per day.</p> <p>The following additional orders were made on 31 March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to allow for the immediate construction of two temporary workers' accommodation sites on land adjacent to Bayswater and Liddell power; • to allow food trucks to operate on any land at any time, with the landholder's permission, and to allow 'dark kitchens' to be established in any existing commercial kitchen, such as those in community facilities, business premises, cooking schools and function centres, to allow for the preparation of food and meals to be delivered to those at home, in self-isolation, or working on the frontline; and • to allow weekday construction site operating hours to be extended to weekends and public 	<p>Planning NSW - media release</p> <p>COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Act 2020 (NSW)</p> <p>Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID-19 Development - Extended Operation) Order 2020</p> <p>Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID Development - Health Service Facilities) Order 2020</p> <p>Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID Development - Takeaway food and beverages)</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>holidays to ensure workers can practice social distancing without a loss of productivity or jobs.</p>	<p>Order 2020 Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID Development - Construction work days) Order 2020</p>
24 March	Long service leave	<p>The NSW Parliament passed changes to the <i>Long Service Leave Act 1955</i> which will create greater flexibility for employers and employees to access leave during the COVID-19 crisis. The amendments will allow employees to take leave in shorter blocks, such as 1 day a week, and without the traditional 1 month notice period, by agreement with their employer.</p> <p>The legislation will have effect from 25 March 2020 for a period of 6 months with the possibility of an extension to 1 year.</p>	<p>NSW Treasurer - media release Industrial Relations NSW - FAQs</p>
17 March	Payroll tax	<p>As updated on 27 March, 1 and 14 May, and 5 June.</p> <p>Payroll taxpayers whose total grouped Australian wages for the 2019/20 financial year are over \$10 million will have the option of deferring the payment of payroll tax for up to six months. These businesses will not need to make their payment for the March period, normally due on 7 April 2020.</p> <p>Payroll taxpayers whose total grouped Australian wages for the 2019/20 financial year are no more than \$10 million will have their annual payroll tax liability reduced by 25% when they lodge their annual reconciliation, which is due on 28 July. For those who lodge and pay monthly and whose total Australian wages will be no more than \$10 million for the current financial year, payroll tax will be waived for the months of March, April or May 2020. These taxpayers will also have the option of deferring payments for an additional three months.</p> <p>On 1 May, RevenueNSW clarified that all businesses are still required to lodge their 2019/20 annual reconciliation by the due date. Any outstanding liability for the 2019/20 financial year and the monthly payments for the July, August and September periods will be deferred until October 2020.</p> <p>Taxpayers will have the option of paying their outstanding liability in full or entering into an instalment plan after October 2020. Information regarding how to apply for an instalment plan will be available in September 2020.</p> <p>Furthermore, the next round of NSW payroll tax cuts will be brought forward by raising the threshold limit to \$1 million in 2020-21 (previously \$900,000).</p>	<p>NSW Treasurer - media release RevenueNSW - payroll tax Premier of NSW - media release NSW Government - media release RevenueNSW - payroll tax information RevenueNSW - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>The following legislation relating to these measures has received Royal Assent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Legislation Amendment (COVID-19) Act 2020, implementing the temporary reduction in payroll tax for businesses with annual wages of \$10 million or less, and raising the threshold to \$1 million for financial years commencing on 1 July 2020; and • COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures – Treasurer) Act 2020, which provides for certain wages subsidised by the JobKeeper program to be exempt from payroll tax. <p>On 5 June, the 2020 payroll tax annual reconciliation due date was extended to 30 October 2020.</p>	
17 March	Miscellaneous fees and charges	<p>As updated on 15 and 27 April, and 22 June.</p> <p>A range of fees and charges will be waived for small businesses (including bars, cafes, restaurants, entertainment venues and trades). The waiver is expected to be worth \$80 million.</p> <p>On 15 April, the Government announced a further fee waiver for licences in the trades and construction sectors. Fees will be waived for 12 months in a package worth up to \$50 million. Eligible licence holders include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from 1 April: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paintball venue permit; ○ Tattoo parlour operator licence ○ Pyrotechnician licence; and ○ Registration permit of amusement device; • from 15 April: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Home building contractor licences; ○ Trade or specialist contractor licences; ○ Motor vehicle repairer specialist licences; ○ Asbestos removal and assessor licences; ○ Demolition licences; and ○ High risk work licences; and 	<p>NSW Treasurer - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - fee and licence relief</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from 20 April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Licence fee waivers for tattooists; ○ Home building: Qualified Supervisor Certificates; ○ Home building: Tradesperson Certificates; ○ Motor Vehicle Tradesperson Certificates; ○ High Risk Work Assessor Accreditation; and ○ SafeWork Registered Trading Organisation (new applicants only). <p>Applications for the waiver can be made to NSW Fair Trading or SafeWork NSW (depending on which body regulates the licence in question).</p> <p>On 27 April, the Government announced that small community businesses in NSW that use school premises like canteens, uniform shops, out of school hours care sites and dance schools will have their lease and license fees waived up to the end of term 2. These arrangements have been backdated to the end of March to provide support since the impact of COVID-19 began impacting these businesses.</p> <p>On 22 June, the Government announced a temporary 50% discount for travel outside of extended peak hour times on Sydney's public transport system, to stagger essential travel and manage social distancing measures. The measures will be in place for 3 months.</p>	

Health and Community Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
14 July	Grants for NGOs to support temporary visa holders	<p>\$4 million in funding has been announced for emergency relief grants to support temporary visa holders and specialist migrant or settlement NGOs in NSW. Asylum seekers and international students are excluded from this funding as they have been covered in previous funding measures. There are 2 streams of funding, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stream 1: \$2 million in funding for organisations providing direct emergency relief to vulnerable temporary visa holders who are not eligible for Commonwealth Government income support during COVID-19. Organisations must be able to deliver emergency financial assistance to those who have insufficient funds for essentials like food, medication, transport and housing; and Stream 2: \$2 million in funding for organisations to support service delivery through culturally specific case workers, community support workers, interpretation and translation services, and outreach transport costs for isolated communities. <p>Multicultural NSW has published Grant guidelines and FAQs. Applications are open until 27 July 2020.</p>	Multicultural NSW - Grants
12 June	Community sports club funding	<p>As updated on 15 June.</p> <p>The NSW Government has announced a \$27.3 million community sports grants package. Sports clubs will receive grants of up to \$1000 depending on the size of the organisation.</p> <p>Funding will also be provided to State Sporting Organisations, State Sporting Organisations for people with disabilities and Regional Academies of Sport to support their programs and initiatives.</p>	NSW Government - media release NSW Office of Sport - media release
6 May	New volunteering platform	<p>A new volunteering platform, Emergency Support Volunteering, has been released.</p> <p>This platform allows people to register their details online and an organisation in their local area will get in touch with them when volunteer opportunities arise.</p> <p>It is aimed at assisting people who are impacted by COVID-19 but has capacity to extend beyond this crisis.</p>	NSW Government - media release
27 April	Residential energy bill relief	<p>The NSW Government has announced a \$30 million boost to its Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme (EAPA) to provide support for households struggling to pay their energy bill during COVID-19. Residential energy customers can now apply for EAPA vouchers directly</p>	NSW Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>through Service NSW and will be called for an assessment without having to leave their house.</p> <p>The EAPA assessment threshold has been temporarily increased so that customers can receive up to \$400 per assessment twice a year, compared to the normal amount of \$300. This means the annual maximum limit of vouchers for a household with both electricity and gas has increased from \$1,200 to \$1,600.</p>	
24 April	Mental health support	<p>\$73 million in funding was announced to provide mental health support in NSW during COVID-19. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • over 180 additional specialist, community-based mental health clinicians and peer support workers; • expanding the virtual mental health program to all local health districts; • free access to Tresillian's digital SleepWellBaby program; • capacity for 60,000 extra calls to the 1800 NSW Mental Health Line; and • creation of pop-up mental health Safe Space sites, reducing pressure on emergency departments. 	NSW Government - media release
18 April	COVID-19 research funding	<p>\$25 million in funding was announced to fast-track research and clinical trials to tackle COVID-19. The funding will be directed to research focused on diagnosing COVID-19, vaccine trials, strategies to slow community transmissions and developing treatments.</p>	NSW Government - media release
7 April	Homelessness outreach	<p>The Government has established a new Inner City Homelessness Taskforce to coordinate up to 100 homelessness assertive outreach patrols in Sydney over the next fortnight. The patrols will assist people who are sleeping rough to move into accommodation to reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19.</p>	NSW Government - media release
7 April	Funding to support health workers	<p>As updated on 13 May.</p> <p>The Government is allocating a further \$100 million to support health and medical workers.</p> <p>Key elements of the support package include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$58 million for health worker accommodation; • \$25 million for medical research and vaccine trials; 	NSW Government - media release NSW Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$11 million for commercialisation of research products; and \$10 million Funding to partner with industry to boost domestic supply chains. <p>On 13 May, the Government also announced a \$3 million investment to upskill 1500 nurses in NSW with Intensive Care refresher training, to provide further staff to assist in nursing COVID-19 patients that may require intensive care.</p>	
6 April	Seniors social inclusion grants	\$600,000 of funding has been allocated for grants to community organisations working to keep senior Australians better connected whilst in isolation. One-off grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 are available to eligible organisations. Applications closed on 26 April.	NSW Government - media release NSW Communities and Justice - events and projects
1 April	Medical supply chain issues	The NSW Government has launched a portal for NSW manufacturing companies to offer to build parts or supply emergency medical supplies, including hand sanitiser, handwash, gloves, cleaning products, protective clothing, masks, eyewear and paper product. The Government will use information collected through the portal to connect the supply chain. Businesses can register their interest online.	NSW Government - COVID-19 emergency supplies registration portal
31 March	Domestic violence support	<p>As updated on 26 May and 9 June.</p> <p>The State's housing response includes the following additional government support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$14.3 million investment to increase the supply and flexibility of temporary accommodation across NSW, including accommodation suitable for self-isolation; \$20 million commitment for additional rental subsidies until June 2021 to accelerate pathways to secure stable housing in the private rental market, including more than 350 packages dedicated to women and children escaping domestic and family violence; and financial support covering the costs of additional staffing for homelessness providers, such as casual workers or overtime. <p>On 26 May, it was announced that the Government will provide \$12.8 million to help people experiencing domestic and family violence to seek support during and after COVID-19. This includes funding for increased capacity of frontline support services, initiatives to help people stay safer at home (such as duress alarms), and funding boosts for various programs and campaigns aimed at raising awareness and changing the behaviour of perpetrators.</p>	NSW Government - media release NSW Government - media release NSW Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
27 March	Assisting vulnerable members of society	<p>The NSW Government announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$34 million boost in funding to prevent homelessness; • \$30 million to boost the Energy Accounts Payments Assistance scheme; and • \$10 million to support charities and \$6 million additional funding for Lifeline’s operations in NSW. <p>On 7 April, the Government announced that an extra 300 hotel and motel rooms have been booked to house homeless people at this time.</p>	<p>Premier of NSW - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p>
17 March	Health package	<p>As updated on 17 and 18 April, 15 and 18 May, 16 June, and 17 July.</p> <p>\$700 million in extra funding has been announced for NSW Health, to assist in doubling ICU capacity, preparing for additional COVID-19 testing, purchasing additional ventilators and medical equipment, establishing acute respiratory clinics and bringing forward elective surgeries to private hospitals.</p> <p>On 17 April, the Government announced that it would fast-track the development of a \$15 million purpose-built COVID-19 recovery ward at Royal North Shore Hospital.</p> <p>On 18 April, \$25 million in funding was announced to fast-track research and clinical trials to tackle COVID-19. The funding will be directed to research focused on diagnosing COVID-19, vaccine trials, strategies to slow community transmissions and developing treatments.</p> <p>On 15 May, the Government announced a new fleet of 89 ambulances as part of a \$17 million funding boost to provide additional capacity in dealing with any potential surge of COVID-19 cases.</p> <p>On 18 May, a further \$8.6 million in funding was announced as part of an expansion of the NSW Government’s Patient Experience Program. The funding will employ an additional 86 staff across 50 hospitals to improve patient experiences in COVID-19 clinics and emergency wards.</p> <p>On 16 June, \$388 million in funding was announced to fast-track elective surgeries that have been delayed due to COVID-19. The funding will allow public patients to be treated in private hospitals while also increasing surgery capacity at public hospitals. NSW Health will host a roundtable with public and private health sectors and clinicians within the next month to determine the best way to quickly and appropriately deliver elective surgeries and other procedures.</p> <p>On 17 July, it was announced that the Commonwealth Government will provide 500,000 face masks to aged care services in the areas of NSW in which the NSW Government has declared they</p>	<p>NSW Treasurer - media release</p> <p>Treasury NSW - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>Federal Minister for Health - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		should be used.	

Childcare, Education and Training

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
9 June	Higher education support	The NSW Government has announced up to \$750 million in commercial loans to help NSW universities recover from the impact of COVID-19. The scheme is intended to supplement the Commonwealth Government's support package.	NSW Government - media release
18 May	Crisis accommodation for international students	<p>The NSW Government will fund temporary crisis accommodation for stranded international students as part of a \$20 million package. The temporary housing scheme will be delivered through approved student accommodation and homestay providers. To be eligible, the international student visa holders must be in genuine need and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have been evicted or are facing imminent eviction; • have evidence of being laid off employment; and • have less than \$1,500 in savings and no other avenues of support. <p>The package will also provide increased support through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the International Legal Service NSW, making available 50,000 free subscriptions to the multilingual My Legal Mate student app; and • a new 24/7 international student support service through the NSW Government COVID-19 hotline (tel: 13 77 88), to offer free advice and information about measures including the moratorium on rental evictions, and medical, mental health, legal and emergency support. 	NSW Government - media release Service NSW - financial support information
6 May	Creative Kids provider grants	<p>Artists and cultural organisations in NSW that are registered with Creative Kids (a program designed to make it easier for school-aged children to become involved in creative and cultural activities) can now access grants of up to \$5,000 to assist with digital adaption to offer creative learning activities online. The total pool of available grants is worth \$1 million. To be eligible the provider must be a small business (with less than 20 employees) or a non-profit organisation.</p> <p>Eligibility for Creative Kids registration will also be expanded to providers that develop programs to support the 2020 school curriculum, such as supplying creative materials to children who are learning remotely.</p>	NSW Government - media release
2 May	Support for vulnerable	Vulnerable young people in years 10, 11 and 12 who attend a NSW high school (or TAFE equivalent) may be eligible for a \$1000 scholarship to support them in continuing and finishing their studies through COVID-19. The grant program will prioritise those who are at risk of	NSW Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	students	homelessness, who have experienced domestic and family violence, or who have been in contact with the youth justice system.	
9 April	Pre-school funding	\$51 million in funding will be provided to 700 state-funded community pre-schools and 38 mobile services so that parents in NSW will not have to pay pre-school fees for up to 6 months. \$82 million has also been committed to support 260 council childcare centres that are not eligible for JobKeeper payments.	NSW Government - media release
6 April	Free TAFE courses	<p>As updated on 30 April.</p> <p>A suite of 21 fee-free TAFE NSW short courses are available online to assist anyone across the state who wants to upskill during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The 21 short courses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-marketing for Small Business; • Engaging Customers Using Social Media; • Writing and Presentation Skills; • Computing Skills; • Team Leader Skill Set; and • Administration Skills for Team Leaders. <p>On 30 April, a further 13 new fee-free short courses were announced, following a substantial uptake of the initial suite of courses. The NSW Government will use these new courses to replace those which have reached enrolment capacity to ensure there are still 21 accredited courses available for people to study. The new short courses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading Teams; • Digital Security Basics; • Build your Digital Literacy with Coding; • Create a Brand Presentation; and • Undertaking Projects and Managing Risk. 	NSW Government - media release NSW Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		Fee-free short course enrolments are limited to a maximum of 2 courses per person.	

Local Government

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
2 October	Funding for CBD economy	<p>The NSW Government and City of Sydney Council announced they would provide up to \$20 million in joint funding to boost the CBD economy, support businesses and create jobs.</p> <p>The NSW Government will commit up to \$15 million and the Council will provide a further \$5 million towards a range of initiatives to encourage more people to visit, eat, and shop in the CBD. The Government and Council are considering a range of measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allowing more flexible outdoor dining, drinking and seating arrangements for established businesses; • enhancing promotion of cultural institutions and allowing them to stay open late; • increasing promotion and advertising to attract people into the Sydney CBD; and • more flexible public transport options. 	NSW Government - media release
5 August	Public Spaces Legacy Program	<p>The NSW Government has announced the \$250 million NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program, which incentivises local councils to accelerate their assessments of development applications and re-zoning to create new development capacity and meet demand for housing and employment over the next decade. The Program is intended to provide economic and jobs stimulus in response to COVID-19, whilst also delivering a legacy of safe, high-quality public open space.</p> <p>Funding for the planning, design, construction or land acquisition costs for new and existing public and open space will be made available to 68 councils across NSW that are using the ePlanning system and that adopt a Local Acceleration Program, provided they can achieve improvements in assessment activity between 1 September 2020 and 30 June 2021.</p> <p>Eligible public space projects include new or upgraded open and public space including regional and district public and open spaces and linear parklands, trails and strategic public and open space linkages, foreshore and riverfront precincts. This includes improvements for water-based recreation such as launching small watercraft, access to waterways for swimming, trails and picnic areas.</p> <p>Funding is also available for urban amenity improvements including civic plazas, town squares and main street precincts that improve connections between public space, promoting walkability and greater accessibility.</p> <p>Funding will be released to councils for various stages of public space project delivery from early 2021 to project completion before 31 December 2022. For further information, see the detailed</p>	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		guidelines.	
26 April	Local council support package	<p>As updated on 19 May.</p> <p>A stimulus package worth \$395 million has been announced to safeguard council jobs, and local services and infrastructure. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a \$250 million increase in low-cost loans to eligible councils through the state's borrowing facility provided by TCorp to kick-start community infrastructure projects, bringing the total of this facility up to \$1.35 billion; • up to \$112.5 million to support a Council Job Retention Allowance of \$1,500 per fortnight per employee to limit job losses in the NSW local government sector; and • \$32.8 million to assist councils in meeting the cost of the FY2020/21 increase in the Emergency Services Levy. <p>On 19 May, the Government announced new legislative changes to give local councils easier and more flexible access to local infrastructure contribution funds to support jobs and stimulate the economy. The changes are expected to free up an additional \$1 billion of infrastructure spending and will allow councils to more quickly invest in local infrastructures such as public spaces, roads, footpaths and drainage.</p>	<p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p>
17 April	Regulatory changes for local councils	<p>As updated on 12 June.</p> <p>The local government regulations have been amended to provide flexibility to councils whilst responding to COVID-19, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allowing councils to delay sending out the first quarterly rates notices for 2020/21 and extending the payment deadline by 1 month; • providing councils with a 1 month extension to adopt their 2020-21 operational plans and budgets, and submit their 2019-2020 audited financial statements and annual reports. Councils will also have an extra month to submit their last quarterly budget review statement of 2019-2020; • removing the requirement for council notices to be advertised in newspapers and instead allow the relevant notice to be published on the council's website; • enabling councils to immediately waive or reduce fees for services such as food premises 	<p>NSW Government - media release</p> <p>NSW Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>inspections and footpath usage for COVID-19 affected businesses, without the need to provide 28 days' public notice; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> removing the requirement for documents to be made available for inspection at council officers, if documents are available electronically. <p>On 12 June, it was announced that NSW local government elections, originally due to proceed in September 2020, will be postponed until September 2021 due to COVID-19. Current councillors will continue to hold their civic offices until that time.</p>	
20 March	City of Sydney measures	<p>As updated on 31 March, and 6 and 9 April.</p> <p>The City of Sydney has implemented an initial package of measures valued at up to \$25 million to support businesses, including waiving fees for health and building compliance activities and various permits (such a footpath dining, filming and market permit). The City of Sydney is also reviewing rent on city premises to tenants that require support.</p> <p>Phase two of the City of Sydney's measures includes a \$72.5 million small business, cultural and creative support package. This includes a new \$2 million grant program for small businesses to allow them to modify their operating model, develop online and e-commerce capabilities, do training and professional development, and invest in capital works.</p> <p>The City of Sydney has released \$3.25 million for the arts in its COVID-19 relief grants, for which local artists and cultural organisations can apply for funding. Individuals and not-for-profits can also apply for special funding for relief for community services, for which the City of Sydney has released \$1.5 million.</p> <p>The City of Sydney has also released emergency essential services worker permits, opened car parks for 24-hour access and are working with government agencies to free up on-street parking in the City of Sydney area.</p>	<p>City of Sydney - media release</p> <p>City of Sydney - media release</p> <p>City of Sydney - media release</p>

VICTORIAN MEASURES

Tax, Grants, Concessions and Sector Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
14 September	Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package	<p>The Victorian Government has announced an Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package to provide \$87.5 million to councils and businesses outside of Melbourne's CBD.</p> <p>As part of the package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$58 million will go towards grants of up to \$5,000 to help hospitality businesses to make widespread outdoor dining safe and practical – umbrellas, outdoor furniture, screens and other equipment. The Government will also invest in training, advertising, and the other supports businesses will need. The grants will be available to licensed and unlicensed cafés, restaurants, takeaway food businesses, pubs, taverns, bars and clubs with a payroll of less than \$3 million. \$29.5 million will be provided to local councils to help them implement swift and streamlined permit, enforcement and monitoring processes to support expanded outdoor dining. Metropolitan councils and regional city councils will be eligible for up to \$500,000 in assistance, while rural councils will be eligible for up to \$250,000. This money can also be passed on to businesses in the form of reducing or waiving permit fees or invested in infrastructure such as streetscaping and lighting. 	Premier of Victoria - media release
14 September	Sole Trader Support Fund	<p>The Victorian Government has announced a \$100 million Sole Trader Support Fund.</p> <p>The Fund will provide grants of \$3,000 to eligible sole traders working in sectors of the economy that will continue to be affected by restrictions, like media and film production, creative studios, outdoor entertainment and in private museums and galleries as well as gym owners.</p> <p>To be eligible for a grant, sole traders must be a tenant or licensee in a commercial premises or location and operate in a sector of the economy that is restricted, heavily restricted or not opening under the Second Step of the Government's Roadmap.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
13 September	Further business support package –	<p>As updated on 18 September.</p> <p>The Victorian Government has announced a \$3 billion package of cash grants and cashflow support for Victorian business, including:</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release State Revenue Office,

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	Business Resilience Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishing a \$251 million licenced venue fund with grants of \$10,000 to \$30,000 for licenced venues; • further cash grants under the Business Support Fund; • grants of up to \$20,000 to businesses in alpine resorts to cover their resort fees, saving them \$4.3 million; • \$44 million to equip businesses with the support they need to operate, including \$20 million for small businesses to access off-the-shelf digital programs such as Shopify or Squareonline, training and workshops designed to help businesses adapt to online operations; and • launching a \$15.7 million export recovery package to address logistics and supply chain issues caused by the pandemic, and establish new export channels. Businesses will be connected to international markets through virtual trade missions as well as assistance to adapt their export strategies to respond to the rapidly changing global market. <p>The Victorian Government also announced a range of tax relief measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employers with payrolls up to \$10 million, based on their 2019-20 financial year returns, can defer their 2020-21 payroll tax liabilities until the 2021-22 financial year. This means they can pay their 2020-21 payroll tax liabilities in four quarterly instalments in the 2021-22 financial year; • the 50% stamp duty discount for commercial and industrial property across all of regional Victoria will be brought forward to 1 January 2021; and • \$137 million in waivers and deferrals of charges including liquor licence fees (see below), the congestion levy (see below) and increases to the landfill levy. <p>On 18 September, the Federal Government announced that the grants to small and medium business announced under the Business Resilience Package will be exempt from income tax. This recognises the exceptional circumstances Victorian businesses face. The tax exemption will be time limited for grants paid until 30 June 2021.</p>	<p>Victoria - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>
10 September	Congestion levy waiver	<p>The Victorian Government will provide relief for car park owners, with a 25% waiver of this year's congestion levy. Car park owners can also defer any outstanding balances until next year.</p> <p>This waiver will save car park owners a combined \$30 million.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>State Revenue Office, Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
19 August	Business Recovery and Resilience Mentoring Program	<p>The Victorian Government and the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) have jointly launched a new \$10 million business mentoring initiative to help small business owners navigate the challenges posed by COVID-19. The Business Recovery and Resilience Mentoring Program will match small business owners and sole traders with experienced professionals who will help them to adapt their businesses and strategies. Mentors will provide mentees with guidance on reducing their business costs, managing cashflow, finding new customers and maximising the benefits of online sales and marketing.</p> <p>VCCI will place eligible business owners and sole traders with an appropriate mentor who will conduct up to 4 sessions over 3 months, producing a detailed action plan based on the specific needs of each business.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
30 July	Funding for Melbourne neighbourhood activity centres	<p>The Victorian Government has announced a \$6 million investment to support local communities in Metropolitan Partnership regions, covering more than 30 council areas.</p> <p>The package includes \$3 million for the Neighbourhood Activity Centre Renewal Fund to provide grants of up to \$100,000 to stimulate business activity, support local economies and improve public amenity and accessibility during the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund will involve partnerships with local government, businesses and the community sector and is open to 31 councils in metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire. Eligible projects include pop-up parks, public art installations and enhanced walking and bike paths. Councils are encouraged to put forward projects that are ready to launch.</p> <p>The remaining \$3 million will be invested in revitalisation work in 6 suburban activity centres: Melton, Tarneit, Reservoir, Lilydale, Boronia and Noble Park. The grants will be used to leverage co-investment in improving the local areas through on-ground works including upgrades to parks and other public spaces, increased lighting, public art installations, and new footpaths and bike paths.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
24 July	Taxi industry support	<p>The Victorian Government has announced \$22 million towards a range of initiatives to assist the taxi and commercial passenger vehicle industry and passengers who rely on these services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a refund of the Commercial Passenger Vehicle Service Levy paid by drivers in the 2019/2020 June quarter; • the Multi-Purpose Taxi Program subsidy will be increased from 50 to 70% per fare over the next 3 months to make rides more affordable for people who need them for essential journeys; 	Premier of Victoria - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$6 million to be invested to subsidise the depot fees paid by vehicle owners to ensure wheelchair accessible vehicles are available for those who need them; \$1.7 million to double the wheelchair lifting fee paid by Government for the next 3 months to give providers an incentive to keep wheelchair vehicles operating; \$3.5 million worth of grants to support increased cleaning and sanitation of vehicles, in line with strict new cleaning standards applied across the taxi and commercial passenger vehicles for drivers and booking service providers; and \$1 million to establish a regional essential service fund to support struggling booking service providers in regional communities. <p>These measures are based on advice from the Government Advisory Panel on Commercial Passenger Vehicles.</p>	
21 July	Piers and Waterside Facilities program	<p>The Victorian Government has announced a \$24 million investment through the Better Piers and Waterside Facilities program, to create new jobs and provide a long-term boost to the fishing aquaculture and tourism industries.</p> <p>The program includes a \$10 million redevelopment of Altona Pier, a \$9.6 million upgrade to Portarlington Pier, and safety upgrades and repairs to Middle Brighton Pier, the Queenscliff South Pier lifeboat shed and the demolition of the inner section of the old Flinders Pier.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
20 July	Rail investment package	<p>The Victorian Government has announced a \$126 million rail investment as part of the economic response to COVID-19, which will be used to improve both freight and passenger rail services. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$83 million for freight improvement, which will focus on replacing sleepers, repairing ballasts and renewing level crossing equipment along almost 400 kilometres of freight-only rail lines; \$36 million to maintain the V/Line Classic Fleet, including 20 new workers to be hired in roles as engineers, repair workers and cleaners; and \$7.5 million will be spent improving tracks across the regional passenger network. 	Premier of Victoria - media release
2 July	Tourism Support Program	<p>As updated on 10 July.</p> <p>The return to Stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions means some residents within the restricted suburbs will have to cancel travel bookings to regional Victoria during the restriction period. Accommodation providers in regional Victoria that are impacted by these cancellations will be able to apply for direct</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release Business Victoria - media

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>financial support of up to \$225 per booking per night through the new Tourism Accommodation Support Program. Total funds of \$5 million have been allocated to the program.</p> <p>The measure applies to bookings made before 3pm on 30 June 2020 for travel between 11.59pm on 1 July and 11.59pm on 29 July. Accommodation providers in 48 regional local government areas as well as the Yarra Ranges and the Mornington Peninsula shires will be eligible for the support. Eligible accommodation providers include hotels, motels, caravan parks, camping grounds and private holiday rentals.</p> <p>Refunds will be provided on attestation that all the following criteria are satisfied and can be evidenced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a refund has been made for 100% of the booking amount; • no cancellation fee or other tariff was charged to cancel the booking; • the cancelled booking was not re-booked or filled; and • the booking is from a resident of a hot zone suburb. <p>Registrations of interest are now open, with applications opening on 13 July 2020.</p> <p>On 10 July, the program was extended to include cancelled bookings relating to residents of all areas under Stage 3 restrictions. The package is capped at \$40 million.</p>	<p>release</p> <p>Business Victoria - Tourism support program FAQs</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
1 July	Business Support Fund	<p>As updated on 5 and 9-10 July, 3 and 11 August, and 13 September.</p> <p>Businesses that are operating within a postcode affected by the return to Stage 3 restrictions are eligible for a one-off, \$5,000 grant to help them get through to the other side of the local lockdown.</p> <p>Businesses can apply if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are operating in a postcode that his affected by the return to Stage 3 restrictions (not necessarily their registered address); • are an employing business; • are currently registered to pay GST; • have a payroll of less than \$3 million per annum; • hold an ABN, and held that ABN on 16 March 2020 (date of the State of Emergency declaration); and • have been engaged in carrying out the operation of the business in Victoria on 16 March 	<p>Business Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Business Victoria - Restricted Postcodes Business Support Program</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Business Victoria - Business Support Fund -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>2020.</p> <p>Businesses can still receive this \$5,000 grant even if they have already received a \$10,000 Business Support Fund grant or payroll tax refund or waiver. Businesses can now register their interest, with applications opening shortly.</p> <p>On 5 July, the Government extended eligibility for the grants to businesses in 2 new impacted suburbs (3031 and 3051). On 9-10 July, the eligibility criteria were further extended to include businesses in all areas under Stage 3 restrictions.</p> <p>On 3 August, eligibility for the Business Support Fund was expanded to include all of Victoria, reflecting the extension of stage 3 restrictions to regional Victoria. In addition, businesses in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire can access a further \$5,000 grant (to a total of \$10,000), in recognition of the increased period of restrictions. Business who have already applied for a grant will not need to re-apply and will automatically receive the additional allocation if eligible.</p> <p>Updated guidelines are forthcoming. Applications remain open until 14 September 2020.</p> <p>On 11 August, it was announced that 24,000 eligible businesses had received grants in the first round of payments, totalling \$120 million.</p> <p>On 13 September, it was announced that as part of third round of the Business Support Fund that around 75,000 eligible businesses with payrolls up to \$10 million will receive grants of \$10,000, \$15,000 or \$20,000 depending on their size.</p>	<p>Expansion</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
29 June	Roads funding package	<p>As updated on 8 July.</p> <p>A \$340 million package of road infrastructure funding aims to make it easier for people and freight to get around on Victorian roads, in circumstances where more people are now expected to travel in private vehicles as a result of COVID-19. The funding will be used to implement direct traffic interventions by tasking more response crews and traffic engineers with tackling congestion hotspots, incidents and blockages. As part of the package, 3 key traffic hotspots in the western, eastern and south eastern suburbs of Melbourne will also be equipped with the technology and resources to help keep traffic moving, reduce delays and provide drivers with better traffic information.</p> <p>Almost 700 CCTV cameras will be installed to identify bottlenecks, and more than 200 wireless travel time sensors and 40 new visual message boards will make live traffic data available to both the traffic management centre and drivers.</p> <p>On 8 July, it was announced that the previously-announced \$2.2 billion Suburban Roads Upgrade package will be fast-tracked as part of the Victorian Government's economic response to COVID-19. The package will fund 12 priority projects in Melbourne's North and South East regions.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Construction companies will be pre-qualified following a tender process for work according to the scale and complexity of jobs – with work awarded based on past performance and value-for-money. A Registration of Interest to qualify for the panels will be released shortly, with work on the first projects expected to start before the end of the year.</p>	
24 June	Remittance of tax penalties and interest	<p>The State Revenue Office has announced that it will support people impacted by COVID-19 by remitting penalties and interest charged on some assessments, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • defaults occurring from 16 March 2020 until the end of the State of Emergency will receive a full remission of penalty, market interest and premium interest; and • defaults occurring from 1 January 2020 to 15 March 2020 will receive a full remission of penalty (but not of interest). <p>These measures do not apply to penalties imposed for intentional disregard or hindrance. The State Revenue Office will contact taxpayers who are eligible for the measures applying from 16 March, however an objection must be lodged for defaults occurring from 1 January 2020 to 15 March.</p>	<p>State Revenue Office, Victoria - media release</p>
22 June	New Industry Support and Recovery portfolio	<p>The Government has announced a new ministerial portfolio of Industry Support and Recovery, which is intended to help Victorian businesses navigate restrictions and restart their operations in a COVID-safe economy, as well as delivering targeted support for key job-creating sectors.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
15 June	Victorian Business Growth Fund	<p>A new \$250 million Victorian Business Growth Fund has been announced, which will support small and medium-sized enterprises who want to grow but cannot raise the funds or find the right investment partner, recognising that accessing capital is likely to become an even greater barrier for businesses dealing with the economic impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>The Fund involves a collaboration between the Government and First State Super, and will invest in businesses on commercial terms and take an equity stake in businesses, rather than providing a grant.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
28 May	Food supply business grants	<p>Food production businesses and farms in Victoria will be supported in making their workplaces safe and keeping supply chains uninterrupted under the new Business Adaptation grants program.</p> <p>Under the program, individual grants of between \$10,000 and \$300,000 will support eligible businesses to cover the costs of adapting their workplaces to meet health, safety and social distancing requirements or adapt to business changes imposed by COVID-19.</p> <p>Adaptations may include changes to transport used to take employees to and from work to ensure</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>physical distancing, changes to employer-supplied accommodation, or the creation of extra washrooms and other facilities.</p> <p>Grants can also be used to buy machinery or appliances needed by businesses to adapt to maintaining operations during the pandemic. Each grant will cover up to 50% of the costs of individual adaptation projects, with the remainder to be covered by the business.</p>	
27 May	Motor vehicle duty relief expanded	<p>A temporary measure has been announced assist licensed motor car traders (LMCTs) by extending exemptions from motor vehicle duty available on demonstrator or service demonstrator vehicles from 12 to 18 months. This applies to a vehicle registered as a demonstrator vehicle (between 1 March 2019 and 30 September 2020), or service demonstrator vehicle (between 1 July 2019 and 30 September 2020).</p> <p>The exemptions for demonstrator vehicles and service demonstrator vehicles require that they are used 'solely or primarily' as a demonstrator vehicle or a service demonstrator vehicle.</p> <p>The Commissioner of State Revenue has previously ruled that a motor vehicle will not be considered as being used solely or primarily as a demonstrator vehicle or a service demonstrator vehicle where it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has travelled a distance of more than 7500km since its acquisition and initial registration in the name of the LMCT ('distance travelled rule'); or • has been held for longer than 12 months after it was initially registered in the name of the LMCT as a demonstrator vehicle ('length of ownership rule'). <p>These rulings provide guidance in determining when a change in the predominant use of a motor vehicle has occurred, which requires the LMCT to lodge a 'change in use statement' and pay the applicable duty in respect of the vehicle.</p> <p>The Commissioner has temporarily adjusted the length of ownership rule to assist LMCTs impacted by COVID-19 and help them continue to meet their exemption requirements. It means a motor vehicle can be considered as being used solely or primarily as a demonstrator vehicle or a service demonstrator vehicle where it has been held for up to 18 months after it was initially registered in the name of the LMCT as a demonstrator vehicle or a service demonstrator vehicle.</p> <p>This new 18 month rule applies for all vehicles registered as a demonstrator vehicle or service demonstrator vehicle by an LMCT between 1 March 2019 (1 July 2019 for service demonstrator vehicles) and 30 September 2020. The normal 12 month rule will apply to vehicles registered after this date.</p> <p>All other elements of the exemption remain. LMCTs must still ensure that the vehicle is used solely</p>	<p>State Revenue Office, Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		or primarily as a demonstrator vehicle or a service demonstrator vehicle at all times.	
22 May	Mining sector support	The Victorian Government will defer the collection of rent and annual fees from mining, exploration and quarry businesses, worth \$3.5 million, until January 2021. This is in addition to the previous announcement of a freeze on all fee increases that were due to come into effect in July 2020.	Premier of Victoria - media release
18 May	Building works blitz	<p>As updated on 25 May, 3 June, 28 July, and 12 August.</p> <p>The Victorian Government launched the first part of its Building Works package, which will provide \$2.7 billion towards shovel-ready projects of all sizes, with the aim of getting more Victorians back into work. At the centre of the package is \$1.18 billion in funding for education infrastructure projects. Funding is also included for local sports facility upgrades, work to improve waterways and coastal areas, and revitalisation and maintenance projects from tree-planting to graffiti removal in communities across the State.</p> <p>The package is expected to create 3,700 direct jobs, as well as further jobs across the supply chain. The key requirement for these projects is workers who are ready to start working right away, with companies required to find new employees through Working for Victoria in the first instance.</p> <p>On 25 May, the Government announced that, as part of the package, local councils and alpine resort boards, with the support of local sporting bodies, will be able to apply for funding of up to \$10 million for shovel-ready projects.</p> <p>On 3 June, the Government announced that \$8.1 million in works to replace sleepers on the Warrnambool train line has been brought forward to keep track workers, suppliers and contractors working during COVID-19.</p> <p>On 28 July, the Government announced \$24 million in upgrades to 16 train stations across the State, which are expected to support 600 jobs, as part of the Building Works package. 11 metropolitan stations and 5 regional stations will benefit from the upgrades, which include new passenger information screens, public address equipment and disability shelters, as well as extra car parks, toilet facilities and bike parking racks.</p> <p>On 12 August, \$60 million in funding was announced for sporting infrastructure projects through the new <i>Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program</i>, as part of the Building Works package. Funded projects include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5 million to revitalise and transform Debneys Park in Flemington; • \$1.18 million to fast-track the development of a female friendly soccer pavilion at 	Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>MacPherson Park in Melton; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2 million for new fitness stations, paths and play equipment across 8 recreation sites in Moreland. 	
13 May	Experience Economy Survival Package	<p>As updated on 20 and 25 May, 3 and 19 June, 17 and 28 July, 11 August, and 2 September.</p> <p>\$150 million of funding has been announced to save jobs in the Victorian sport, tourism and creative industries through the Experience Economy Survival Package. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$40 million for community sport and recreation bodies including state sporting associations, leagues and clubs; \$16 million for national sporting organisations; \$5.3 million to support the State Sport Centres Trust and the Kardinia Park Stadium Trust; \$44 million to the State's racing industry; \$32 million to support creative agencies and initiatives, including funding for the Geelong Arts Centre, Museums Victoria, National Gallery of Victoria, Arts Centre Melbourne and Melbourne Recital Centre; \$6 million for live music industry workers and to bolster the oversubscribed Sustaining Creative Workers initiative; and \$11 million for Victoria's tourism industry, with funding for the Emerald Tourist Railway Board (Puffing Billy) and other not-for-profit and privately-owned visitor attractions, plus regional tourism boards and the Victorian Tourism Industry Council. <p>On 20 May, the Government announced that it had created a new Music Industry Liaison role to help advise on measures to support the State's music economy and culture as it deals with the consequences of COVID-19. The officer will work with Creative Victoria and will have input into the design of the Government's music support programs, develop industry resources, work with other sectors where there is mutual benefit, and support efforts to restore public confidence in attending live music events once it is safe to do so.</p> <p>On 25 May, the Government provided further information about the \$40 million grants package for community sport and recreation bodies, which will assist with basic running costs and support readiness to return to play. Eligible organisations will be able to apply for funding in 4 categories, with grants available for amounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to \$350,000 for large state sporting associations; 	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Creative Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to \$200,000 for smaller state sporting associations, regional sports assemblies and academies, and other state sport and recreational bodies; • up to \$15,000 for associations and leagues; and • up to \$1,000 for individual clubs. <p>On 3 June, it was announced that 528 clubs would receive grants of \$1,000 each in the first tranche of support under the \$40 million grants package for community sport and recreation bodies.</p> <p>On 19 June, the deadline for community sport grant applications was extended for a further 2 days until 30 June. 2,077 club grants of \$1,000 have been paid to date, and a further 2,152 are being processed.</p> <p>On 17 July, the Victorian Live Music Venues Program was launched to support venues across Victoria with a capacity of 50 to 1,200 people. It will support venues that have a solid reputation for presenting original live music and demonstrate best practice in business operations. The funding will support immediate business costs caused by the shutdowns and help businesses reopen in a COVID-safe way.</p> <p>On 28 July, the Government announced \$857,000 in grants under the Sustaining Creative Workers program to support musicians, music business and virtual or live events. For example, Victoria's weekly online music festival Isol-Aid received \$200,000 to support its program in the coming months, including employing 6 behind-the-scenes staff and covering performance fees for artists.</p> <p>The Government also announced \$1.4 million in grants for local sporting leagues and associations through the Community Sport Sector Short-term COVID-19 Survival Package. The grants of up to \$15,000 each will help the leagues and associations meet fixed costs to ensure they can remain operationally viable in light of revenue losses and provide a boost for their clubs and membership.</p> <p>On 11 August, it was announced that \$12.7 million of the \$40 million grants package for community sport and recreation bodies had been approved, with almost 70 organisations and 5000 clubs being awarded grants.</p> <p>On 2 September, the second round of grants opened for the Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Survival Package. Clubs that received a \$1,000 boost in the first round of the package will automatically receive an additional \$500, while leagues and associations funded in the first round will receive a further \$1,000. No additional application is required and payment will be made over the coming weeks. State sporting associations and sporting bodies can apply for a second round of support to shore up their operational viability, with applications considered on a case by case basis.</p>	
9 May	Boost to legal assistance	\$17.5 million in additional funding has been announced for frontline legal assistance services in response to COVID-19. The funding will flow immediately to Victoria Legal Aid and every	Premier of Victoria -

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	funding	Community Legal Centre and Aboriginal legal service in the State, which are experiencing increased demand due to the impacts of COVID-19. The funding will also support legal services to upgrade technology so that more Victorians receive the help they need remotely and digitally.	media release
5 May	Miscellaneous fees and charges	<p>As updated on 26 and 30 May.</p> <p>The Victorian Government will freeze all fees and fines that were due to be increased in July at current levels – including car registration, traffic infringements, court-imposed penalties and permit fees. The Fire Services Property Levy paid by all Victorian households will also be frozen at this year’s collection level. This is in addition to the already announced deferral of the planned Landfill Levy increase. On 30 May, it was further announced that the Fire Services Property Levy rate will be reduced on residential properties across the State. From July 2020, all residential properties in Victoria will see a fall in their levy rate, while all other properties, such as industrial or commercial properties, will either see no increase or a decrease in their rate. The fixed levy will be indexed in accordance with the legislation.</p> <p>On 26 May, the Government extended the deadline for the new mandatory registration of private pools and spas by 5 months to 1 November 2020, in recognition of the increased financial pressure and workloads on both families and local councils due to COVID-19. The new mandatory registration requirements are the result of regulations introduced in December 2019.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
3 May	Support for tourist attractions	<p>The Victorian Government has announced \$14 million in funding for Zoos Victoria’s three sites (Melbourne Zoo, Werribee Open Range Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary) and Phillip Island Nature Parks to ensure they can continue to operate and retain permanent staff until the sites are able to re-open.</p> <p>The Government has also indicated that it will provide support for Victoria’s Alpine Resorts while considerations about the upcoming ski-season are being assessed.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
28 April	Funding for VCAT remote hearings	\$5.2 million in upgrades will take place at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to ensure it can hear matters remotely. The upgrades will include project management software, software programs, software licenses, information technology hardware and digitisation and scanning of paper files. These measures will be rolled out over the next 12 weeks.	Premier of Victoria - media release
26 April	Arts sector support	<p>As updated on 16 June, and 27 and 28 July.</p> <p>\$16.8 million in funding has been announced for Victoria’s independent creative and cultural sector. The package will provide immediate support to creative organisations and individuals to sustain employment, develop new works and provide opportunities for community participation.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Under the survival package, a \$13 million Strategic Investment Fund will be shared by almost 100 non-government arts and cultural organisations including festivals, performing arts companies, museums and galleries.</p> <p>Separately, a new \$2.2 million package - Sustaining Creative Workers - will offer quick response grants for Victorian-based independent creatives and micro-organisations with at least 5 years of professional experience.</p> <p>Grants of \$5,000 will be available for individuals, and \$10,000 for micro-organisations and businesses. An additional \$2,500 in access funding will be available for creatives with a disability, and disability-led organisations.</p> <p>On 16 June, the first beneficiaries of the Sustaining Creative Workers grant program were announced. The grants total more than \$2.4 million and have been awarded to almost 400 creative workers, organisations and micro-businesses.</p> <p>On 27 July, the Government announced a total of \$800,000 in funding for 2 non-profit creative hubs in Collingwood, of which Abbotsford Convent Foundation will receive \$500,000 and Contemporary Arts Precincts will receive \$300,000. The funding will support the organisations and enable them to provide rent relief to creative industry tenants at each location.</p> <p>On 28 July, further grants under the Sustaining Creative Workers grant program were announced, totalling \$2.3 million and including an additional \$500,000 funding boost for the program. The grants will support 373 independent creatives and micro-businesses across the State.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
24 April	New building and development taskforce	<p>As updated on 25 May and 26 June.</p> <p>The Victorian Government has set up a dedicated taskforce to help keep the state's building and development industry running through COVID-19. The Taskforce will provide real-time advice to Government on issues impacting the industry, helping to remove barriers to building and development works, vital for supporting Victorian jobs, housing and infrastructure.</p> <p>The Government also announced the approval of four new projects worth more than \$1.5 billion.</p> <p>On 25 May, the Government announced that more than \$1.2 billion in shovel-ready projects had assessed and been approved through the taskforce. This is in addition to the building works blitz announced on 18 May.</p> <p>On 26 June, it was announced that the taskforce had helped to fast-track another 7 projects, which have all now received planning approval.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
23 April	Hunting licence	Recreation game hunters will receive a 1 year hunting licence extension to compensate for lost	Premier of Victoria -

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	extension	hunting opportunities due to COVID-19 restrictions.	media release
23 April	First Home Owner Grant extended	<p>The Victorian Government is extending the \$20,000 First Home Owner Grant for people buying or building a new home in regional Victoria for an extra 12 months, until June 2021. The change will be included in legislation that the Government is seeking to pass in the emergency sitting of Parliament this week.</p> <p>To be eligible for the grant, the purchaser or purchasers must be first home buyers buying or building a property valued at \$750,000 or less and it must be used as the principal place of residence for 12 continuous months following settlement. The grant is available for first home purchases across 48 councils, including Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, Wodonga and Shepparton.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
22 April	Environmental reforms delayed	The EPA has confirmed that commencement of the <i>Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018</i> , which was due to commence on 1 July 2020, will be delayed until 1 July 2021.	KWM Insight - Environment Protection Act
21 April	Parliament recalled	<p>As updated on 24 and 29 April.</p> <p>Victorian Parliament will sit on 23 April to consider the <i>COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020</i>, which will implement various measures announced to date, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rental relief; • local government law changes to allow virtual meetings and live-streaming of meetings that are required to be open to the public; • planning changes to facilitate remote applications and remove the need for physical inspection of documents; • greater flexibility for nurse-to-patient ratios in hospitals; and • changes to court processes, including allowing for judge-only trials in some circumstances. <p>A separate appropriation bill will also be considered in relation to the proposed landlord land tax relief measures.</p> <p>On 24 April, the Government confirmed that four bills had passed Parliament, including the <i>COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020</i>, as well as the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Appropriation (Interim) Bill 2020</i> which secures \$24.5 billion in emergency funding to 	Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release KWM Insight

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>support jobs and businesses;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Appropriation (Parliament) (Interim) Bill 2020</i>, providing funding for ongoing operations of Parliament and various oversight bodies; and • <i>State Taxation Acts Amendment (Relief Measures) Bill 2020</i>, which extends the First Home Owners Grant and gives effect to various bushfire tax relief measures previously announced, in addition to the tax relief contained in the <i>COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020</i>. 	
21 April	Regional newspaper support	<p>The Victorian Government has announced \$4.7 million worth of support for regional print media businesses, to support the business continuity of these media outlets and ensure that all Victorians can access the information they need about COVID-19.</p> <p>The support will be delivered through the Government booking one page of advertising (print and digital) in more than 100 regional newspapers each week for 6 months.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
16 April	Additional emergency funding	<p>A further \$25.4 billion in emergency funding will be allocated to support the COVID-19 response, save jobs and to position Victoria for recovery from the pandemic over the next 2 years. The funds will be sought in supply bills to be introduced in Parliament next week. This funding is in additional to the figures previously announced.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
15 April	Rental and landlord land tax relief	<p>As updated on 9 June, 20 August, and 1, 4 and 10 September.</p> <p>The Victorian Government has announced a \$500 million package to support residential and commercial tenants and landlords. This includes \$80 million for tenants in rental distress and \$420 million for land tax reductions for landlords. A new Coronavirus Relief Deputy Commissioner will be established at the State Revenue Office to manage claims.</p> <p>Landlords will receive a 25% discount on land tax and a deferral of any remaining land tax until March 2021, if they demonstrate that they have provided rent relief to tenants affected by COVID-19, or where the ability to secure a tenant is affected by COVID-19. In relation to commercial leases, the discount is available where the tenant has an annual turnover of less than \$50 million and is a business that is eligible for the JobKeeper payment.</p> <p>On 4 September, the Government announced that the 25% discount and land tax deferrals will also now be extended to residential landholders' 2021 land tax, if the landlords continue to provide rent reductions to their tenants in 2021.</p> <p>Tenants can access payments of up to \$2,000 from a rental assistance fund where they are paying more than 30% of their income in rent and have less than \$5,000 in savings. Tenants must have</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>State Revenue Office, Victoria - media release</p> <p>State Revenue Office, Victoria - FAQs - response to COVID-19</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>State Revenue Office, Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>State Revenue Office,</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>their revised agreement registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria or have gone through mediation before they become eligible for the payment. Legislation was introduced on 3 September to expand the eligibility criteria for rental relief grants, with the asset threshold increasing from \$5,000 to \$10,000.</p> <p>The package also includes a temporary ban on evictions for residential and small or medium-sized commercial tenants and a moratorium on rental increases for 6 months for all tenants. The <i>COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020</i> implementing these measures passed during an emergency sitting of Parliament on 23 April 2020.</p> <p>The Government will also introduce legislation to implement the measures in the Mandatory Code for Commercial Tenancies as agreed by the National Cabinet, including rent waivers and deferrals for businesses earning less than \$50 million that experience a 30% reduction in turnover.</p> <p>On 9 June, it was announced that the land tax relief measures would be extended to landlords of eligible licensed pubs, clubs and restaurants. Eligibility criteria specific to this extension of the land tax relief are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a tenant must operate a licensed pub, club or restaurant under a general, full club or on-premises liquor licence as a commercial tenant; • the tenant's turnover at that premises must have reduced by at least 30% since March 2020; and • at the premises level, the tenant's turnover must have been no greater than \$50 million in the 2018-19 financial year, or their expected turnover in 2019-20 financial year must be less than \$50 million. <p>On 20 August, the ban on evictions and rental increases was extended until 31 December 2020 for both residential and commercial tenants. Legislation was introduced on 3 September to extend the Government ban on evictions and rental increases until 28 March 2021.</p> <p>Eligible residential tenants and landlords will also be supported with up to \$3,000 in rental payments as part of the Rental Relief Grant program, with new recipients able to apply for the full amount, and up to \$1,000 extra available for previous recipients.</p> <p>Residential and commercial landlords may also be eligible for an increased land tax discount, now up to 50% (doubled from the earlier 25%). A fund of \$60 million for eligible small commercial landlords will be available via a hardship scheme, which will provide up to \$3,000 per tenancy. Eligible small businesses that own their own commercial premises will also now benefit from land tax relief.</p> <p>A new \$600,000 funding package has also been announced for tenant advocacy groups to provide</p>	<p>Victoria - media release</p> <p>State Revenue Office, Victoria - media release</p> <p>State Revenue Office, Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>State Revenue Office Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>more training and resources to help tenancy and community sector workers support vulnerable tenants in resolving disputes with their landlords.</p> <p>On 10 September, the Government announced that it will waive the Vacant Residential Land Tax for properties that are vacant for more than 6 months in 2020. The initiative is estimated to save property owners a combined \$6 million.</p>	
6 April	Noise exemptions for essential businesses	The Victorian Government has approved new planning rules that exempt essential businesses from noise restrictions to allow 14-hour dispatch and delivery during the current State of Emergency and for three months thereafter. The exemption applies to goods including food, drink, groceries, medicine, cleaning products and personal protective equipment.	Premier of Victoria - media release KWM Insight
3 April	Crisis Council of Cabinet	The Premier has established a Crisis Council of Cabinet to be the core decision making forum for the Victorian Government on all matters related to the coronavirus emergency, including implementing the outcomes of the National Cabinet.	Premier of Victoria - media release
28 March	Small business grants	<p>Small businesses with a turnover of more than \$75,000 and payrolls of below \$650,000 can apply for grants of \$10,000 from 30 March 2020 (closing on Monday 1 June 2020).</p> <p>30,000 of the grants are available for businesses such as cafes, bars, restaurants, live music venues and other small businesses not able to access the previously announced payroll refunds.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release Business Victoria - Business Support Fund
21 March	Payroll tax	<p>As updated on 5 and 19 May, 10 July, and 13 September.</p> <p>Businesses with annual Victorian taxable wages up to \$3 million will have their payroll tax for the 2019-20 financial year waived (updated on 25 March).</p> <p>The same businesses will also be able to defer any payroll tax for the first three months of the 2020/21 financial year until 1 January 2021.</p> <p>The eligibility threshold applies to each employer, so any member of a group that pays Victorian taxable wages of less than \$3 million per annum will be eligible for the relief.</p> <p>On 5 May, the Victorian Government announced that businesses participating in the JobKeeper scheme in Victoria will be exempt from payroll tax and the WorkCover premium on payments to their employees if their staff are currently stood down. Accordingly, where a staff member has been stood down, the entire \$1,500 fortnightly payment paid to that staff member will be free from all State government taxes and charges.</p> <p>Similarly, any additional payments that an employer makes to bridge the gap between their employee's normal wage and the \$1,500 a fortnight required to qualify for JobKeeper payments are</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release State Revenue Office, Victoria - COVID-19 FAQs Premier of Victoria - media release State Revenue Office, Victoria - more payroll tax relief for businesses Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria -

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>also exempt from payroll tax and the WorkCover premium, so that businesses are not paying more to keep their staff on as a result of JobKeeper.</p> <p>On 19 May, the Government further announced that it would offer Victorian universities payroll tax deferrals valued at around \$110 million.</p> <p>To implement these measures, the State Taxation Acts Amendment (Relief Measures) Act 2020 amends the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1997</i> to enable the Commissioner of State Revenue to give effect to emergency tax relief measures at the direction of the Treasurer, and as announced by the State Government. These include the ability to defer, waive or refund a tax liability under a taxation law in full or in part. The new powers apply to all emergency tax relief measures announced before and after the commencement of the provisions, including the payroll tax measures above.</p> <p>On 10 July, the Government announced that businesses will also benefit from an extended and expanded payroll tax deferral. Eligible businesses with payrolls up to \$10 million can defer their liabilities for the first half of the 2020/21 financial year.</p> <p>On 13 September, the Government announced that employers with payrolls up to \$10 million, based on their 2019-20 financial year returns, can defer their 2020-21 payroll tax liabilities until the 2021-22 financial year. This means they can pay their 2020-21 payroll tax liabilities in 4 quarterly instalments in the 2021-22 financial year.</p>	<p>media release</p> <p>State Revenue Office, Victoria - media release</p>
21 March	Rent relief for commercial tenants	<p>As updated on 1 and 3 May, and 29 and 30 September.</p> <p>Commercial tenants in government buildings can apply for rent relief, and 2020 land tax payments will be deferred for eligible small businesses under the Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme.</p> <p>On 1 May, the Governor in Council made the <i>COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) (Commercial Leases and Licences) Regulations 2020</i> to implement Victoria's version of the National Code for commercial leases. The scheme applies to leases on foot on 29 March 2020 and will have effect until 29 September 2020.</p> <p>The scheme is applicable where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the tenant carries on a business, is a SME entity and is eligible for and participating in JobKeeper, and not part of a broader group with an aggregated turnover greater than \$50 million; • the tenant applies to the landlord for rent relief and substantiates its eligibility and financial position; and • the landlord makes an offer to the tenant, taking into account certain prescribed factors, 	<p>State Revenue Office, Victoria - COVID-19 FAQs</p> <p>KWM Insights</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>and negotiates the rent relief with the tenant in good faith.</p> <p>If the parties cannot reach agreement, either of them can refer the matter to the Small Business Commission for free mediation and then to VCAT. Other aspects of the scheme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is a freeze on rent reviews occurring during 29 March 2020 to 29 September 2020; • the landlord must consider waiving outgoings; and • the tenant must otherwise comply with their lease obligations. <p>On 3 May, the Government announced that \$40 million from the previously-announced \$500 million Business Support Fund will be available for rent relief to licenced venues with an individual annual turnover of up to \$50 million, but who are not covered by the Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme.</p> <p>Free mediation services through the Victorian Small Business Commission available under the Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme will be extended to all tenants who hold a liquor licence, regardless of their size.</p> <p>On 29 September, regulations came into effect introducing proportional rent relief for commercial tenants and giving powers for rent relief orders to be made when landlords refuse to negotiate in good faith with tenants suffering losses due to the pandemic. The regulations ensure that rent increases as well as evictions for commercial tenants where rent relief has been sought will continue to be banned until 31 December 2020.</p>	
21 March	Liquor license fees	Liquor licensing fees for 2020 for affected venues and small businesses will be waived.	Premier of Victoria - media release State Revenue Office, Victoria - COVID-19 FAQs
21 March	Various business funds and payments	<p>As updated on 1 May, 10 and 29 July, and 12 August.</p> <p>The Victorian Government will pay all outstanding supplier invoices within 5 business days.</p> <p>A \$500 million Business Support Fund will be established. The 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 Ai Group to administer the fund, which will help these businesses, which may not be eligible for payroll tax refunds due to their size.</p> <p>On 1 May, the second phase of the Business Support Fund was announced. The eligibility criteria will be expanded to include businesses with a wages bill less than the payroll tax threshold of</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release Business Victoria - media

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>\$650,000 who are participating in the Commonwealth JobKeeper program (excluding sole traders), regardless of the sector they operate in. Businesses that have not previously applied for a grant due to their sector classification are encouraged to make an application.</p> <p>The Victorian Government will establish a \$500 million Working for Victoria Fund to help workers who have lost their jobs find new opportunities, including work cleaning public infrastructure or delivering food.</p> <p>As part of this fund, on 1 April, the Government announced a \$50 million Agriculture Workforce Plan to give workers who have lost their jobs a fresh start in agriculture and ensuring primary producers have the workers they need to keep producing at high levels during the coronavirus pandemic. On 29 July, a further \$3 million investment in the Agricultural Workforce Plan was announced, which is expected to create up to 60 full time jobs over the next 6 months. New team members will undertake a range of work, including improving local land health through revegetation and fencing of important environmental areas such as waterways, weed control, soil sampling and water quality monitoring on private and adjacent public land.</p> <p>On 10 July, the Government announced a further a \$534 million Business Support Package, which will fund measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30 million to support Victoria's night time economy and hospitality industry; • \$26 million in mental health support for small business owners and managers; • \$10 million for a business mentoring program, pairing small business owners with experienced professionals who can help them navigate their way through the crisis; • \$20 million fund to support small businesses in Melbourne's CBD that are faced with a large and sustained shock to their trading environments; and • \$40 million capped fund for regional tourism businesses to cover the costs of refunds (detailed further above). <p>On 12 August, the Government announced details of the \$26 million mental health support package for sole traders, small business owners and managers. Elements of the program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St John Ambulance will provide accredited mental health support training to chambers of commerce across Victoria to boost mental health capabilities within local business communities; • mental health specialists will be embedded in industry and business associations to provide members with immediate access to expert advisors and on-the-job training for staff to identify and respond to people in distress; and 	<p>release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners in Wellbeing telephone hotline (tel: 1300 375 330), a free mental health support service, will be extended to 10:00pm 7 days a week and expanded to also include immediate access to business advisers and financial counsellors. <p>The delivery of these services will begin during August 2020.</p>	
19 March	Helpline for businesses	<p>The Victorian Government has launched a hotline for businesses dealing with challenges posed by COVID-19 (tel: 13 22 15). The hotline will provide the latest information on the response to COVID-19, how it affects businesses, how to keep workplaces safe, how to access financial support available through the national stimulus package.</p> <p>The hotline will also provide information about support services, such as mentoring offered by Business Victoria to help businesses develop continuity and recovery plans.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Health and Community Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
30 August	Tower Relocation Program	High rise public housing tenants at higher risk from COVID-19 will be offered private rental properties under the \$31.7 million <i>Tower Relocation Program</i> . The Victorian Government will lease up to 420 private rental properties for the next 2 years and offer voluntary opportunities to relocate for public tenants living in larger households, or those with medical issues.	Premier of Victoria - media release
26 August	Family wellbeing resources	<p>The Victorian Government is providing free online resources to support parents and carers to manage home learning and stay resilient during COVID-19. A series of webinars will focus on strategies and tools to help families manage their wellbeing, including establishing a supportive parental role and dealing with uncertainty and disappointment.</p> <p>The Government has also partnered with Raising Children Network and funded a 10-episode podcast called 'Raising Learners' featuring parenting experts from organisations including the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. The podcast will provide parents with practical advice, tips and ideas for supporting children's health, wellbeing and engagement at school.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
20 August	LGBTIQ support	The Victorian Government has announced \$80,000 in emergency funding to provide greater support to LGBTIQ Victorians who are at risk of homelessness or facing financial hardship during COVID-19. The funding will be provided to Drummond Street Services and Thorne Harbour Health to continue their critical services for LGBTIQ people experiencing housing insecurity, unemployment and or other financial difficulties.	Premier of Victoria - media release
21 July	Community organisations jobs	<p>The Victorian Government has announced that it will create more than 3,000 jobs in critical community-support organisations through the Working for Victoria scheme.</p> <p>As part of the package, funding will be delivered to 59 organisations to support 1,100 jobs, including at Anglicare, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Jesuit Social Services, Uniting, Foodbank and a range of migrant resource operations. The new workers will perform roles including employment support, counselling and youth services, community engagement, emergency and food relief, family support, and support for culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Around 150 jobs will be dedicated to Victoria's multicultural communities.</p> <p>The package will also support the new Youth Employment Program, to give up to 800 young people the opportunity to kickstart their careers and develop skills for the future. Through the Program, Victorians aged between 17 and 29 will be eligible for 6 to 12-month jobs in the public service.</p> <p>More than 100 young people currently employed through the Youth Employment Scheme and the Youth Cadetship Scheme across the public service will also have their employment extended by 6</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>months.</p> <p>The package also includes agreements reached with a further 10 local councils to support some 1,200 Victorians to immediately return to work with roles including maintaining local parks, gardens and sporting fields, and performing a range of community services to support vulnerable residents.</p>	
19 July	Aged care support	<p>The Federal and Victorian Governments, in collaboration with representatives from the aged care sector, have announced additional measures to ensure aged care providers are equipped to minimise the spread of COVID-19 and can continue providing quality care. This includes specific support to reduce the need for aged care workers to provide care across multiple aged care facilities.</p> <p>The measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workforce funding support, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ensuring aged care employers can cover any additional entitlements to enable employees to work at a single site; ○ engaging and training additional staff where existing employees are unable to work due to self-isolation requirements and/or where a more intensive workforce mix is required; ○ supporting aged care workers who are unable to work due to symptoms, self-isolation or travel restrictions, regardless of whether they would usually receive paid leave; ○ providing alternative accommodation so workers who live or work in hotspots can continue to work; and ○ a one-off \$1,500 payment to Victorian aged care workers who have been instructed by the department to self-isolate or quarantine at home because they are either diagnosed with COVID-19 or are a close contact of a confirmed case. • an industry program to reduce workforce sharing across sites; • more infection control training; • enhanced surveillance, contact tracing and testing; and • additional capacity to care for aged care residents from outbreak sites. 	<p>Federal Minister for Health - media release</p>
17 July	Communication	<p>Grants of between \$5,000 and \$200,000 are available to support innovative, community-based</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	connection grants	<p>initiatives which build connection, reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, and that can be implemented quickly, through the new Let's Stay Connected Fund worth \$1.3 million.</p> <p>Grants are available for community organisations, local government bodies, incorporated not-for-profits and industry groups. Applications are open until 31 August, with applicants encouraged to apply as early as possible.</p>	<p>media release</p> <p>Victorian Government - Let's Stay Connected Fund</p>
5 July	Support for public tenants in lockdown	Residents of public housing estates in Flemington and North Melbourne that have been subject to lockdown may be eligible for a \$750 hardship payment. Those who agree to be tested for COVID-19 will have their payments fast tracked. The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services will also provide 2 weeks of rent relief for all tenants in locked-down towers.	Premier of Victoria - media release
20 June	Support for vulnerable workers	<p>As updated on 23 July.</p> <p>The Government has announced a new \$1,500 payment for people who do not have access to paid leave, where they cannot attend work because they have tested positive to COVID-19 (or are told to self-isolate because they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive). The scheme is intended to reduce the financial impacts of self-isolation for vulnerable workers, who may be in tenuous employment or not otherwise have access to paid leave.</p> <p>To be eligible, an individual must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be aged 17 years or over; • currently reside in Victoria (including those on temporary protection and working visas); • be in continuing employment (whether permanent, casual, part-time, fixed term or self-employed); • be likely to have worked during the period of self-isolation or quarantine and unable to work as a result of the requirement to stay at home, isolate or quarantine; • not be receiving any income, earnings or salary maintenance from their employer as a result of not being able to work; • have exhausted any sick leave entitlements including any special pandemic leave; and • not be receiving the JobKeeper payment or any other form of Commonwealth Government income support. <p>On 23 July, the support scheme was extended so that as soon as a person is tested, they will be eligible for a \$300 hardship payment, to ensure that workers can self-isolate immediately after testing and whilst awaiting test results. The payment is in addition to previously-announced \$1,500</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Victoria Health and Human Services - Worker support payment</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		payment, and the same eligibility criteria will apply.	
16 June	Support for Indigenous Victorians	<p>As updated on 26 June and 3 August.</p> <p>\$23 million in funding for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and Traditional Owner group networks has been announced to support the development of Aboriginal-led, culturally safe responses to COVID-19.</p> <p>The package includes \$10 million to establish the Aboriginal COVID-19 Response Fund, to give local organisations the funding they need to develop responses at a local level over the coming year. The Fund will provide immediate support, including emergency relief, outreach and brokerage, social and emotional wellbeing initiatives, as well as cultural strengthening and celebration opportunities.</p> <p>The package also includes \$13 million over 2 years to meet an increase in ACCO service demand. This will provide support for Elders, homelessness services, stable housing, education support, and resourcing for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to provide specialist health support.</p> <p>On 26 June, it was announced that Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and Djirra (Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service) will each receive \$877,000 to respond to COVID-19.</p> <p>On 3 August, expressions of interest opened for the previously-announced \$10 million Aboriginal COVID-19 Response Fund. To be successful for funding, initiatives must respond to local issues and have the support of Aboriginal communities. Funds will be provided to give local organisations the support they need to develop responses at a local level over the coming year. It will also provide immediate support – though emergency relief, outreach and brokerage, social and wellbeing initiatives – as well as cultural strengthening and virtual celebration opportunities.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Aboriginal Victoria - Coronavirus Aboriginal Community Response and Recovery Fund</p>
21 May	Regional community roundtables	A series of regional community roundtables hosted by the State's Regional Partnerships will be used to help understand the local impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and pave the way for recovery. The virtual Regional Roundtables are intended to help the Government identify the unique challenges and opportunities local communities face in driving social and economic recovery.	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
13 May	Support for domestic and small business energy bills	<p>As updated on 24 August.</p> <p>The Victorian Government has announced a \$3.7 million package to help vulnerable Victorians manage energy bills, recognising that an increased number of Victorians are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. The package includes new financial counsellors and online training for</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>more than 1,100 frontline community workers, to help people manage energy bills, broader household financial difficulties and to give targeted advice about energy bills, including existing relief available.</p> <p>The Government will also launch a new energy brokerage program to give one-on-one support to around 3,000 households at risk of financial hardship to help them get the best value energy deal.</p> <p>On 24 August, the Government announced a new \$3.7 million support package, which will help thousands of Victorian households struggling to pay their energy bills. The package includes a team of financial counsellors and community workers in partnership with community organisations to give targeted advice and support to Victorians who need help with their energy bills.</p> <p>The suite of programs involves webinars delivered by the Consumer Policy Research Centre and a tailored Energy Assistance and Brokerage Program to help people get the best value energy deal, run by a consortium which includes the Brotherhood of St Laurence, the Australian Energy Foundation and Uniting Vic.</p> <p>The support is available online (at www.energyinfohub.org.au) and over-the-phone (1800 830 029).</p> <p>Also on 24 August, the Essential Services Commission strengthened protections for residential and small business energy customers impacted by COVID-19. These include requiring energy companies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> offer assistance to small businesses experiencing financial stress (in effect for 6 months from 1 October 2020); conduct tariff checks for residential customers receiving payment assistance (in effect for 6 months from 1 October 2020); and help eligible customers complete utility relief grant applications (an ongoing requirement, effective from 1 October 2020). 	<p>Change - media release</p> <p>Essential Services Commission, Victoria - media release</p> <p>Essential Services Commission, Victoria - key facts</p> <p>Essential Services Commission, Victoria - final decision</p>
6 May	Support for multicultural Victorians	<p>As updated on 13 August.</p> <p>The Victorian Government has announced \$11.3 million in funding to support multicultural and multifaith communities, in recognition that these communities may face their own unique challenges due to social isolation, language barriers or difficulties accessing services such as income support, Medicare or Centrelink. The funding package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> nearly \$5 million to support vulnerable and at-risk youths and families in financial hardship who need essential items such as food and clothing; \$2.2 million to provide basic needs assistance to thousands of asylum seekers; 	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1.1 million toward culturally appropriate family violence prevention and early intervention services; and \$1 million to boost translated messaging across government departments to help Victorians with English as a second language to better navigate important news about COVID-19. <p>On 13 August, an additional \$14.3 million in funding was announced to reach out to more culturally and linguistically diverse Victorians to ensure access to support. The funding includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$6.9 million for expanded health messaging and support for multicultural organisations that work on the ground to deliver emergency relief, such as culturally specific accommodation and food for those self-isolating or in quarantine; \$5.5 million to continue and expand the distribution of vital health advice that has been translated into 55 different languages, ensuring people understand and comply with restrictions; and \$2 million for translation and interpreter services to meet the increase in demand for public health messaging in languages other than English. <p>A <i>CALD Communities Taskforce</i> will also be established to help multicultural and multifaith communities through the pandemic, with representatives from the Victorian Multicultural Commission and various departments.</p>	
24 April	Veterans support	<p>As updated on 22 July.</p> <p>The Victorian Government has announced an additional \$1.5 million to provide funding certainty to charities that provide support to veterans during COVID-19. A further \$650,000 will be provided to the Victorian Veterans Council and another \$50,000 will go to Melbourne Legacy, to ensure veterans receive continued support for accommodation, food supplies and bills.</p> <p>On 22 July, the Government confirmed that the previously-announced \$1.5 million in additional funding will be provided through the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund, to assist with direct welfare support, such as living expenses, health and wellbeing, education and school expenses, transport costs and social activities. Ex-service organisations, local governments, educational institutions and not-for-profit organisations are all encouraged to apply, with applications open until 31 August 2020.</p> <p>Further funding streams were opened with respect to the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Restoring Community War Memorials Program to restore or improve memorials, 	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>honour rolls and avenues of honour around the State; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Victoria Remembers Program, which supports projects that honour or commemorate the service of veterans as well as educate Victorians about their contribution. 	
23 April	Support for Muslim community during Ramadan	<p>The Victorian has announced various funding to help Victoria's Muslim community to celebrate Ramadan in different ways during COVID-19, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$25,000 to the Bachar Houli Foundation to mentor 30 young Muslim Victorians; \$5,000 to help mosques become IT ready for digital services and ceremonies; and \$20,000 for the Islamic Council of Victoria to continue providing halal food packs to families in need. 	Premier of Victoria - media release
23 April	Foster and kinship care support	<p>An additional \$77.5 million of funding has been announced for children in foster and kinship care over the next 2 years, in recognition of the increased pressure placed on families and support services during COVID-19. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$46 million to increase the capacity of family services to provide outreach support to the most vulnerable Victorian families; \$11 million for one-off \$600 payments to foster and kinship carers for every child in their care; \$4 million to expand the Home Stretch program to support young people in care who are due to turn 18 this year; and \$15 million to support residential care service providers to form mobile response teams and to ensure residential homes are properly cleaned in line with COVID-19 hygiene standards. 	Premier of Victoria - media release
12 April	Mental health funding	<p>As updated on 17 May, 10 and 13 July, and 9 and 29 August.</p> <p>\$59.4 million in funding will be allocated to help meet the surging demand on Victoria's mental health system. The funding will be used, amongst other things, to deliver mental health services via phone and video, expand online and phone counselling services, and to provide greater support for children and young people.</p> <p>On 17 May, the Government announced a further \$820,000 in funding for a range of new measures to support the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ communities in Victoria during COVID-19.</p> <p>On 10 July, the Government announced the new Community Activation and Social Isolation</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria -

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>initiative. \$6 million of the \$59.4 million package will be dedicated to supporting people experiencing loneliness or social disconnection as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 13 July, the Government launched the new mental health platform for young people called MOST (Moderated Online Social Therapy), an online tool which allows young people to access tailored online therapy and peer support, when and where they need it. The tool is intended to assist young people struggling with their mental health during and after COVID-19. The tool is now available to young people in the north and west of Melbourne who are clients of Orygen and will be fully rolled out across Victoria over the next year.</p> <p>On 9 August, a further \$59.7 million in new funding was announced to increase the capacity of Victoria's mental health system, to support wellbeing during and after COVID-19. The funding will strengthen the surge capacity of clinical and community mental health services across Victoria to cope with additional presentations and reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments. It will also be used to fast-track the delivery of more new public acute mental health beds recommended by the Royal Commission into Victoria's mental health system, boost community mental health services and accelerate the State-wide roll out of the Hospital Outreach Post-Suicidal Engagement program. This new funding brings the Victorian Government's total investment in mental health during COVID-19 to almost \$135 million.</p> <p>On 29 August, a further \$2 million in funding was announced to boost the Community Activation and Social Isolation initiative.</p>	<p>media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
10 April	Family violence funding	<p>As updated on 17 April and 17 August.</p> <p>\$40.2 million will be invested in crisis accommodation and specialist services for people suffering family violence, to meet an expected increase in demand as a result of COVID-19. This includes short-term accommodation for those who do not feel safe isolating at home, and targeting funding for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.</p> <p>An additional \$20.2 million of funding will go to Victorian family violence services to assist them in meeting increased demand during the pandemic and provide critical help for victim-survivors.</p> <p>On 17 April, the Government announced that 12 women's health services across Victoria will share in \$3 million over the next 2 years. This funding includes \$600,000 from the previously announced \$59.4 million mental health package to help meet demands arising as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 17 August, the Government announced that \$20 million in funding would be directed towards further initiatives to combat family violence and increased demand for perpetrator services in the context of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Funding these programs will enable 1,500 perpetrators of family violence, or people who believe</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		they are at risk of using violence, to leave their homes and move into short or long-term accommodation options. It will also provide intervention and behaviour change programs for those who are using violence in the home – including a dedicated support for adolescents using violence and their families. There will also be increased funding for family violence service providers so they can continue to adapt their services under Stay at Home restrictions, ensuring they can deliver support when and where it is needed.	
9 April	Health funding for ventilators	A \$500,000 grant will be provided to local company Grey Innovation to manufacture 2,000 ventilators made in Victoria, with the first machines potentially available in June. This would represent a significant boost to the current stock of 1000 ventilators in Victorian hospitals.	Premier of Victoria - media release
5 April	Support for health workers	<p>As updated on 30 April and 6 June.</p> <p>Frontline health workers in Victoria can access free accommodation if they need to self-isolate due to testing positive to COVID-19, or having unexpected, unprotected contact with a suspected case. The accommodation will be available to both clinical and non-clinical staff at public and private hospitals, as well as paramedics and patient transport staff, that have direct engagement with patients.</p> <p>On 30 April, the Government announced that free accommodation would be extended to police, firefighters and other frontline workers if they are required to self-isolate.</p> <p>On 6 June, the Government announced \$850,000 in funding for frontline healthcare workers to access additional health and wellbeing services to help them through the impacts of COVID-19. The funding will be allocated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Victorian Doctors Health Program (VDHP) will receive \$500,000 to support more doctors and medical students to access the free, confidential advice and support to help address any concerns about their wellbeing that may have arisen from the pandemic; and the Nursing and Midwifery Health Program Victoria will receive nearly \$350,000 to expand their telehealth services and cope with the anticipated increase in demand for their screening, assessment, referrals and individual and group support sessions for those with health concerns. The service offers a free, independent and confidential support service for nurses, midwives and students of nursing and midwifery who may be experiencing anxiety, depression or have concerns about alcohol or drugs. 	Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release
2 April	Private hospitals	<p>The Government has struck a deal with the state's major private hospital operators to ensure they can continue to care for Victorians during the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>The Minister for Health finalised the agreement to support Victorian private hospitals, including St</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Vincent's Private Hospital, Epworth HealthCare, Cabrini Health, Ramsay Health Care, St John of God Health Care, Healthscope and Healthe Care Australia.</p> <p>The deal will see Victoria's public and private hospitals work together to relieve pressure on public hospitals and ensure the entire health system is operating at full capacity.</p>	
2 April	Vaccinations from pharmacists	<p>From 1 April, pharmacists can administer approved vaccinations outside of their normal location – through the mobile and outreach services of a hospital, pharmacy or pharmacy depot.</p> <p>Appropriately trained pharmacists can now administer the flu shot to children 10 years of age and older.</p> <p>Pharmacists will also be able to administer the measles-mumps-rubella, meningococcal ACWY and whooping cough-containing vaccines to people 15 years of age and older.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
29 March	Healthcare specialist training	<p>The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF Victorian Branch) this week commenced updated workshops for nurses eager to return to the workforce as part of efforts to battle coronavirus, training an additional 32 nurses this week with many more to come.</p> <p>Victoria's health services are also taking the opportunity to refresh and skill up nurses and midwives across the state with the support of a \$50 million Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Development Fund.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
22 March	Vulnerable people food relief packages	<p>Victorians self-isolating due to COVID-19 with no access to food and essential supplies will receive emergency relief packages under a program introduced by the Government.</p> <p>The program will support people in mandatory self-isolation, who have little or no food, and no network of family and friends to support them. Each eligible household will receive a two-week supply of essential goods.</p> <p>It will start from 23 March and can be accessed by calling Victoria's coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
18 March	Homelessness funding	<p>As updated on 10 April and 13 June.</p> <p>Almost \$6 million will be provided to Victorian homelessness organisations to help protect Victorians at risk of or experiencing homelessness because of the COVID-19 virus and manage any outbreaks.</p> <p>The funding will provide homelessness agencies with extra resources to find temporary housing for those who need it most in both metropolitan and regional areas.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Funding will also go towards private rental brokerage for those at risk of falling into homelessness, helping to keep them in safe and affordable accommodation, and reduce the community transmission of COVID-19.</p> <p>In addition to this funding, alternative pop-up accommodation will be established for homeless people requiring quarantine or self-isolation in Melbourne, where the majority of cases are currently concentrated.</p> <p>On 10 April, the Government announced that \$8.8 million has been allocated to repurpose aged-care sites into self-isolation facilities for Victorians experiencing homelessness. Four pop-up facilities in inner Melbourne will be established to provide health care and supported accommodation for more than 200 people over the next 6 months.</p> <p>On 13 June, a further \$9.8 million in funding was announced to extend the duration of COVID-19 emergency accommodation for people experiencing homelessness, allowing them to remain in their current accommodation and to plan their pathway out into more stable long-term housing. The package includes additional Housing Establishment Funding for agencies to continue placing clients in temporary hotel accommodation and will also create 9 data roles to work within newly created Homelessness Emergency Accommodation Response Teams throughout Victoria. The funding will also temporarily boost intake systems with 9 extra Initial Assessment and Planning workers in areas of highest demand across the State.</p>	
15 March	Health funding package	<p>As updated on 19 March, 1 and 14 April, 11 May, and 13-17 and 28 July.</p> <p>A new \$100 million COVID-19 response package will boost capacity in the health system in preparation for the pandemic peak. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new hospital beds will be opened to manage COVID-19 patients, and more than 7,000 Victorians will be fast-tracked for elective surgery in the next few weeks; • more than \$60 million will be made available to both public and private hospitals to undertake additional surgery such as thyroid, prostate, hernia or gynaecological surgeries – so they can be done before the predicted peak of the pandemic places further strain on our hospital system; • a further \$30 million will be used to commission the new Casey Hospital inpatient tower to boost capacity across Victoria’s hospital system – adding an additional 140 beds in time for the peak of the pandemic. Built as part of a \$135 million redevelopment, the new inpatient tower includes an additional 128 beds, and a 12-bed Intensive Care Unit, which will help take some of the strain off the major tertiary hospitals as demand increases; and • \$10 million to boost Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies in Victoria – including 	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Federal Minister for Health - media release</p> <p>Federal Minister for Health - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>100 million gloves, 10 million masks and 1.5 million gowns to ensure health workers have the necessary resources to do their jobs.</p> <p>On 19 March, the Government announced a further \$437 million funding boost to go towards health services. This new package will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more than \$80 million in bringing more beds online over the next 12 weeks, in time for the peak of the pandemic, including 84 beds at the old Peter Mac Hospital and 45 beds at Bendigo Health. These 129 beds are in addition to the 140 new beds that are coming online at Casey Hospital; • Baxter House will be recommissioned to keep regional Victorians safe – with consulting rooms and virus clinic capacity at Barwon Health; • \$115 million injection to cover an extra 45,000 emergency department presentations, 5,000 hospital admissions, and a further 2,000 intensive care unit admissions during the pandemic peak; • \$107 million to buy life-saving equipment, including 4,000 high flow oxygen therapy units for patients in acute respiratory failure, 130 dialysis machines and 1,200 patient monitors; • an extra \$22 million of PPE including 275 million pairs of gloves, 8.6 million face masks, and 1.7 million gowns; • \$97 million set aside to backfill the healthcare workforce in the event that staff need to self-isolate through exposure or infection; • \$37 million to increase surveillance across the state, allowing for more targeted case identification, contact tracing, isolation advice and confirmation of individuals who are no longer infectious; and • the contact tracing team increasing from 57 to 230 people, to perform case and contact management, triage and information, outbreak management. <p>On 1 April, the Government announced a \$1.3 billion injection to quickly establish an extra 4,000 ICU beds to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. This will include purchasing necessary equipment and consumables, as well as investing over \$65 million for capital works and workforce training. The order will also see additional PPE purchased, including 551 million gloves, 100 million masks and 14.5 million gowns.</p> <p>On 14 April, the Government announced that the recruitment of 120 new paramedics would be fast-tracked to boost the frontline response to COVID-19. The Government also announced that the patient transport service will expand its 24-hour telephone advice service to provide round-the-clock</p>	

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>telehealth, regional clinical support, co-ordination and critical care retrieval for the next 6 months.</p> <p>On 11 May, the Government announced \$20 million for a range of COVID-19 detection, surveillance and response measures. Primarily, the funding will be used to establish new rapid response teams to prevent, respond to and limit outbreaks of COVID-19. The teams will be staffed by public health specialists and clinicians to ensure appropriate testing, contact tracing and deep cleaning is carried out as soon as a cluster is identified. They will also make proactive visits to high risk facilities, businesses and industries, and work with local services on infection control and prevention, while also stepping in to quickly manage any high-risk cases should they occur. The funding also includes \$8 million for medical research into the transmission, immunity and long-term health impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 13-17 July, it was announced that the Commonwealth Government would provide a total of 5 million face masks from the National Medical Stockpile for all aged care workers across Victoria, who are now required to wear them. A further 1 million masks have been provided for primary care workers in Victoria.</p> <p>On 28 July, it was announced that reusable face shields and additional face masks would be supplied from the National Medical Stockpile to help prevent the spread of the virus for aged care staff and residents in Victoria. The Commonwealth Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supply 500,000 reusable face shields to all residential aged care services across Victoria for use by staff; and • release a further 5 million face masks from the National Medical Stockpile for Victorian aged care providers. <p>This will immediately assist around 770 residential aged care facilities.</p>	
11 March	State Control Centre	The State Control Centre has been activated to oversee and coordinate Victoria's response to the spread of COVID-19.	Premier of Victoria - media release
3 March	COVID-19 research grant	<p>As updated on 3 August.</p> <p>The Government is providing \$6 million to the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity working with the Burnet Institute and other experts to fast-track new treatments and vaccines for COVID-19.</p> <p>On 3 August, the Government announced 7 beneficiaries of a \$5.5 million COVID-19 Research Fund, which will support medical research projects to better understand, prevent and treat COVID-19. The recipients include the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, the Burnet Institute and the</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release Premier of Victoria - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>University of Melbourne.</p> <p>Separately, the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund will provide \$3 million to fund 12 projects across a range of research fields, including a team at RMIT that is exploring a new way to manage viral infections, which could allow for the repurposing of existing drugs to fight COVID-19.</p>	

Childcare, Education and Training

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
14 August	Support for early childcare education	<p>Additional support for early childhood services and schools will be available to prepare children in kinder for their transition to school in 2021 amid COVID-19. Educators will be able to register for online professional development workshops and webinars, to learn how to adapt existing transition programs during coronavirus restrictions, as well as adapt Transition Statements to support the continuity of learning as they make this transition during coronavirus.</p> <p>Educators will also be able access new resources including guidance for kindergartens on transition in a time of COVID-19 and guidance for schools to best meet the needs of Prep students who have had a disrupted kindergarten year due to the pandemic.</p>	Premier of Victoria - media release
7 July	Child care fee relief	<p>As updated on 30 July and 5 August.</p> <p>The Federal Government announced that it will allow all services located in areas subject to Stage 3 COVID-19 restrictions, including metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire, to waive parent gap fees if children are not attending child care for COVID-related reasons from Monday 13 July.</p> <p>The gap fee is the difference between the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) the Government pays to a service and the remaining fee owed by the family.</p> <p>This means that if a child is absent from care for COVID-related reasons, the child care service can waive their gap fee. It also provides certainty to families that they will retain their enrolment at the child care service. Waiving the parents' gap fees will also ensure child care services maintain their enrolments and continue to be paid the CCS, even if a child is absent for a COVID-related reason.</p> <p>The Government will also ease the activity test until 4 October to support eligible families whose employment has been impacted as a result of COVID-19. These families will receive up to 100 hours per fortnight of subsidised care during this period. This will assist families to return to the level of work, study or training they were undertaking before COVID-19.</p> <p>On 30 July, the Government announced that it will provide an estimated \$6 million to support working Victorian families impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown and help them access care outside school hours care. The Government will pay eligible Outside School Hours Care services in Metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire 15% of their revenue, backdated to 20 July 2020. This payment will be in addition to the existing 25% Transition Payment, as well as the Child Care Subsidy. Providers who can show that attendance has dropped to 40% or less, compared with their reference period, will be able to accept the offer and receive the new 15% lump sum payment for 8 weeks.</p> <p>On 5 August, the Government announced childcare relief for thousands of Victorian families while</p>	<p>Federal Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Federal Minister for Education - media release</p> <p>Prime Minister of Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>ensuring services can remain viable and staff are retained during the Stage 4 lockdown. The Government will invest \$33 million so childcare services remain open for vulnerable families and permitted workers, while helping Victorian parents keep their child's enrolment while they must keep their child at home. This will mean that parents will not lose their child's place as long as they stay enrolled at the centre while their child is at home. Parents will not be required to pay a gap fee when their children are not attending and the government will continue to pay subsidies to childcare facilities. Families in Stage Four lockdown will receive an additional 30 days, or 6 weeks, of allowable absences from childcare.</p> <p>The Government will also make direct payments to childcare centres so they stay operational and staff are kept with an employment guarantee, while remaining open for workers and vulnerable families. To further assist services to keep workers employed, the Government will provide \$16.3 million to fund a higher Transition Payment of 30% of pre-COVID revenue for Melbourne childcare services. The Government will also provide a further \$16 million to fund an additional top-up payment for eligible services that receive low CCS payments and are experiencing very low attendance.</p> <p>For regional Victoria, that is now under Stage 3 lockdown, the Government will provide an additional 30 absence days and extend the gap fee waiver and the Outside Hours School Care (OSHC) payment. The gap fee waiver for non-metropolitan Victorians will ensure that if a child is absent from care for COVID-related reasons, the childcare service can waive their gap fee. OSHC services, in regional Victoria, will be paid 15% of their revenue from 6 August, in addition to the 25% Transition Payment and the CCS.</p>	
24 June	COVID-19 worker training	<p>\$10 million in funding, in partnership with the Commonwealth, has been allocated to a national infection control skill set project, so that workers can receive free accredited training to help them manage the ongoing risk of coronavirus infection in their workplace. The project will deliver free short courses to workers in customer-facing roles in areas such as retail, food handling, transport and logistics, to ensure they can help their business operate safely.</p> <p>The courses will help workers maintain their own safety, identify hazards and infection risks, and stop the spread of coronavirus.</p> <p>The training will be a mixture of online and workplace learning and involve up to 25 contact hours, to ensure students can implement infection control procedures effectively.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
21 May	Skills support for businesses	<p>As updated on 19 August.</p> <p>Businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic will be granted free access to online short courses and training events so they can plan for recovery from COVID-19 into the future and take advantage of new opportunities, as part of the Upskill My Business program. The online programs,</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>short courses and events on the Upskill My Business platform cover topics ranging from business innovation and staff development to export preparation – important areas of development that can help shape the future of businesses and individuals.</p> <p>As of 19 August, almost 25,000 users had accessed the Upskill My Business resources.</p>	<p>media release</p>
19 May	Funding for universities	<p>The Government has announced a new \$350 million Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund, which will support universities with capital works, applied research and research partnerships that will boost Victoria’s productivity and economy as the state recovers from the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>Works will be focused on new technology and infrastructure that enables universities to conduct new research, commercialise intellectual property and create high-value jobs.</p> <p>Universities will also be offered payroll tax deferrals valued at around \$110 million, providing immediate relief for universities dealing with a shortfall in funds from the downturn of international student enrolments and other revenue loss as a result of COVID-19.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
29 April	International student support	<p>The Victorian Government will establish a \$45 million International Student Emergency Relief Fund. The fund will provide one-off payments of up to \$1,100 to international students who have lost income as a result of COVID-19, as well as expanding emergency provisions for those experiencing exceptional circumstances. The payments will require co-contributions from university hardship funds.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
17 April	TAFE and skills funding	<p>As updated on 7 July and 17 September.</p> <p>The Government has announced a \$260.8 million package to support Victoria’s TAFE and training system in the face of an expected drop in enrolments. This includes a \$191.9 million guarantee to lock in funding at expected pre-COVID-19 levels and an additional \$68.9 million in crisis support to ensure Victoria’s public training system can respond and recover from COVID-19.</p> <p>The funding will provide TAFEs, dual sector TAFEs, Learn Local providers and AMES Australia funding certainty until at least the middle of the year.</p> <p>On 7 July, the Government announced \$163 million in funding to assist people with pre-existing qualifications to retrain so they can get work in sectors that need more skilled workers in the context of COVID-19.</p> <p>The package includes 100,000 more places in the existing Free TAFE program, and for the program to be expanded to include new full qualifications linked to jobs and government priorities. These qualifications include Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work, Certificate III in Health</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Services Assistance and Certificate III in Civil Construction Plant Operations. The package also includes increased availability of targeted short courses to support upskilling for existing employees, and help retrenched workers and job seekers join professions where there are jobs available. This includes the Course in Introduction to the NDIS skill set, as well as \$3.9 million for an additional 11,000 places in accredited short courses and skill sets in construction across TAFE and industry-owned Registered Training Organisations until June 2021.</p> <p>The package also includes \$1.25 million to improve literacy, numeracy and digital skills to help more Victorians progress to further study or employment.</p> <p>On 17 September, the Government announced an extra \$900,000 in funding for the Program for Retrenched Apprentices and Trainees. The program, a collaboration with the Apprenticeship Employment Network, the peak body for group training employers, is now fully funded to operate till next June.</p>	
5 April	Support for kindergarten-aged children	<p>As updated on 8 and 17 May, 24 June, 12 July, and 9 August.</p> <p>Parents can send their children to sessional kindergarten (up to 15 hours per week) for free during term 2. The Victorian Government will provide up to \$45 million in extra funding for sessional kindergarten providers to facilitate the support.</p> <p>On 8 May, the Government announced a further \$900,000 in funding for kindergartens to help children learning at home during COVID-19. The package will enable kindergartens to access to an online platform of play-based learning activities for parents to do with their children at home, as well as funding for additional educator and teacher hours to develop and deliver learning from home programs.</p> <p>On 17 May, the Government announced \$2.6 million in grants for early childhood services delivering a funded kindergarten program to boost their cleaning and hygiene. Grants of \$900 will be available for kindergartens with less than 50 enrolments, and \$1,500 for those with more than 50 enrolments. Service providers will have flexibility in how to use this funding as long as it is spent on meeting cleaning and hygiene requirements for their kindergarten program.</p> <p>On 24 June, the Government announced that it would extend funding arrangements for sessional kindergarten for the duration of term 3 2020. The funding will provide approximately \$230 per child for term 3, or about half the cost of average kindergarten fees. A second round of grants will also be provided to all early childhood services to boost their cleaning and hygiene.</p> <p>On 12 July, it was announced that eligible not-for-profit sessional kindergarten services in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire will be offered extra funding to enable them to provide free kinder to children during Term 3. Funding will consist of \$460 for each eligible child enrolled in a funded kindergarten program within metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire, and \$230 per</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p> <p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>child for all eligible not-for-profit sessional kindergarten services outside of these areas.</p> <p>On 9 August, the Government announced that all sessional kindergarten services in Victoria will be free for Term 3. A further \$1.6 million in grants will also be available to help kindergartens deliver early childhood education to children learning at home.</p>	

Local Government

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
14 September	Melbourne City Recovery Fund	<p>The Victorian Government has announced a \$100 million Melbourne City Recovery fund in partnership with the City of Melbourne.</p> <p>The Melbourne City Recovery Fund will provide grants to city businesses, helping them to move outdoors with COVIDSafe events and rebuild the CBD. Small and medium businesses will be able apply for \$30 million worth of grants to pay for equipment, convert spaces like rooftops and courtyards into hospitality zones, and remodel internal layouts to allow for the better flow of patrons.</p> <p>A further \$30 million will support COVIDSafe events and cultural activities to attract visitors back to the CBD when safe. Another \$40 million will go towards providing physical improvements to the CBD streetscape, which could include wider footpaths, bollards and street planter boxes.</p>	<p>Premier of Victoria - media release</p>
18 March	City of Melbourne fees and grants	<p>As updated on 26 March and 2 April.</p> <p>Melbourne City Council has passed a \$10 million stimulus package, which includes grants for small businesses, the suspension of street trading fees and rent reductions for using Council buildings.</p> <p>On 26 March, the City opened a \$5 million grants program for small to medium-sized businesses to invest in online and e-commerce capabilities, take part in training and professional development, and undertake capital works. Specifically, the grants include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approximately 200 capital works projects will be matched dollar-for-dollar for up to \$10,000 to help businesses adapt to the changed conditions and could include investing in new equipment, upgrading shop fittings or investing in IT and vehicles; • up to \$5000 is available for 400 businesses investing in online and e-commerce activities such as purchasing hardware and software, developing website and ecommerce, creating online content, online and e-commerce training, and digital marketing; and • up to \$2000 is available for training and professional development for 500 organisations to equip staff with new and enhanced skills to prepare for changing conditions or recovery, such as attending training courses, and undertaking online learning and webinars. <p>On 26 March, the City also opened a \$2 million grants program for artists or small organisations to develop new work, or for digital presentation of artistic works and performances.</p> <p>On 26 March, the City fast-tracked its financial hardship policy to provide residential and commercial property owners with options to defer, reduce or waive rates and charges levied on a property, depending on the severity of the financial impact. Applications will be open from 30</p>	<p>City of Melbourne - media release</p> <p>City of Melbourne - media release</p> <p>City of Melbourne - media release</p> <p>City of Melbourne - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>March 2020 and ratepayers seeking support can contact 9658 9658.</p> <p>On 2 April, the City temporarily extended construction working hours on some building sites for commercial, large residential and mixed-use developments.</p>	

QUEENSLAND MEASURES

Tax, Grants, Concessions and Sector Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
3 October	Tourism sector grants	<p>The Queensland Government has announced \$5 million in grants to support tourism operators in regional Queensland to redesign their businesses to make it through the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>The program will deliver grants of up to \$10,000 for tourism operators, heavily reliant on international tourism to change their businesses to target the domestic market.</p> <p>Applicants who can demonstrate considerable loss of income due to the closure of Australia's borders will be able to apply.</p>	Queensland Government - media statement
1 September	Aviation Recovery Fund	<p>The Queensland Government has implemented a \$15 million Aviation Recovery Fund.</p> <p>On 1 September, funding was supplied under the Fund to recommence Jetstar's Gold Coast to Cairns service, which has been suspended since March.</p>	Queensland Government - media statement
26 August	Fast-tracked capital works	<p>The Queensland Government has announced that it will fast-track 8 key capital works projects at a value of \$66 million, which are expected to create thousands of jobs and leverage more than \$330 million in private sector investment. The projects selected for fast-tracking include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northshore stage one waterfront development – a \$7.4 million investment has been brought forward to transform an expansive river edge into a destination for innovation, enterprise and creativity, supporting up to 30 construction jobs; • Carseldine Village development – civil works for stages two and three of the Carseldine Village development are due to commence in the next 12 months, which, along with stage one civil works which are currently under construction, will support more than 50 construction jobs through a \$17 million total investment; • Lumina at the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct – plans are being brought forward to expand the increasingly popular Cohort coworking, innovation and laboratory space, which is almost at capacity; • Yeppoon development – works for the Capricorn Coast Rail Trail will start in coming weeks, with essential structural works on the heritage rail station building nearing completion; 	Queensland Government - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roma student health accommodation precinct – construction will begin in the coming weeks on the student accommodation precinct by Woollam Constructions, creating 15 jobs; Sunshine Coast Industrial Park – initial bulk earthworks for stage two, which has Sunshine Coast Regional Council approvals, will begin in coming weeks. A development application for stage two of the industrial park has been lodged with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council; Yeronga Priority Development Area development – a new Yeronga Community Centre and civil works associated with the redevelopment of the former Yeronga TAFE site that will create 33 construction jobs and facilitate further private sector investment are currently undergoing approvals; and Oxley Priority Development Area development – civil works for stage one are currently being planned and subject to necessary approvals the \$5.2 million dollar investment (supporting 17 construction jobs) will commence this year. 	
6 August	Flood warning infrastructure	As part of the Unite and Recover Strategy, a \$6 million boost in funding for Queensland's flood warning infrastructure network has been announced. 28 councils will benefit from the investment, which is expected to support 25 jobs across regional Queensland.	Queensland Government - media statement
26 July	Building Acceleration Fund	<p>As updated on 31 July.</p> <p>A new \$200 million funding package has been announced to co-fund the development of catalytic infrastructure, in an initiative to accelerate Queensland's recovery from the economic effects of COVID-19. The Building Acceleration Fund will work in partnership with councils, property developers and industry to accelerate projects that unlock development, increasing construction activity and supporting long-term jobs.</p> <p>The Fund will accept applications to fund projects, which are ready to commence construction within 12 months of funding approval, that demonstrate substantial flow-on economic benefits to local communities.</p> <p>Co-investment funding will be provided for successful projects as an interest-free loan so they can start construction now and repay over 15 years. The applicant must also co-invest 10 to 50% of the total infrastructure project cost, depending on the scale of the project.</p> <p>Applications opened on 31 July and will close on 4 September 2020.</p>	Queensland Government - media statement Queensland Government - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
6 July	Planning reforms	<p>As updated on 8 July.</p> <p>Amendments to Queensland's planning laws will create flexibility for public notice requirements by allowing the use of digital or other online media to advertise development applications. This will allow job-creating infrastructure projects to keep progressing during COVID-19.</p> <p>The Planning (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020 will be in effect until 31 December 2020, with the potential to be extended further through legislative amendments following community consultation.</p> <p>On 8 July, the Government released further proposed changes to Queensland's planning framework, which are aimed at reducing red tape to help businesses trade more quickly, propelling job-creation. The proposed changes are intended to benefit businesses, industry and communities by simplifying or removing a number of current planning approvals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if a business tenancy changes within an existing building, such as a hairdresser replacing a café in a local town centre; • where a business is starting up or relocating to a location where the use is well suited and expected in that particular zone; • making minor expansions to allow businesses to accommodate social distancing requirements; • providing flexibility for home businesses in residential areas and farm stays in rural areas; and • for temporary events such as school fetes or farmer's markets. <p>The reforms will be implemented through changes to the Development Assessment Rules, Minister's Guidelines and Rules, and the <i>Planning Regulation 2017</i>. A virtual town hall meeting to discuss the reforms will be held on 14 July 2020, with consultations open until 7 August 2020.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - Planning support measures</p>
18 June	Racing industry support	<p>The Government will provide \$2.6 million in infrastructure funding for 32 race clubs across Queensland, which is anticipated to create or support almost 100 jobs. Non-TAB clubs can apply to Racing Queensland to access the funding for projects relating to infrastructure repairs and maintenance. The funding recognises that majority of non-TAB clubs have had meetings either cancelled or postponed during COVID-19 and, as a result, their capacity to fund infrastructure improvements has been further diluted.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
15 June	Critical freight routes secured for exporters	<p>It will now be easier for South East Queensland farmers to get their high-quality produce into key overseas export markets with the Federal Government helping to secure 2 direct freight routes to Hong Kong and Singapore.</p> <p>Cathay Pacific will start a weekly direct freight flight carrying local beef, pork, eggs, fruit and vegetables from Toowoomba's Wellcamp Airport to Hong Kong.</p> <p>In addition, Singapore Airlines will start a weekly freight flight between Toowoomba and Singapore. It is anticipated each flight will carry between 30-40 tonnes of local produce.</p>	Federal Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment - media release
5 June	Hardship support for workers	The Government has announced that Queensland workers who test positive for COVID-19 and have no access to paid sick leave will be able to access a one-off \$1500 payment to cover their unpaid sick leave. To be eligible, the worker must be employed, test positive to COVID-19 and have no access to paid sick leave or pandemic leave.	Queensland Government - media statement
4 June	Indigenous business support	<p>A new support service and telephone hotline, Open for Business, has been launched to provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses during and after COVID-19. Open for Business is a dedicated support service that provides advice to Indigenous businesses on local, state and federal policies. It will provide advice to the Queensland Indigenous business community through a telephone hotline, online town hall meetings, social media networks, email and radio communications.</p> <p>The initiative has been designed with recognition that many Indigenous businesses located in regional areas may have only limited access to digital infrastructure and rely on telephone communication for connection to the outside world, particularly while communities are closed to visitors.</p>	Queensland Government - media statement
4 June	Support for female-led regional businesses	<p>The Federal Government is helping female business owners step-up to tackle global markets as part of the nation's COVID-19 recovery.</p> <p>Canvas Coworking Inc will receive \$86,450 through the Incubator Support Initiative to establish the 'Flair Incubator' for female-led, regionally-based Queensland businesses that aspire to trade globally.</p> <p>The Flair Incubator is important to ensure businesswomen have the skills and connections they need to grow their customer base, create jobs and compete internationally.</p>	Federal Minister for Industry, Science and Technology - media release
30 May	Government procurement	The Queensland Government has set a target for at least 25% of all Government purchases to be from Queensland small and medium businesses by 1 July 2020, with the target extended to 30% by 30 June 2022. This target is expected to provide around \$4.1 billion from the Queensland	Queensland Government - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	targets	government to small and medium businesses, which will be critical in the post-COVID recovery.	Business Queensland - supply to Queensland Government
25 May	Relief for bodies corporate	<p>The <i>Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020</i> received Royal Assent on 25 May 2020, which provides measures to alleviate the financial burden caused by the COVID-19 emergency on bodies corporate for community titles schemes and owners of lots included in the schemes.</p> <p>The Act amends the <i>Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997</i> to temporarily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> allow bodies corporate to adopt sinking fund budgets, which do not meet the requirement to reserve an appropriate proportional share of amounts necessary to be accumulated, to meet anticipated major expenditure over at least the next 9 years after the body corporate's current financial year, thereby allowing bodies corporate to reduce contributions payable by owners; relax requirements for bodies corporate to initiate proceedings to recover lot owner contributions that have been outstanding for 2 years, thereby enabling bodies corporate to defer commencing debt recovery action against lot owners experiencing financial distress due to COVID-19; allow committees to postpone the due date for contributions, to provide lot owners suffering financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 with additional time to pay their contributions; prevent bodies corporate from charging penalty interest on outstanding lot owner contributions; and double the maximum amounts that bodies corporate can borrow when authorised by ordinary resolution (that is, for most schemes, allow the body corporate to borrow up to \$500 multiplied by the number of lots in the scheme, and double the upper limit for borrowing under the <i>Body Corporate and Community Management (Small Schemes Module) Regulation 2008</i> to \$6,000). <p>The Act also amends the <i>Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980</i> to temporarily permit body corporate committees to postpone the due date for proprietor contributions, to provide proprietors suffering financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 additional time to pay contributions.</p>	Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020
25 May	Further COVID-19 legislation	<p>As updated on 11 June.</p> <p>The <i>Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020</i></p>	Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	passed	<p>received Royal Assent on 25 May 2020, which amends the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>City of Brisbane Act 2010</i> and the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> to provide a temporary regulation-making power to enable Queensland local governments to decide, by resolution at a meeting other than a budget meeting, what rates and charges are to be levied for part of the 2020-21 financial year; • <i>Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005</i> to provide for earlier eligibility to apply to access portable long service leave entitlements (after 5 years' equivalent service instead of 10 years) where a worker is experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 emergency; • <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> to provide the Minister with the power to make a declaration waiving compliance of certain conditions of an environmental approval, and to allow the administering authority to issue temporary environmental authorities, where these actions are deemed reasonable because of the COVID-19 emergency; • <i>Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003</i> to create a temporary regulation making power about modifying or suspending the processes for increasing or reducing site rent and modifying the processes for disputing a proposed increase in site rent during the COVID-19 emergency period; and • <i>Private Health Facilities Act 1999</i> to allow the chief health officer to waive or defer the fees payable under the Act. <p>On 11 June, the Government extended temporary laws to allow supermarkets to continue stocking shelves 24 hours a day until October 2020.</p>	<p>Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
20 May	Regional infrastructure boost	<p>48 new projects will receive infrastructure investment to fuel economic recovery in regional and remote Queensland as part of the fifth round of the \$365 million Building our Regions program. This funding round will focus on construction and planning projects that will create and sustain long-term employment in regional Queensland as part of the COVID-19 response, and is expected to support 350 construction jobs.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
19 May	State budget	<p>The Queensland Government has announced that it will publish a COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review (C19-FER) in September this year. The Queensland Budget has been suspended for 2020-21.</p> <p>The C19-FER will be produced by the Queensland Treasury to the same standards used for the annual Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
19 May	Unite and Recover economic strategy	<p>As updated on 16 June and 20 August.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has announced the first stage of the State's economic reset, The Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy: Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs, to help the State recover from COVID-19 with a focus on backing Queensland jobs and building infrastructure.</p> <p>The key element of the Strategy is a commitment to maintaining infrastructure investment at more than \$50 billion over the next 4 years.</p> <p>On 16 June, the second phase of the Unite and Recover Strategy was unveiled, which features a broad range of measures across various sectors, including agriculture, tourism, construction, resources and small businesses.</p> <p>On 20 August, the next phase of Queensland's economy recovery plan was announced, including close to \$200 million in initiatives. The funding targets 6 priority areas, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safeguarding health – safeguarding health and jobs, by keeping Queensland pandemic ready; • backing small business – helping small business in a changing environment; • making it for Queensland – growing manufacturing across traditional and new industries, making new products in new ways and creating jobs; • building Queensland – driving investment in the infrastructure that supports recovery, resilience and future prosperity; • growing regions – Helping Queensland's regions grow by attracting people, talent and investment, and driving sustainable economic prosperity; and • investing in skills – ensuring Queenslanders have the skills they need to find meaningful jobs and set up pathways for the future. 	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
19 May	Small business adaption grants and support	<p>As updated on 8, 15 and 16 June.</p> <p>The Government has announced \$100 million in small business grants and training to combat COVID-19. Small businesses can apply for a grant of up to \$10,000 for projects to assist small businesses that have been forced into hibernation to restructure, significantly change their business operations or move online. The program aims to see small and micro businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare for the safe resumption of trading in the post COVID-19 recovery; • access digital technologies to rebuild business operations and transition to a new way of 	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Business Queensland - Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grant Program</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>doing business;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respond to online opportunities, where possible, to sustain employment and maintain potential for longer-term growth; • upskill and reskill business owners and staff to benefit from new technologies or business models; • embrace business diversification to adapt and sustain operations; and • create or retain employment. <p>To be eligible, the business must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have been subject to closure or highly impacted by COVID-19 shutdown restrictions; • demonstrate a significant impact on business revenue over a least 1 month due to COVID-19; • be based in Queensland; • have fewer than 20 employees; • have a payroll of less than \$1.3 million; and • have an annual turnover over \$75,000 for the last financial period. <p>The funding was announced as part of the first stage of <i>The Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy: Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs</i>.</p> <p>On 8 June, the Government launched a new online training platform that can be accessed by Queensland small businesses and their employees. The <i>Queensland Small Business Skills Hub</i> will provide access to around 400 online courses in topic areas such as Leading a Successful Business, Digital Skills, Adapting to Change, and Foundation Business Skills.</p> <p>On 15 June, the Government announced up to \$4 million in funding for a new small business online training package, and is seeking expressions of interest from Queensland-based private sector service providers to provide free access to online non-formal training libraries, courses and materials. Providers may share existing online courses or develop new materials. The training will be non-accredited and may cover a range of topics that could help small businesses to spark a new idea or find a better way to operate during the recovery from COVID-19.</p> <p>On 16 June, an additional \$100 million was announced for small business grants to help sustain small businesses so they can respond quickly post COVID-19, as part of the second stage of the <i>Unite and Recover Strategy</i>. This funding will support a second round of Small Business COVID-</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Department of Employment, Small Business and Training - funded programs</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		19 Adaption Grants, applications for which open on 1 July 2020. Eligibility criteria is similar to round 1 (see above), with funding available to eligible businesses throughout Queensland. During round 2, funding will be equally divided between regional Queensland and South East Queensland.	
19 May	Tourism support package	<p>As updated on 7-10, 12, 16 and 23 June, 29 July, and 20 and 31 August.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has announced \$50 million to help support tourism businesses, theme parks and animal parks to recover from COVID-19. The Government will also deliver a domestic marketing campaign, to be unveiled in early June (to align with the easing of restrictions) to encourage Queenslanders to holiday at home.</p> <p>The funding was announced as part of the first stage of <i>The Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy: Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs</i>.</p> <p>On 8 June, it was announced that part of the funding package would comprise \$11 million in funding to support theme parks on the Gold Coast to retain staff. The funding must be used for specific purposes, including wages, re-opening of attractions and other supplier costs.</p> <p>On 10 June, the Government announced the opening of registration for \$25 million in funding for shovel-ready tourism infrastructure projects to begin in the next 3 months, known as the Queensland Tourism Icons Program. On 23 June, the Government announced that \$3 million of the Program will be allocated to boosting Outback Queensland tourism and supporting outback jobs as part of the <i>Unite and Recover Strategy</i>.</p> <p>The Government has also announced further measures to support the tourism sector, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on 7 June, a new tourism campaign called <i>Queensland - You're Good to Go</i>, which is projected to deliver \$1 billion in overnight accommodation takings for tourism operators over the next 4 months; on 9 June, \$6.5 million in funding for a tourist attraction and beautification project involving the installation of 2 'solar trees' at the North Queensland Stadium precinct, to which Townsville City Council will also contribute \$1.5 million; on 9 June, a \$3.5 million grant to Cairns Aquarium to help local tourism sustain and recover (in addition to the funding announced earlier); on 12 June, \$5 million in funding for 15 Queensland airports to secure new domestic flights to fast-track the tourism industry's economic recovery; and on 12 June, a further \$500,000 funding package for zoos and mobile animal exhibitors, who may not be eligible for broader tourism funding. 	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

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		<p>On 16 June, as part of the second stage of the <i>Unite and Recover Strategy</i>, the Government announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15 million for airline route support in and out of Queensland to encourage domestic tourism; and • \$8.9 million for national parks, to boost works and jobs through upgrades to visitor infrastructure. <p>On 29 July, the waiver of permit fees for tourism operators conducting commercial activities in National Parks was extended until 30 September. Tourism operators in Queensland are ordinarily required to pay daily site fees based on visitor numbers when a tour is conducted on national parks, recreational and protected areas and State Forests under a commercial activity permit.</p> <p>On 20 August, an additional \$1 million in funding was announced to complete stage 3 of the Museum of Underwater Art at Magnetic Island in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The attraction is expected to bring in an additional 50,000 visitors to Townsville each year and to inject more than \$22.5 million into the economy annually.</p> <p>On 31 August, an \$11.3 million package was announced to boost Far North Queensland tourism as part of the economic recovery strategy to assist businesses to make it through COVID-19. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6.5 million for 4 shovel-ready projects creating 127 construction jobs and more than 50 ongoing jobs; • \$3 million to help attract major events to the regions; and • \$1.8 million to assist Reef Fleet operators. 	<p>media statement</p>
19 May	Job creation infrastructure funding	<p>As updated on 3, 16 and 22 June, 9 and 16 July, and 19-21 and 27 August.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has announced a \$200 million funding boost of the Works for Queensland job-creation program. The funding will be delivered through local councils and will focus on projects that will immediately support jobs over the next year, including new, upgraded or refurbished playgrounds, swimming pools, community centres, caravan parks, sport and recreation facilities, libraries, water and sewer infrastructure, and waste management facilities.</p> <p>The funding was announced as part of the first stage of <i>The Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy: Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs</i>.</p> <p>On 3 June, the Government announced the following allocations of funding through the Works for Queensland Program:</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$9.87 million to councils in South West Queensland; • \$4.19 million to Gympie Regional Council; • \$7.18 million to Noosa and the Sunshine Coast; • \$50 million to councils in South-East Queensland; • \$5 million to Brisbane City Council; and • \$150 million to other regional councils. <p>A full list of the Works for Queensland allocations to each council can be found here.</p> <p>On 16 June, as part of the second stage of the <i>Unite and Recover Strategy</i>, the Government announced the following funding for infrastructure and construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$106 million boost to first home owner grants and regional home building grants of up to \$5,000 for people building a new home in a regional location; • \$100 million for the Housing Construction Works for Tradies program, to build new social housing; • \$50 million for local councils in South-East Queensland to support minor works and projects that create local jobs in the most impacted areas; • \$10 million for a new Seniors Accessibility and Renovation Assistance boost of up to \$5,000 to help seniors stay safely in their own home, including security upgrades, repairs and maintenance; and • \$1.17 million in construction projects will revitalise regional TAFE campuses. <p>On 22 June, the Queensland Government announced a further \$90.3 million investment in shovel-ready infrastructure projects and road safety upgrades. This will be combined with a Commonwealth contribution of \$324.3 million.</p> <p>On 9 July, further Works for Queensland projects were announced. In total, 520 projects are being funded, which the councils expect will support or create more than 4,600 jobs.</p> <p>On 16 July, it was announced that grants of up to \$20,000 as part of the Active Restart Infrastructure Recovery Fund had opened. This is a \$15.5 million program to support up to 3,000 not-for-profit sport and recreation clubs and organisations. The grants are for the purchase of equipment and carrying out capital works.</p> <p>On 19 August, it was announced that \$9.5 million would be provided for the Bundaberg to Ging Gin</p>	<p>media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Rail Trail, a project that will transform an old rail line into a bikeway. The funding will match council contributions and is expected to create 229 jobs during its construction, as well as providing a tourism boost once completed.</p> <p>On 20 August, the Government announced a \$13.9 billion infrastructure investment for 2020-21 as part of the Unite and Recovery Strategy. Some of the highlights within the capital funding package include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6.1 billion in transport infrastructure projects across Queensland including the Ports of Gladstone and Townsville, Cross River Rail, Bruce Highway, Pacific and Ipswich motorways and a wide range of regional roads; • health facility investments such as the \$70 million redevelopment of Cairns Hospital mental health facilities; • over \$16 million for new ambulance stations at Ormeau, Yarrabilba, Munruben and Urraween; • a new QCN Fibre partnership with Toowoomba's Pulse Data Centre to provide better internet for thousands of Darling Downs businesses; • \$20 million towards the new Queensland Apprenticeships Centre at Beenleigh delivering training for high demand industries including renewable hydrogen; • \$3.4 million towards collaborative projects with Balonne, Bulloo, Maranoa, Murweh and Paroo councils to enhance digital connectivity; and • investment in public safety such as \$16.9 million for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' regional headquarters at Charlton, near Toowoomba, and the \$52.2 million Wacol Counter-Terrorism and Community Training Centre, as well as new and upgraded fire and police stations around the State. <p>On 21 August, \$3.41 million in funding was announced for water infrastructure in the Tablelands. The funding will support upgrades and minor infrastructure projects to improve water security, reliability and quality, including opening a new bore in Atherton.</p> <p>On 27 August, Brisbane City Council received \$5 million in Works for Queensland funding to construct new and upgraded bikeways in the CBD and Kangaroo Point as well as between Cherside and Aspley in the city's north and in MacGregor in the city's south.</p>	
19 May	Road stimulus package	More than \$400 million in new, accelerated funding for Queensland roads projects to help the State's economy through the COVID-19 recovery. The stimulus package includes \$200 million in funding to increase resilience, widen and seal key freight routes across the State as well as	Queensland Government - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>upgrade older bridges and culverts.</p> <p>The funding was announced as part of the first stage of <i>The Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy: Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs</i>.</p>	
18 May	Resources Community Infrastructure Fund	<p>Regional communities in Queensland will receive more funding to assist in the post COVID-19 recovery, following the finalisation of a \$100 million Resources Community Infrastructure Fund, made up of combined contributions from Government and resource companies. The fund will be targeted towards supporting projects that will improve the economic and social infrastructure across Queensland's resources communities.</p> <p>Queensland has committed to providing \$30 million over three years, and has settled arrangements with the Queensland Resources Council for resource companies to contribute a total of \$70 million.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
6 May	Support for resources and energy sector	<p>As updated on 16 June, 28 July and 5 October.</p> <p>A multi-million-dollar package will support the survival of explorers in Queensland to maintain the State's pipeline of resources projects and jobs during and after COVID-19.</p> <p>The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 12-month waiver of rent on exploration land due between 1 April and 1 September; • a freeze on fees and charges until 1 July 2021; • releasing almost 7,000 square kilometres of land for gas and mineral exploration later in May; and • bringing forward \$2.8 million in grant funds for innovative exploration in the North West Minerals Province. Explorers can apply for grants of up to \$200,000 for new and innovative exploration activities. <p>On 16 June, as part of the second stage of the <i>Unite and Recover Strategy</i>, the Government announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 million to promote exploration activity for new economy minerals for emerging technologies under the Collaborative Exploration Initiative; • \$650,000 to develop small businesses in the mining equipment, technology and services sector; and • \$17 million for a Renewable Energy Training Facility in Brisbane to provide world class training for solar and renewable energy. 	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Business Queensland - temporary relief package for the exploration sector</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 28 July, the first instalment of grants under the Collaborative Exploration Initiative was announced, with 24 explorers receiving grants of up to \$200,000 each.</p> <p>On 5 October, the Government announced a further 6 months extension of the waiver of rent on exploration land. The extension is intended to assist explorers in making new mineral and petroleum exploration to drive new projects and investment.</p>	
5 May	Water irrigation relief	<p>The Queensland Government has announced that it will freeze irrigation prices for a year to support farmers through COVID-19. The price freeze constitutes an investment of \$14.7 million and will mean that irrigation farmers are, on average, \$400 better off in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20.</p> <p>The Government will also subsidise \$42 million worth of dam safety upgrades across the state over the next 4 years rather than ask irrigators to contribute towards them.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
29 April	Infrastructure projects	<p>As updated on 30 April.</p> <p>22 regional roads projects worth \$185 million will be fast-tracked to support jobs in Queensland. The projects are jointly-funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments. The projects will begin in the next 12 months and will include works to seal roads, build overtaking lanes, upgrade intersections and improve safety.</p> <p>On 30 April, the Queensland Government provided an update on the State Infrastructure Plan, confirming that the State's infrastructure program would go ahead as planned despite COVID-19. In the 6 months from 1 April 2020, more than 130 government projects are on track to commence construction, with a total value of over \$3.8 billion.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
28 April	State land rent waived	<p>As updated on 25 September.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has waived \$33.8 million in land rent for farmers, tourism and clubs for the period 1 April to 30 September 2020. The land rent relief applies to Land Act lessees, licensees or permit to occupy holders who conduct a business on state land. Lessees don't have to apply and those who have already paid their rent for 1 April to 30 June 2020 will receive a refund or if requested, a credit.</p> <p>On 25 September, the Government announced a further \$2.55 million worth of land rent waivers in ongoing COVID relief for tourism resorts, hospitality providers and attractions. These tourism operators are a collection of resorts, hospitality and attractions located around regional Queensland including Cairns, Townsville, the Whitsundays, Mackay, Rockhampton, Fraser Coast, Gympie, the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast, and as far west as Mount Isa.</p> <p>Tourism operators are expected to pass on the appropriate amount of land rent savings to</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
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25 April	Transport funding package	<p>As updated on 16 June.</p> <p>A \$54.5 million package has been announced that will allow regional air, bus and ferry services to keep running while social distancing measures remain in place. The package is targeted to keep transport services running in communities where some of these services are the only transport option. It will also allow for the waiver of some fees and extend licence terms for taxi, limousine and rideshare operators.</p> <p>On 16 June, as part of the second stage of the <i>Unite and Recover Strategy</i>, the Government announced an additional \$23 million to support the State's taxi and limousine operators, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one-off payments of \$3,500 per vehicle to taxi and limousine operators; • one-off payments of \$1,000 per licence to taxi and limousine licence holders; • one-off payments of \$1,500 to authorised booking entities for each affiliated taxi/limousine, capped at 1,000 vehicles and for entities that provide booking services predominantly for taxis and/or limousines; and • one-off incentive payments of an additional \$1,000 per vehicle for Wheelchair Accessible Taxi operators. 	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
24 April	Support for Far North Queensland port businesses	\$2.3 million of funding has been announced to support port businesses in Far North Queensland dealing with a loss of business during COVID-19. The package will include fee relief to property tenants in the tourism, resource and seafood sectors in the region. Ports North will be engaging directly with impacted tenants over the coming weeks regarding the details of the new relief package.	Queensland Government - media statement
23 April	Remote legal transactions	Queensland Parliament has passed laws allowing for legal transactions to be conducted more flexibly using video conference rather than face to face meetings, in line with COVID-19 social distancing requirements. The changes will allow for various documents to be witnessed remotely, as well as remote attendance at certain meetings and site inspections.	Queensland Government - media statement
23 April	Small Business Commissioner appointed	<p>As updated on 28 May.</p> <p>Queensland will appoint a Small Business Commissioner to give small businesses a single point of contact for leasing disputes during recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. The Commissioner's</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>role will be to meet the needs of small businesses and provide them with valuable advice and assistance in relation to resolving disputes.</p> <p>On 28 May, the Small Business Commissioner office opened, with Maree Adshead appointed as Commissioner.</p>	<p>media statement</p>
22 April	COVID-19 legislation passed	<p>The Queensland Parliament has passed legislation to implement the various measures that have been announced over the preceding weeks.</p> <p>The <i>COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020</i> will provide the legislative basis for many of the regulatory changes announced to date. The Act provides for a regulation-making power, which can be used to give effect to the various initiatives.</p> <p>The <i>Appropriation (COVID-19) Act 2020</i> provides for more than \$4 billion of funding, which will be used to fund the economic stimulus measures announced thus far.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>COVID-19 Emergency Response Bill 2020</p> <p>Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill 2020</p>
17 April	Agricultural Coordination Officers	<p>A team of Agricultural Coordination Officers have been appointed to support producers and the agricultural industry to manage COVID-19. Approximately 100 officers will be available across the state to help agribusiness deal with COVID-19 related issues, including accessing relevant information quickly. Support can be accessed online or by phone (tel: 13 25 23).</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
16 April	Supporting takeaway food industry	<p>As updated on 5 and 25 May.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is considering measures to support cafes and restaurants offering takeaway, including examining fees and commissions charged by delivery companies. A meeting of stakeholders will take place next week, with further announcements anticipated to follow.</p> <p>On 5 May the Government announced that it is continuing talks around commission fees charged by delivery platforms, with those delivery platforms, industry bodies and unions. The Government welcomed the announcement by Deliveroo that it would remove commission fees for pick-up orders and offer lower commission rates for restaurants providing their own delivery.</p> <p>The <i>Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020</i> received Royal Assent on 25 May 2020, which provides for a new power for the Commissioner of Liquor and Gaming to issue a Takeaway Liquor Authority to operators of licensed venues to allow them to sell takeaway liquor as specified in the authority.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
16 April	Jobs and training support	<p>As updated on 8 June, 15 and 30 July, and 12 August.</p> <p>A new online portal, Jobs Finder Queensland, will connect Queenslanders who have lost their job due to COVID-19 with new job opportunities in areas of critical service delivery. The platform will</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>also link jobseekers with free online training courses. The jobs portal is accessible at: https://www.jobsfinder.qld.gov.au/.</p> <p>On 8 June, the Government announced a new online training portal for Queenslanders whose jobs were impacted by COVID-19. The <i>Skills Focus Queensland</i> portal will feature approximately 400 courses across topic areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • job finder and skills booster, such as CV writing and interview preparation; • accounting and finance; • sales and customer service; • hospitality; and • programming and IT. <p>On 15 July, a \$10 million extension to the Queensland Government's skills and training program, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, was announced as part of the <i>Unite and Recover Strategy</i>. The extra funding will increase Work Skills Traineeships in the popular areas of Construction, Conservation and Land Management projects, and will support works such as refurbishment of community facilities and recreational spaces, minor infrastructure works, and land care projects.</p> <p>On 30 July, it was announced that 5,000 people would undertake on-the-job training as part of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work package. The funding will support more than 200 projects.</p> <p>On 12 August, applications opened for the second round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work grants.</p>	<p>media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
9 April	Tenant protections and land tax relief	<p>As updated on 19 and 24 April, 28 May, 30 June, and 16 September.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has implemented a retrospective ban on evictions due to rent arrears, backdated to 29 March 2020. Property owners will be prohibited from evicting a tenant even if their lease expires during the COVID-19 public health crisis, and must instead offer an extension of at least 6 months.</p> <p>The Government will also provide rental grants for up to four weeks rent or \$2,000 for tenants experiencing hardship that are unable to access (or waiting to receive) other financial support, such as Federal Government payments.</p> <p>Landlords can apply for a 25% rebate of land tax relief for 2019/20, followed by a 3 month deferral in 2020/21 if they agree to offer commensurate rent relief to tenants affected by COVID-19.</p> <p>Foreign entities may also receive a waiver of the 2% land tax foreign surcharge for the 2019/20 year. It is expected that landlords will apply the rebate firstly to providing rent relief to tenants, and</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - coronavirus land tax relief</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>then any remaining amount can be used for their own financial obligations.</p> <p>Landowners may be eligible to apply where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all or part of a property is rented to a tenant, or the property is currently available for lease; • at least one tenant's ability to pay their normal rent, or the landowner's ability to secure a tenant, has been affected by COVID-19; • the landowner provides rent relief to an affected tenant commensurate with the land tax rebate, or if the property is unable to be leased, the landowner requires the land tax relief to meet their financial obligations (such as repayments); and • the landowner complies with new leasing requirements, even if the relevant lease is not regulated. <p>On 19 April, the Government published Guidelines for property owners and tenants, which summarise the threshold criteria to qualify for the COVID-19 rental relief and provide guidance on access to rental properties for sale, inspections or repairs. A summary of the Guidelines includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • threshold criteria to qualify for the application of the COVID-19 rental response, that includes a 25% reduction in income, or where rent exceeds 30% of the tenant's income; • tenants can be asked to provide the same proof of finances to property managers just as they would when starting a tenancy; • clear guidance on access for the sale of the property, virtual rental inspections and access for essential repairs and maintenance; • having a 75% income loss and less than \$5,000 in savings, before a tenant can end a tenancy with a 7 day cap on break lease fees; and • limiting any extension on the term of a tenancy agreement during the COVID-19 period to 30 September 2020 unless agreed otherwise by the owner and tenant, or there is an appropriate ground to end the tenancy. <p>On 24 April, the Queensland Government published the Residential Tenancies Practice Guide to help tenants and landlords navigate tenancy issues during COVID-19.</p> <p>On 28 May, the Retail Shop Leases and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020 was made, giving effect to the National Code. The regulations primarily relate to the period 29 March to 30 September 2020 and are applicable to 'affected leases' where the tenant carries on a business (or is a non-profit), has (and is part of a group with) turnover</p>	<p>media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>KWM Insight</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>of less than \$50 million and is eligible for the Commonwealth's JobKeeper scheme.</p> <p>At a glance, the Regulations provide that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any party to an affected lease can trigger a process for renegotiation of rent and other conditions, after which each party must give sufficient information to enable fair and transparent negotiations; within 30 days after a request (and provision of required information), landlords must make an offer to the tenant taking into account certain requirements (e.g. at least 50% of rent relief offered must be waiver rather than deferral); once a landlord has provided an offer the parties must negotiate in good faith; and if the parties cannot reach agreement, either of them can refer the matter to the Small Business Commissioner for mediation and (in certain circumstances) to QCAT. <p>On 30 June, the land tax relief measures were extended for a further 4 months to 31 October 2020 to give landowners more time to finalise relief agreements with their tenants and apply for the rebate.</p> <p>On 16 September, the Queensland Government announced that the moratorium on evictions for commercial leaseholders has been extended to the end of 2020. The 3 month extension will be effective to 31 December 2020.</p>	
6 April	Gaming machine taxes	<p>As updated on 25 May and 6 July.</p> <p>Pubs and clubs will get a 3 month deferral on gaming machine taxes (from April to June).</p> <p>Furthermore, around 50 licensees who have already paid their gaming machine taxes for March will have the amounts paid returned to them.</p> <p>The Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020 received Royal Assent on 25 May 2020, which provides for a time limited ability to defer or waive gambling taxes and levies.</p> <p>On 6 July, gaming taxes were further deferred until 2021. Repayments for gaming taxes incurred in March 2020 will now be repaid in 3 equal instalments in February 2021, April 2021 and June 2021.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Gaming Tax Notice 2020</p>
6 April	Business helpline	<p>The Queensland Government has launched a Small Business Hotline (tel: 1300 654 687) and an interactive online tool to help businesses navigate support for which they may be eligible. The tool covers Queensland and Federal measures.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - COVID-19 business assistance finder</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
2 April	Extension for applications for drought assistance	<p>Queensland primary producers will have extra time to lodge drought assistance claims and are being urged to apply electronically due to the impact of COVID-19 on claim processing times.</p> <p>The timeframe for receipt of applications after the invoice date will be extended from 6 to 12 months as some producers may experience delays in preparing their applications due to COVID-19.</p> <p>This extension will apply to claims lodged from 11 March 2020.</p>	Queensland Government - media statement
26 March	Small business support	<p>The Queensland Government has provided \$360,000 to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) to deliver additional outreach and support services to small businesses over the next three months. The CCIQ will use the funding to expand its call centre capacity and proactively provide information on various aspects of small business COVID-19 responses, including staff entitlements, workplace hygiene, cyber security, business closures and redundancy measures.</p>	Queensland Government - media statement
24 March	Worker and industry support	<p>The Queensland Government has committed up to \$500 million to assist workers who lose their job or income as a result of COVID-19 with retraining, job-matching and other help to transition into jobs in essential industries such as health care, agriculture, food production, transport, cleaning and mining.</p>	Queensland Treasury - financial support for individuals
24 March	Arts sector grants	<p>As updated on 26 May, 16 June, and 15, 21 and 28 July.</p> <p>Various grants are being made available to those experiencing difficulty in the arts sector. The Individuals Fund grants will be boosted to \$500,000, with criteria expanded to encourage applications with a focus on building digital skills, creative development and small project activities, as well as the digital adaptation or delivery of works.</p> <p>Arts organisations that are current recipients of the 2017-2020 Organisations fund will be guaranteed 12 months of further funding at current levels, to December 2021. Applications for the next 4 year funding round have been suspended in the interim.</p> <p>Applications will also open to access a total of \$2 million under the Queensland Arts Showcase Program (QASP), to support a range of activities including creative development, digital content creation, and digital delivery. Funding caps for QASP Arts Ignite and Arts Impact projects will increase to \$80 000, and to \$120,000 for QASP Arts Illuminate projects. Eligibility requirements for QASP applications have also been broadened to encourage digital delivery into schools and communities and support small equipment purchases.</p> <p>Arts Queensland will also waive rental payments for tenants based in Queensland Government Arts</p>	Queensland Government - media statement Queensland Government - media statement Arts Queensland - stART grant program Queensland Government - media statement Arts Queensland - Arts and Cultural Recovery Package Queensland Government - media statement Queensland Government -

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>facilities through to December 2020.</p> <p>On 26 May, the Government announced a further \$500,000 to support stART, a new quick turnaround grant program for Queensland's independent creative arts sector to recover from COVID-19. stART will help to support those in the independent sector, across multiple art-forms and communities, whose work is impacted by the closure of venues and social distancing rules, and who may not be eligible for JobKeeper. The funding will be distributed through the Regional Arts Services Network and other Arts Queensland funded small to medium organisations, and allocated to each region on a population basis.</p> <p>On 16 June, as part of the second stage of the <i>Unite and Recover Strategy</i>, the Government announced a further \$22.5 million to support the recovery of the arts and culture sector, which includes \$11.3 million to offset revenue losses for music and performing arts venues.</p> <p>On 15 July, the Government announced the opening of 2 programs as part of this funding package. The Spaces and Places Program will offer up to \$250,000 for the creation of vibrant new works for festivals and events, public art installations, and performing arts tours which will drive regional economic outcomes. The re-vamped Queensland Arts Showcase Program has also opened, which incorporates 3 funding streams to offer quick-respond funding rounds of up to \$30,000 for sole-funded initiatives or up to \$60,000 for projects with a contribution from the applicant.</p> <p>On 21 July, recipients of the stART grants were announced, with the total pool of funding being increased to more than \$700,000 (up from \$500,000). 213 recipients will receive grants for the development of arts and creative projects, producer services, technicians or fees and equipment purchase, supporting a range of jobs within the industry.</p> <p>On 28 July, the Government announced its support for the Brisbane Festival, including providing additional support for 10 new performing arts residencies. The festival will take place from 4 to 26 September 2020.</p>	<p>media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
24 March	Miscellaneous business concessions and relief	<p>As updated on 30 March and 7 September.</p> <p>Liquor licencing fees for 2020-2021 for venues will be waived.</p> <p>Relief from rent for 6 months will also be given to businesses who rent premises from the state government. On 7 September, the rent relief was extended to the end of 2020 for businesses renting state government premises and incurring a demonstrable COVID impact.</p> <p>Sole traders, as well as small and medium-sized businesses, that use less than 100,000kWh will also be given a \$500 rebate on their power bill for this year, which is applied automatically.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
24 March	Household payments	<p>As updated on 23 July.</p> <p>Queensland households will receive \$200 off their utility bills, as well as a \$50 asset dividend.</p> <p>As of 23 July, around 2.1 million households had received the \$200 rebate, with a remaining half a million households to follow. The \$50 asset dividend will follow from 1 September 2020.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
21 March	Supply assistance for manufacturers	<p>The Queensland government is providing supply-matching assistance to manufacturers that are experiencing difficulties in accessing vital materials or supplies. Businesses can submit an assistance request online at www.qld.gov.au/qld-supplies.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
18 March	Agricultural sector support	<p>As updated on 16, 19 and 24 June.</p> <p>A \$30 million extension to the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme has been approved, to assist the agricultural industry.</p> <p>On 16 June, as part of the second stage of the <i>Unite and Recover Strategy</i>, the Government announced the following funding for the agricultural sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5.5 million to use new technologies to improve biosecurity and food safety to help build the State's reputation as a trusted, quality supplier to global markets; • \$5 million to sponsor e-commerce platforms for Queensland products in overseas markets; and • \$2 million for diversification assistance to build capability in agricultural businesses to explore potential tourism opportunities and promotional activities. <p>On 19 June, the Government announced \$200,000 in funding for a new #eatqld campaign to promote the consumption of Queensland produce, to help the State's agriculture industry cope with the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 24 June, the Government announced \$5 million in grants, to be delivered over 4 years, for cluster fencing in Western Queensland to manage feral pests, as part of the <i>Unite and Recover Strategy</i>.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
17 March	Payroll tax	<p>As updated on 24 and 25 March, 7 May, and 7 September.</p> <p>A payroll tax deferral will be extended to all businesses across Queensland. The Queensland Office of State Revenue will also work with affected businesses to create repayment plans for the deferred tax liabilities. On 25 March, the payroll deferral was extended for the 2020 calendar year, with payment now due on 14 January 2021. Affected businesses will need to apply online to receive the</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>deferral.</p> <p>Employers (or those part of a group of employers) who pay \$6.5 million or less in Australian taxable wages will receive a refund of two months' worth of payroll tax payments, and a payroll tax holiday for three months. This is in addition to the 2020 payroll tax deferral. Eligible businesses should receive an email about these measures, but if not, can make an application online.</p> <p>Employers (or part of a group of employers) who pay more than \$6.5 million in Australian taxable wages and have been negatively affected (directly or indirectly) by COVID-19 can apply for a refund of two months' worth of payroll tax payments. This is in addition to the 2020 payroll tax deferral. Business Queensland advises that a business is considered 'affected' if its current turnover, profit, customers, bookings, retail sales, supply contracts or other factors are negatively affected compared with normal operating conditions. Applications can be made online.</p> <p>On 7 May, the Government announced that JobKeeper payments will not be subject to payroll tax in Queensland. This is expected to produce relief to the effect of \$360 million over 6 months to businesses employing Queenslanders.</p> <p>On 7 September, the Government announced a range of further payroll tax relief for businesses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 2 month waiver for of payroll tax for July and August 2020 for businesses with annual Australian taxable wages up to \$6.5 million; • continuing to exempt JobKeeper subsidy payments from payroll tax; and • allowing businesses to pay off existing payroll tax deferred liabilities over the course of 2021. 	<p>Business Queensland - payroll tax information</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Business Queensland - exempt wages for payroll tax</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
17 March	Small business loans	<p>As updated on 9 May and 9 June.</p> <p>A \$500 million Jobs Support Loan facility will be created to support businesses. The loans will be up to \$250,000 for businesses to retain staff.</p> <p>On 26 March further details were announced, including that the term of the loan will be 10 years, with an initial 12-month interest and repayment free period followed by two years of interest-only payments. Eligible business types include sole traders, partnerships, private and public companies and trusts.</p> <p>On 9 May, the Government announced a further \$500 million of funding for the loan facility, bringing the total pool of available loans to \$1 billion.</p> <p>On 9 June, the Government announced that more than \$800 million in loans had been approved to</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority - business support</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		date, helping to support more than 68,000 jobs.	
12 March	Market diversification and resilience grants	<p>As updated on 23 July and 15 August.</p> <p>Certain Queensland businesses may apply for grants to assist with market diversification and resilience. Eligible businesses are small to medium Queensland-based agriculture, food or fishing exporters, Queensland-based critical supply chain partners to those exporters, and not-for-profit industry organisations working with those exporters.</p> <p>Grants may be sought for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment purchases: grants up of to \$7,500 (excluding GST) are available for new equipment purchases up to a maximum cost of \$10,000 (excluding GST). Applicants must contribute 25% of the total cost of the new equipment. Eligible equipment purchases include freezers, refrigerators and vacuum packaging machines. Projects: grants of up to \$50,000 (excluding GST) are available to support activities including market evaluation studies, market visits, staff training, new equipment such as refrigeration and boat modifications to meet market requirements. Applicants must co-invest 50% of the total cost of project activities. <p>Grant applications close on 20 April 2020.</p> <p>On 23 July, successful first round recipients of the grants were announced, including an exporter of macadamia products and a fingerlime orchard, both based on the Sunshine Coast. More than 150 businesses applied for the grants.</p> <p>On 15 August, it was announced that in the second round of grants, priority will be given to supporting commercial, charter and aquaculture fisheries businesses affected by COVID-19. The second round of grants is worth \$300,000, with applications closing on 28 August 2020.</p>	<p>Business Queensland - market diversification and resilience grants information</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Health and Community Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
15 August	Community fishing grants	<p>Funding available under the Recreational Fishing Grants has been doubled to \$200,000, in recognition of the economic and jobs support that recreational fishing provides to Queensland. The grants will support fishing and community groups to run clinics, conduct research, promote recreational fishing or improve fish habitats. Applications are open to community-based not-for-profit organisations, fishing clubs and incorporated associations, schools and local councils.</p> <p>Applications close on 13 September and will be assessed based on their benefit to recreational fishing, the project need, value for money and alignment with Queensland's strategic recreational fishing priorities.</p>	Queensland Government - media statement
13 August	COVID-19 research funding	<p>\$6.45 million in funding has been announced to support more than 30 Queensland research projects aimed at combatting COVID-19, as part of the latest round of the government's Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowships program.</p> <p>Researchers to receive the funding are working across various projects, from developing faster diagnoses for COVID-19 patients, to developing crisis management toolkits for struggling small businesses, to using artificial intelligence to prevent suicides during a health crisis.</p>	Queensland Government - media statement
22 May	Support for multicultural communities	<p>The Government has announced a \$900,000 Community Connections Support Package for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. The package is designed to support people on temporary visas, who are not proficient in English or who are socially isolated, and includes \$283,000 in new initiatives and \$617,000 of boosted investment in existing programs.</p>	Queensland Government - media statement
19 May	Essential medical supply funding	<p>\$50 million in funding has been announced to support and boost the production capacity of Queensland's essential medical supplies manufacturing sector. The funds will be redirected from industry attraction funding under the Making it for Queensland Initiative, and will instead be used to ensure Queenslanders and Queensland businesses will have ready access to the essential goods, materials and products needed in the future.</p> <p>The funding was announced as part of the first stage of <i>The Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy: Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs</i>.</p>	Queensland Government - media statement
23 April	Charity funding boost	<p>\$4.5 million in funding has been announced for two Queensland charities affected by COVID-19. Legacy, whose fundraising in the lead-up to Anzac Day has been severely impacted, will receive \$1 million, while Lifeline will receive \$3.5 million to support its counselling services, which are currently under significant demand.</p>	Queensland Government - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
22 April	Funding support for vulnerable children	\$60,000 in funding has been announced for the CREATE Foundation to connect with kids in out-of-home care and check in with them during COVID-19 restrictions, as well as providing information and referrals to support services.	Queensland Government - media statement
14 April	Funding for community health care	<p>As updated on 9 June and 22 July.</p> <p>\$28 million has been allocated to support non-government, community-based health service groups to address a spike in demand in responding to COVID-19. The majority of the funding is to be accessible by way of one-off grants.</p> <p>To be eligible the Service Provider must be a legal entity and have the ability to deliver, or support the delivery of, safe and quality services in a primary or community health setting. The Service Provider will need to complete a request for proposal and supply the Queensland Government with relevant documentation upon request.</p> <p>On 9 June, it was announced that 18 mental health community support services from across the State have successfully received funding totalling \$2.6 million. Other successful recipients covering consumer support, primary and integrated care, palliative care and alcohol and other drugs also received more than \$2.2 million in grants.</p> <p>On 22 July, the Government announced that grants totalling over \$30 million had been awarded to more than 130 community-based health service groups, to continue providing services to Queenslanders and in some cases delivering new or extended services. Successful recipients included organisations that deliver community-based health services including mental health services, Indigenous health services, consumer support, primary and integrated care, palliative care, and alcohol and other drugs services.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Mental Health Commission - COVID-19 Grant Fund</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
8 April	Domestic violence services funding	<p>As updated on 5 and 6 May, 25 July, and 4 August.</p> <p>\$5.5 million has been allocated to address an anticipated increase in demand for domestic and family violence support services arising from COVID-19. The funding includes \$1.5 million to boost the capacity of the 24/7 state-wide crisis service DVConnect, \$1.7 million to address crisis accommodation needs, \$1.8 million to enhance specialist services and \$500,000 for a new awareness campaign.</p> <p>A new online domestic violence reporting tool is also available on the Queensland Police Service website.</p> <p>On 6 May, the Government, peak bodies, organisations and service providers across Queensland participated in the COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Virtual Summit. The purpose of the</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Summit was to address issues in accessing and providing domestic and family violence support services in the context of COVID-19. At the Summit, the Government announced a further \$2 million in funding for domestic and family violence service providers to cope with increased demands and costs in the context of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 25 July, the Government announced \$540,000 in funding to place extra domestic violence workers at 5 police stations in South East Queensland in response to heightened demand in the context of COVID-19. Furthermore, 8 high-risk domestic and family violence teams operating across Queensland will also receive funding of \$300,000 to help coordinate their efforts.</p> <p>In addition, the Government announced that 2 community-based organisations – GIVIT and RIZE UP – will receive more than \$50,000 each to assist women and children in crisis to move into safe accommodation.</p> <p>On 4 August, an extra \$50,000 in funding was announced for Mackay Women’s Services to boost the coordination of domestic and family violence responses in Mackay, in recognition that these services are encountering more clients affected by domestic and family violence as a result COVID-19.</p>	
7 April	Services for people with a disability	<p>Queenslanders with disability, who do not have carers, family or friends to assist them, are encouraged to phone the Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349 to request essential food, household items and medicines.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has provided funding to Queenslanders with Disability Network to produce a range of resources to assist people with disability in understanding COVID-19 and making necessary preparations.</p>	Queensland Government - media statement
6 April	Accommodation for health workers	The Government will provide \$17.5 million over 6 months to cover accommodation for staff working in Intensive Care Units and dedicated COVID-19 wards.	Queensland Government - media statement
28 March	Health funding	<p>As updated on 1-3, 5, 8, 15 and 29 April, and 14 and 25 June.</p> <p>The capacity of Queensland’s telehealth system has been increased five-fold to allow people across the state to see a doctor whilst a home.</p> <p>Additional paramedics have been fast-tracked into Queensland communities to assist in the pandemic response, including 10 extra paramedics in the Townsville region, 6 new paramedics for Mackay and 2 new paramedics for Cairns.</p> <p>Townsville Hospital and Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service will also receive up to</p>	Queensland Government - media statement Queensland Government - media statement Queensland Government - media statement Queensland Government -

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>\$158 and \$152 million respectively in extra funding to ramp up their COVID-19 preparations. On 3 April, the Government also announced an additional \$70 million in extra funding for Mackay Health.</p> <p>On 5 April, \$1.2 million in financial assistance was announced for the Evolve Group to begin urgently producing disposable N95 medical masks for frontline health workers.</p> <p>On 8 April, a further \$96 million in extra funding was announced for Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service.</p> <p>On 15 April, it was announced that a further 60 new paramedics will be fast-tracked into work during April to be placed in locations around Queensland where demand is greatest. An additional 15 Emergency Medical Dispatchers will also begin training to address a possible surge in Triple Zero workload due to COVID-19.</p> <p>On 29 April, up to \$49.2 million in extra funding was announced for Ipswich Hospital to ramp up its COVID-19 facilities.</p> <p>On 14 June, up to \$250 million in extra funding for elective surgery was announced, to address a backlog on patient waitlists that has accumulated following the suspension of non-urgent surgeries due to COVID-19. As part of the funding commitment, hospitals will move to provide non-urgent procedures outside of regular hours.</p> <p>On 25 June, the Government announced that it would create a Clinical Stock Reserve to ensure frontline healthcare workers will always have access to protective equipment. The reserve will ensure a consistent local supply of critical supplies such as surgical masks, gloves, key pharmaceuticals and hand sanitiser is available, without requiring reliance on international or domestic supply chains. Queensland Health will lead the initiative, working with other key government departments such as Treasury, the Departments of Premier and Cabinet, Housing and Public Works, Regional Development and Manufacturing, and others.</p>	<p>media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
25 March	Housing support	<p>The Queensland Government has put together a \$24.7 million housing package. As part of the package, the Home Assist Secure program will be enhanced to provide support for older Queenslanders and people with a disability who need essential supplies and services, as well as those who are experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
24 March	Health system funding	<p>An extra \$1.2 billion will be invested in the Queensland health system to expand fever clinics, emergency department capacity, acute care services and regional aeromedical services for remote communities in response to COVID-19.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
22 March	COVID-19	<p>As updated on 5 June.</p>	<p>Queensland Government -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	vaccine funding	<p>The Queensland Government will provide \$10 million fast track the development of a vaccine for COVID-19 by the University of Queensland's School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences. This is combined with \$3 million from the Federal Government and \$3.5 million from the Paul Ramsey Foundation.</p> <p>On 5 June, it was announced that CSL Ltd had signed an agreement with the University of Queensland to begin manufacturing a vaccine immediately for clinical trials.</p>	<p>media statement Queensland Government - media statement</p>
18 March	COVID-19 testing	<p>\$897,000 has been invested in the purchase of 3 new COVID-19 testing machines to be based in Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast and Rockhampton to reduce testing turnaround times in those areas.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Childcare, Education and Training

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
11 August	School infrastructure program	The Queensland Government has announced \$220 million to refurbish education facilities, which is expected to support 720 jobs. Funded projects include the refurbishment of classrooms and libraries, the creation of outdoor learning spaces, the refurbishment of tennis courts, the repairing of paths and walkways as well as new and refurbished playgrounds.	Queensland Government - media statement Queensland Government - media statement
2 August	University support package	The Queensland Government has announced a \$150 million loan facility to support Queensland universities impacted by COVID-19. Funds will be recouped by the government through a repayment program over the next 5 years. The funding is intended to support universities to continue to employ staff, maintain ongoing research projects and to keep educating students.	Queensland Government - media statement
23 May	International student financial support	The Government will provide \$10 million to support more than 20,000 international students who are in Queensland separated from family and their home countries. It is also supporting a charitable campaign, The Study Queensland Luhrmann Appeal, launched by the Luhrmann family and Study Queensland, to generate further support for the students.	Queensland Government - media statement
22 April	International student care	International students stranded in Queensland will be able to connect with professional support counsellors. A digital platform will link students who are aged over 18 with caseworkers to guide them through issues such as mental health, visas, crisis accommodation and other essential needs. These students will also have access to tuition support, isolation care packs, emergency meals and other living expense payments.	Queensland Government - media statement
12 April	Kindergarten funding	A \$17 million support package for community kindergartens will enable 22,000 children in Queensland to access free community kindergarten in term 2, including options for learning from home. The funding addresses falling enrolment numbers and will assist 465 community kindergartens to remain operational.	Queensland Government - media release

Local Government

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
11 August	South East Queensland stimulus package	<p>The Queensland Government has announced \$50 million in projects across South East Queensland through the new Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package. Funding will go to 12 councils for 63 projects, which is expected to create 1500 jobs.</p> <p>The Councils to receive funding are Brisbane City, Gold Coast City, Ipswich City, Lockyer Valley Regional, Logan City, Moreton Bay Regional, Noosa Shire, Redland City, Scenic Rim Regional, Somerset Regional, Sunshine Coast Regional and Toowoomba Regional Councils.</p> <p>Funded projects include, for example, improvements to the Ipswich Civic Centre, refurbishing facilities at parks across Toowoomba, new water infrastructure at Meringandan, upgrading playgrounds at locations in Deception Bay and green sealing of roads on Russell and Macleay Islands.</p>	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
19 May	Job creation infrastructure funding	<p>As updated on 3 and 16 June, and 9 July.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has announced a \$200 million funding boost of the Works for Queensland job-creation program. The funding will be delivered through local councils and will focus on projects that will immediately support jobs over the next year, including new, upgraded or refurbished playgrounds, swimming pools, community centres, caravan parks, sport and recreation facilities, libraries, water and sewer infrastructure, and waste management facilities.</p> <p>The funding was announced as part of the first stage of <i>The Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy: Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs</i>.</p> <p>On 3 June, the Government announced the following allocations of funding through the Works for Queensland Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$9.87 million to councils in South West Queensland; • \$4.19 million to Gympie Regional Council; • \$7.18 million to Noosa and the Sunshine Coast; • \$50 million to councils in South-East Queensland; 	<p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5 million to Brisbane City Council; and • \$150 million to other regional councils. <p>On 16 June, as part of the second stage of the <i>Unite and Recover Strategy</i>, the Government announced \$50 million for local councils in South-East Queensland to support minor works and projects that create local jobs in the most impacted areas.</p> <p>On 9 July, further Works for Queensland projects were announced. In total, 520 projects are being funded, which the councils expect will support or create more than 4,600 jobs.</p>	<p>media statement</p> <p>Queensland Government - media statement</p>
24 March	City of Gold Coast fees	<p>Until 30 June 2020, as a minimum, the City of Gold Coast will waive various fees, including relating to dining and restaurants, development applications, film application, commercial vessels, City facility bookings, as well as waiving rent for businesses with commercial leases on City premises.</p> <p>Furthermore, the City will waive all interest payments for businesses that enter affordable repayment agreements for water charges, waste water charges, waste charges and rates. All new debt recovery action for overdue water charges, waste water charges, waste charges and rates will be suspended for businesses who enter an approved payment arrangement. Businesses without approved arrangements for repaying overdue water charges, waste water charges, waste charges and rates will have their penalty interest rate cut from 9.83 per cent to 3 per cent.</p>	<p>City of Gold Coast - media release</p>
19 March	Brisbane City Council measures	<p>As updated on 2 April.</p> <p>Brisbane City Council will waive all charges, rents, levies and permit fees effective immediately for all businesses, as they face economic hardship caused by coronavirus impacts. The \$7.9 million business relief package will apply to businesses and Council lessees who will have a range of fees and charges waived for the next 3 months.</p> <p>On 2 April, Brisbane City Council announced that the Council's payments to business suppliers who employ less than 20 people has been reduced from 30 days to 7 days. These changes will apply to Council-procured goods and services where outstanding and future payments will be fast-tracked, effective 3 April 2020.</p> <p>Further, all ratepayers, including owner occupiers, non-owner occupiers and business owners, can access payment plans or deferred payment agreements of up to 9 months.</p>	<p>Brisbane City Council - announcement</p> <p>Brisbane City Council - announcement</p>
19 March	City of Townsville fees	<p>The City of Townsville has approved a range of measures, including deferral of rates, deferral of pedestal charges, refund of venue hire fees, reduction of various licence fees, waiver of all fees for restaurants and food and drink outlets, lease rent relief, and free parking in the CBD.</p>	<p>City of Townsville - media release</p> <p>City of Townsville - media</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		These measures were approved on 23 March.	release City of Townsville - media release

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MEASURES

Tax, Grants, Concessions and Sector Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
20 September	New Perth City Deal	<p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, the Western Australian Government has announced a \$1.5 billion City Deal, together with the Commonwealth Government and the City of Perth, to re-energise Perth. The deal includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$695 million investment by the Commonwealth Government, State Government and Edith Cowan University to move its law and business schools, and the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts into the Perth CBD; • \$360 million investment from the State Government, Curtin University and Murdoch University to expand or establish new presences in the Perth CBD; • \$105 million to the Perth Greater CBD Transport Plan to upgrade cycling and walking infrastructure, bus stop accessibility upgrades and enhance Roe Street; • \$20 million investment into the Perth Cultural Centre precinct for improvements and long-term vision development; • \$42 million to develop Perth Concert Hall into a world-class music venue; • up to \$100 million to redevelop the WACA, including an inner-city swimming pool; • \$20 million for the East Perth Power Station to upgrade necessary infrastructure and improve connectivity to the site; • \$36 million to provide facilities, safety improvements and services for homeless people in the city; • \$18 million for the creation of an Australian Space Robotics, Automation and AI Command Control Complex; • \$10 million towards a WA Indigenous Business and Employment Hub in partnership with the Wirrpanda Foundation; and • \$4 million to undertake a pre-feasibility study for an Aboriginal Cultural Centre. 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
15 September	Industry Support Fund	<p>As updated on 18 September.</p> <p>The Western Australian Government has established a new COVID-19 Industry Support Fund.</p> <p>The Fund is intended to use funding for relief measures with lower than anticipated demand and repurpose those funds to provide additional support and stimulus in the areas it is most needed.</p> <p>The following initiatives have been announced as being supported by the Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 15 September, an additional \$30 million boost to the Building Bonus program to meet the higher than expected demand for the measure. On 18 September, a \$3 million support package for travel agents, providing packages of up to \$5,000 to eligible home-based agents and minimum \$10,000 packages to eligible brick-and-mortar businesses. To be eligible, travel agents must be small businesses with a current registered ABN (as at 20 March 2020), and have experienced a 75% or greater reduction in turnover due to the impact of COVID-19. Applications for this package are open between 2 October and 30 October 2020. 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
2 September	Virtual Power Plant Project	<p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, a new \$4 million Virtual Power Plant project has been announced, which will see 10 schools receive commercial batteries and solar panels, to enable the schools to store their excess energy for later use, which will assist with grid stability.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
27 August	South West Recovery Plan	<p>The Western Australian Government has announced a \$252.3 million package for the South West region as part of the WA Recovery Plan, which includes investment in the construction, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality, renewable energy, education and training, and agriculture sectors. The Plan includes, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$38 million of additional funding towards the Bunbury Hospital redevelopment, on top of the \$22.8 million already allocated; \$11.9 million towards the Bunbury Water Resource Recovery Scheme; \$28 million for major projects and makeovers at 5 public schools; and \$6 million for installation of rooftop solar PV on social housing. 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
25 August	Pilbara Recovery Plan	<p>The Western Australian Government has announced \$211.8 million package for the Pilbara region as part of the WA Recovery Plan, which includes significant investment in infrastructure and programs to drive tourism, investments in existing and emerging industries, upgrades to school and TAFE infrastructure, and funding boosts for health and community services. For example, the Plan</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 million towards the Clean Energy Future Fund to invest in clean energy technologies; • \$9.77 million for Aboriginal regional suicide prevention plans in each region of Western Australia, prioritising Aboriginal-led and locally endorsed initiatives that accommodate a culturally informed social and emotional wellbeing approach to suicide prevention; • \$10 million to build the access road in Murujuga National Park to support the development of the Living Knowledge Centre and World Heritage Listing; • \$1.02 million for upgrades at Karijini National Park; • \$10.5 million to upgrade the entrance road to Boodarie Strategic Industrial Area in Hedland; and • \$22 million for upgrades and to expand Karratha Senior High School to help meet growth in student numbers. 	<p>Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
19 August	Funding for coastal erosion projects	<p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, close to \$7 million has been allocated to projects managing coast erosion hotspots across Western Australia. From this funding, \$5 million has been allocated to 4 high priority coastal erosion hotspots, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.25 million to the City of Fremantle for the Port Beach large-scale sand nourishment project to provide up to 10 years of protection for one of the State's most iconic beaches; • \$500,000 to the City of Wanneroo for Quinns Beach groyne construction; • \$600,000 to the City of Greater Geraldton for Drummond Cove groyne construction and sand nourishment; and • \$650,000 to the City of Rockingham for Point Peron coastal management including sand management and spur groyne refurbishment construction works. <p>A remaining \$1.76 million has been awarded to additional 42 projects to support coastal management and planning.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
17 August	Renewable hydrogen funding	<p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, \$22 million in new initiatives have been announced to support Western Australia's renewable hydrogen industry and create jobs. Western Australia's renewable hydrogen targets will also be brought forward from 2040 to 2030.</p> <p>The package includes, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5.7 million towards constructing demonstrator renewable hydrogen microgrid to power 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Denham;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2 million to support FMG H2's \$32 million renewable hydrogen mobility project in Pilbara; • \$1 million allocated to ATCO's \$2.5 million hydrogen refuelling station in Jandakot; • \$13.3 million for initiatives to accelerate hydrogen industry development; • \$3 million for a regulatory reform package to undertake and support a local hydrogen industry; • \$2.7 million to expand the Renewable Hydrogen Unit in the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation; • \$1 million towards identifying locations suitable for hydrogen storage; • \$1 million towards developing a detailed supply chain model that promotes hydrogen and identifies bottlenecks and limitations affecting the hydrogen export industry; and • \$600,000 to study blending hydrogen in the Western Australian gas network and related technical, economic and regulatory implications. 	
14 August	Food industry support	<p>The Western Australian Government has announced \$40 million funding for Western Australia's primary industries to grow the State's food sector and create local jobs, as part of the WA Recovery Plan.</p> <p>The package includes a \$16.7 million grant program to supercharge food and beverage manufacturing, as well as a suite of programs to drive business diversification and trade opportunities.</p> <p>The first component of the initiative will begin immediately, with the Value Add Investment Grants – a \$6.5 million investment incentive scheme which will supercharge agricultural value-adding and processing from across metropolitan and regional Western Australia.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
14 August	Mid-West Recovery Plan	<p>The Western Australian Government has announced multi-million dollar package for the Mid-West region as part of the WA Recovery Plan, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2 million to Central Regional TAFE's Geraldton campus to create more specialised art spaces; • \$3.81 million to upgrade electricity infrastructure in remote communities across Western Australia; • \$8 million through the Regional Road Safety Program to upgrade 76 kilometres of Mid- 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>West roads; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$141.7 million across the State to refurbish social housing across Western Australia's ageing housing stock. 	
13 August	Police infrastructure boost	<p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, \$96.5 million has been committed to upgrade and refurbish police stations across the State. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$23.5 million for refurbishments and upgrades at 15 police stations across regional and metropolitan Western Australia; \$52.6 million for the construction of a purpose built, modern police station in Fremantle; \$14.2 million in improvements will be carried out at 5 multifunctional police stations in remote regional Western Australia; \$4.2 million to construct a new wharf and jetty for the Fremantle Headquarters of the Water Police; and \$2 million to upgrade the remaining Western Australian Police Force analogue radio network in the Kimberley. 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
12 August	COVID-19 Response and Economic Recovery Omnibus Bill	<p>The Western Australian Government has introduced a new Bill into Parliament which is designed to support critical Government decision-making, reduce costs and deliver financial relief to businesses and individuals, as part of the COVID-19 economic recovery measures.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Response and Economic Recovery Omnibus Bill will allow State Government agencies to continue to operate in a COVID-19 environment by amending 79 current Acts of Parliament. It also validates actions taken by agencies to maintain operations and service delivery during the COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>A working group of 11 State Government agencies has helped draft the Bill, which provides the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> waiving, varying or refunding fees, charges, dues and late penalties or extend the time in which a fee is to be paid; meetings can occur online rather than in person and can be observed by the public if required; allowing witnessing of documents by video link; documents lodged and/or provided online for public inspection; and 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> extending or freezing statutory deadlines or timeframes for permits, licences and other similar instruments. 	
10 August	PIVOT small business program	<p>A new program announced as part of the WA Recovery Plan will assist small business owners to adapt and respond to the COVID-19 environment. The PIVOT program will help small business owners enhance their entrepreneurial mindset and develop innovative ways of operating their business. The program will be delivered online, with a range of practical webinars, mentoring and support initiatives to be offered as part of the program. Businesses with fewer than 20 staff, including sole traders, are able to apply online for the program until 17 August 2020. The program will commence on 31 August 2020.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement
9 August	Recreational fishing boost	<p>A \$6 million package to support Western Australia's recreational fishing industry has been announced as part of the WA Recovery Plan. The package includes new artificial reefs, a boost to finfish stocks to increase fishing opportunities in the metropolitan area, and a new State-wide marketing campaign to drive more locals and tourists to fishing locations.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement
8 August	Peel Recovery Plan	<p>The Western Australian Government has announced multi-million dollar package for the Peel region as part of the WA Recovery Plan, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$10.38 million for the Pinjarra Senior High School for a new permanent performing arts centre and sports hall; \$8.65 million to invest in upgraded infrastructure, including roads and drainage in East Keralup to attract private industry and create local jobs; \$8 million to the Offsets Fund for Recovery program that creates green jobs by supporting conservation groups to carry out on-ground works; and \$2 million for upgrades at Mandurah Police Station. 	Government of Western Australia - media statement
7 August	Gascoyne Recovery Plan	<p>The Western Australian Government has announced a multi-million dollar package for Gascoyne region as part of the WA Recovery Plan. The package will invest in sectors including construction, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality, renewable energy, education and training, and agriculture. The plan includes, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$18.8 million towards operating regional renal hostels including a service in Carnarvon; \$1.3 million towards planning for the redevelopment of the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp facility in Exmouth, to cater for recreational tourists and separate commercial use; 	Government of Western Australia - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.65 million for significant upgrades to visitor access and facilities in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area; • \$6 million for the Regional Aviation Recovery program to ensure affordable airfares for residents and tourists; and • \$14 million to widen Minilya-Exmouth Road in Exmouth. 	
7 August	Support for shellfish aquaculture	As part of the WA Recovery Plan, \$700,000 has been allocated to Albany's shellfish hatchery to expand its production capacity and help underpin an estimated 1,200 jobs. The additional infrastructure will include a greenhouse to increase microalgae production to feed young oysters and a new nursery to allow part of the production cycle to be located outside the existing hatchery, freeing space to increase spat output.	Government of Western Australia - media statement
6 August	Great Southern Recovery Plan	<p>The Western Australian Government has announced a \$57.7 million package for the Great Southern region as part of the WA Recovery Plan. The funding will focus on driving economic and social recovery and creating a pipeline of local jobs. The plan includes upgrades to TAFE infrastructure in the region, investment in local infrastructure, boosts for investment in existing and emerging industries, and support for programs to drive tourism.</p> <p>The plan includes, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$14 million through the Regional Road Safety Program to upgrade 155 kilometres of Great Southern roads; • \$12.78 million to establish trail towns and centres to service existing and new trails in the Great Southern region; • \$1.5 million towards a Katanning sheep feed efficiency facility to research feed efficiency and methane production in sheep; and • \$700,000 to increase production capacity of the Albany Shellfish Hatchery. 	Government of Western Australia - media statement
6 August	Wheatbelt Recovery Plan	<p>The Western Australian Government has announced multi-million dollar package for the Wheatbelt region as part of the WA Recovery Plan, including investing in local infrastructure, ensuring that local businesses are utilised to carry out this work where possible, and investing in programs to support tourism. The plan includes, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$141.7 million to refurbish social, remote and government workers housing across Western Australia's ageing housing stock; • \$35 million through the Regional Road Safety Program to upgrade 400 kilometres of 	Government of Western Australia - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Wheatbelt roads;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$425,000 for upgrades to visitor facilities in Nambung National Park, including improving services at the Pinnacles Desert Discovery Centre and sealing the access road and car park at Lake Thetis; and • \$175,000 for upgrades to visitor facilities in parks across the Wheatbelt region, including upgrading buildings, trails, camp sites and roads in the proposed Dryandra Woodland National Park and at Eaglestone Rock. 	
5 August	Support for local manufacturing	<p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, \$92.4 million of funding has been announced for initiatives to boost local manufacturing and create jobs. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40.1 million to construct a new diesel railcar maintenance facility; • \$13.2 million incentives program to make cathode active materials in lithium-ion batteries; • \$35.6 million towards local concrete manufacturing and local waste processing capabilities; • \$600,000 to assess the viability of a Collie Eco-Concrete Processing Plant which will analyse the benefits of Collie based concrete manufacturing using waste fly-ash from coal powered stations instead of imported cement; • \$15 million towards developing waste paper and cardboard processing capacity to support the COAG Waste Export Ban; • \$20 million in grants and industrial land to support the development of local waste processing capabilities and to implement the COAG Waste Export Ban; and • an action group to investigate the viability of manufacturing and maintaining iron ore wagons in Western Australia, with a report to be produced later this year. 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
4 August	Goldfields-Esperance Recovery Plan	<p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, the Government has announced a \$46 million Goldfields-Esperance Recovery Plan, to create a pipeline of jobs in the region and support the local economy. The Plan is focused on getting locals back to work and includes a significant investment in sectors including construction, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality, renewable energy, education and training, and agriculture.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
3 August	School upgrade package	<p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, a Major School Upgrade package totalling \$492.2 million has been announced. The funding will see 46 metropolitan schools will receive upgrades totalling</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		\$201.2 million, while 17 regional schools will share in a total of \$118 million.	statement
2 August	Sport and community infrastructure	<p>As updated on 4 and 5 August.</p> <p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, the Government has announced a \$300 million funding package for sport and community and infrastructure, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$130 million package to upgrade sport facilities, including grassroots clubs and high performance facilities, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a \$5 million upgrade for Hands Oval in Bunbury; and ○ \$6 million for the Donnybrook and Districts Sporting and Recreation Precinct; and • \$170 million to upgrade local community facilities across Western Australia. <p>This funding matches the Federal Government's contribution, and is contingent on the City of Perth providing a funding contribution towards the community project.</p> <p>As part of the \$170 million community infrastructure package, the Government will address 2 major coastal infrastructure projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$9.69 million to replace Woodman Point Jetty in Coogee; and • \$1.3 million for planning for the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp redevelopment in Exmouth. 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
31 July	Infrastructure funding	<p>As updated on 5, 6, 20 and 23 August.</p> <p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, the Western Australian Government has announced funding of \$330 million for major infrastructure and planning projects. The funding is targeted towards investments in defence, port and harbour infrastructure, and serviced land to help establish new business and research facilities and to deliver a pipeline of jobs for the COVID-19 recovery. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$158.8 million worth of improvements for ports and harbours, including \$10 million for priority works at the Port of Esperance; • \$100 million of funding for further industry development initiatives; and • \$87.6 million for Henderson's Australian Marine Complex. <p>On 5 and 6 August, further infrastructure funding was announced including:</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$33 million for new water infrastructure in Broome, including a \$23.3 million upgrade to the Broome North Wastewater Treatment Plant to enable it to treat all of Broome's wastewater, and the closure of the Broome South Wastewater Treatment Plant to protect the environmentally-significant Roebuck Bay. Construction is due to start in early 2021, subject to regulatory approvals; • \$38.9 million for upgrades to water service delivery to Aboriginal communities. The funding will see the Water Corporation become the licensed water service provider for several remote communities in the West Kimberley, with planning and investigations to also commence for some other remote communities. Water services will also be upgraded at several town-based communities throughout Western Australia; and • \$1.1 million to expand the scope of the existing Middleton Beach foreshore works, to deliver benefits such as increased parking, an extended public promenade and pedestrian walkways. <p>On 20 August, \$6.8 million in funding was announced for a renewal project at Hillarys Boat Harbour, to provide better facilities, create a pipeline of jobs and to attract visitors and families to the marina. The project involves the replacement of 4 jetties with new modern boat pen systems.</p> <p>On 23 August, the Government announced that more than \$100 million of additional funding has been invested into a new major roads infrastructure package. The Government expects that more than \$260 million will be spent on road and rail infrastructure works each month, building to \$280 million a month in the next financial year.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
31 July	Small business and other approvals	<p>The Western Australian Government has announced that it will spend \$2.25 million over the next 2 years to expand the Small Business Friendly Approvals Project to an additional 20 local governments, to reduce approval timeframes and costs for small business, making it easier for new businesses to open or existing businesses seeking to expand.</p> <p>In addition, legislation will be introduced to amend 4 laws to simplify approval decisions for mining, tourism and other developments. Reporting frequency will be also reduced to biennial after 3 years for projects with satisfactory reporting.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
30 July	Kimberley recovery plan	<p>As updated on 6 August.</p> <p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, a \$110.9 million package for the Kimberley region has been announced to drive economic and social recovery, and to create a pipeline of local jobs.</p> <p>The plan includes:</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$16 million in upgrades to TAFE infrastructure in the Kimberley, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$10 million to North Regional TAFE's Broome Campus for a new Hospitality and Student Services Centre to expand training in hospitality and tourism with a particular focus on supporting Aboriginal businesses; and ○ \$6 million to North Regional TAFE's Kununurra Campus for a new Health and Hospitality Trade Training Centre, to deliver specialist training facilities for NDIS related courses and hospitality training; • \$3 million to rebuild the early childhood education centre at Wyndham District High School; • \$29 million in various infrastructure projects, such as constructing the Broome Town Beach jetty and a 70 bed Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation facility in Kununurra; • \$27 million investment in renewable energy and new technologies, to create sustainable jobs, including installing Battery Energy Storage Systems to allow more customers to install rooftop solar systems and reduce their power bills, and investing in renewable energy projects across Derby; and • \$38 million to strengthen Western Australia's health and community services, including funding for Aboriginal regional suicide prevention plans in each region, upgrades to alcohol and other drug facilities in regional WA, and contributions towards the operating costs of regional renal hostels. <p>On 6 August, \$400 million in road upgrades were announced for the Kimberley region, including upgrades to Great Northern Highway, Broome Cape Leveque Road, Tanami Road, Duncan/Gordon Downs Roads and Gibb River Road. \$12 million from the program will be allocated towards widening, shoulder sealing and audible edge line installation on 5 separate sections of the Great Northern Highway. Works will begin in September 2020.</p>	<p>statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
28 July	Support for container deposit scheme participants	<p>Refund point operators and processors taking part in WA's new container deposit scheme, known as Containers for Change, will receive \$830,000 in assistance to help them through financial hardship due to COVID-19 delays.</p> <p>The Containers for Change launch was postponed due to the impact of COVID-19 and will now commence on 1 October 2020. Network participants were expecting income from 2 June, when the scheme was originally set to start. In preparation, participants made financial commitments such as taking on leases and staff to support their operations. The assistance package will be provided to 17 participants and will cover eligible costs associated with leases, loans, utilities and wages.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
27 July	Green Jobs Plan	As part of the WA Recovery Plan, more than \$60 million has been announced in funding over the next 3 years for environmental projects, which is expected to support 1,000 conservation jobs. The Green Jobs Plan will support projects that protect the environment and create jobs.	Government of Western Australia - media statement
26 July	Renewable energy boost	<p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, \$66.3 million has been announced for funding renewable energy technologies. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$44.5 million to build infrastructure in north-west WA, including an additional 50 standalone power systems, the installation of 9 Battery Energy Storage Systems in 9 regional communities, and infrastructure upgrades in remote Aboriginal communities; • a further \$10 million towards the Clean Energy Future Fund, adding to the \$9.3 million initially invested. Clean energy innovators can apply for funding of between \$250,000 and \$2 million for each clean energy project; • \$6 million worth of solar panels to be installed on social housing properties, which are expected to benefit around 500 properties; • \$4 million towards transforming up to 10 schools into smart, green Virtual Power Plants, receiving rooftop solar panel systems and commercial batteries; • \$1.8 million to install solar panels at up to 60 bus and rail stations. 	Government of Western Australia - media statement
26 July	Maintenance upgrades	As part of the WA Recovery Plan, the WA Government will invest more than \$60 million for shovel-ready maintenance upgrades to State Government facilities. This includes improvements to disability access at train stations, refurbishments of WA Police stations and upgrades to Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and Career Fire and Rescue Service stations. The maintenance work is expected to get underway shortly and will create an immediate jobs for workers such as electricians, painters, plumbers, builders and carpenters.	Government of Western Australia - media statement
26 July	WA Recovery Plan	<p>The WA Government released its \$5.5 billion WA Recovery Plan to help drive economic and social recovery across the State, and create a pipeline of jobs. The plan has been developed in consultation with the State Recovery Advisory Group, which includes representatives from business, industry, not-for-profit organisations, UnionsWA, the public sector, local government and the community.</p> <p>More details about the plan can be located at: https://inthistogether.wa.gov.au.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
23 July	Local Capability Fund	<p>As updated on 28 August.</p> <p>The Western Australian Government has announced new round of funding under the Local Capability Fund to help COVID-affected businesses and improve the Western Australian business community's capacity and competitiveness to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE), which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A \$6.5 million COVID-19 Business Recovery and Growth round, which includes co-funding of up to \$100,000 available to support any Western Australian SME impacted by the pandemic to build their capacity and competitiveness. Funding can be used for things such as upgrading plant and equipment, upskilling staff, improving business infrastructure, and engaging specialists to help with a range of needs including developing online sales solutions and cyber security. • A PPE Market Feasibility round, allocating up to \$20,000 per business to undertake an independent feasibility study into the viability of a business' PPE-manufacturing proposal. • A \$3 million PPE Manufacturing round, which includes a co-funding grant of up to \$500,000 to help SMEs who want to manufacture PPE such as masks, face visors, coveralls and ventilators. <p>On 28 August, the Government released a Problem and Opportunity Statement to secure manufacturing of PPE. The Statement is part of the Market-led Proposals program which aims to harness ideas from the private sector to help stimulate the economy and create jobs. As part of this, the Government is seeking to guarantee first access to locally manufactured PPE to meet potential surges in demand. Targeted items include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reusable facemasks; • anti-fog face shields; • examination and surgical gloves; • isolation and surgical gowns; • N95 and surgical masks; • safety glasses; and • swabs and collection tubes. 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>WA Industry Link - Local Capability Fund</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
15 July	Regional land	<p>A \$116 million Regional Land Booster package has been announced, which is intended to drive investment in regional Western Australia, boosting the economy, creating regional jobs and</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	booster	<p>assisting regional businesses to recover from the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>The package operates by discounting 1,095 development-ready industrial, commercial and residential lots across Western Australia.</p>	statement
2 July	TAFE and trainee support	<p>As updated on 28 July and 6 August.</p> <p>A \$57 million funding package has been announced for the training sector, which includes \$25 million for 15 free TAFE short courses to upskill Western Australians. These courses have been developed in consultation with industry to engage displaced workers, including women and young people, and meet immediate and emerging skill requirements as the economy recovers. Other TAFE fees will also be reduced fees by as much as 72%. Enrolments open on 6 July 2020.</p> <p>Separately, incentives have been announced for employers who take on a displaced apprentice or trainee. The Apprentice and Traineeship Re-engagement Incentive will offer employers a one-off payment of \$6,000 for hiring an apprentice and \$3,000 for hiring a trainee whose training contract was terminated on, or after, 1 March 2020. These incentives are available until 30 June 2021.</p> <p>On 28 July, the Government announced a \$229.2 million 'Rebuilding our TAFEs' plan as part of the WA Recovery Plan. The plan includes \$167.4 million in capital works projects to upgrade essential infrastructure across the 5 Western Australian TAFE colleges.</p> <p>The plan also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25 million for free short courses for upskilling; • \$32 million for the expansion of the Lower fees, local skills program; and • \$4.8 million for the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Re-engagement Incentive. <p>On 6 August, further works were announced under the Rebuilding our TAFEs plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$17 million for new trades training workshops at South Regional TAFE's Albany campus; • \$2 million to upgrade Central Regional TAFE's Northam campus, including contemporary training facilities and upgraded equipment; and • \$8 million in capital works investment for agricultural training at Muresk Institute, to train farm machinery technicians in new and emerging technologies. 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
1 July	Arts sector support	<p>As updated on 6 August.</p> <p>The Western Australian Government has announced a number of measures to support the arts</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>sector in bouncing back from COVID-19.</p> <p>A \$195,000 relief fund will be available for eligible regional art galleries that have had to cancel exhibitions and close their doors due to COVID-19. This will provide immediate support for the galleries to bounce back and ensure they have the capacity required to host visual art exhibitions and activities in the future as part of the Regional Exhibition Touring Boost.</p> <p>A new \$1 million grant program will also provide vital funding to support ongoing creative and cultural activity in Western Australia's regions. The Regional Arts Resilience Grants Program, delivered by Regional Arts WA, will offer up to \$15,000 to regional artists, cultural practitioners, and arts and cultural organisations. The grants will support creative development, community engagement and capacity-building projects (such as professional development and business development) that abide with COVID-19 restrictions. The first round of grants opens for applications in July 2020.</p> <p>On 6 August, the Government announced further funding for culture and the arts under the WA Recovery Plan, totalling \$76 million. The package includes, amongst other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a \$30 million redevelopment of Western Australia's iconic Perth Concert Hall; • a \$15 million upgrade to His Majesty's Theatre; • \$15 million allocated to the 'Getting the Show back on the Road' shared risk package to reactivate live performances and touring activities; • \$6 million towards the Jewish Community Centre in Yokine; and • \$2 million towards the development of online portals for Aboriginal art sales and presentation of performing arts activity. 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
1 July	Regional business water charges	<p>On 1 July, it was announced that increases to non-residential water charges across 10 regional schemes would be delayed, preventing an average 11.6% increase to provide further financial relief for regional businesses affected by COVID-19.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
30 June	Regional air travel and airports support	<p>As updated on 6 July and 19 August.</p> <p>The Western Australian Government announced that, in partnership with Rex airlines, additional air services to Albany, Esperance and Carnarvon will be provided to assist the COVID-19 recovery, and to ensure the affordability and accessibility of regional air travel.</p> <p>The additional funding for these services will remain in place until 30 September 2020. Air services will double to 8 per week on the Albany and Esperance air routes, while the Carnarvon air route will increase from 3 to 5 weekly return services. In addition, community fares can now be purchased up</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>to 7 days prior to departure instead of 24 hours.</p> <p>The additional routes and access to community air fares is intended encourage demand and help stimulate local regional economies.</p> <p>On 6 July, it was announced that \$3.1 million worth of grants available for regional airports had been brought forward to encourage economic recovery stimulus initiatives and programs in response to COVID-19. The grant round will focus on labour-intensive infrastructure projects that can be completed by the end of 2021. Applications for the grand round will close on 7 August 2020.</p> <p>On 19 August, it was announced that the Government and Rex airlines would collaborate to deliver more flights to Albany, Esperance, Carnarvon and Monkey Mia. These additional air services complement those announced in June, when the number of services doubled on the Albany and Esperance air routes and Carnarvon air services increased from 3 to 5.</p>	<p>Australia - media statement</p>
21 June	Infrastructure funding	<p>The Western Australian Government has partnered with the Commonwealth government to fund shovel-ready road safety projects to support jobs as part of the COVID-19 economy recovery strategy. The State will contribute \$47 million for the projects, while the Commonwealth Government has committed to \$176 million in funding.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
18 June	Elder abuse prevention	<p>\$370,000 of funding has been allocated to provide support for those dealing with elder abuse, in recognition that COVID-19 has caused more people to be vulnerable to scams and forms of elder abuse. The Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre will be allocated funding for an elder abuse peer education program while Council on the Ageing WA will be funded as a peak body for vulnerable older people.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
16 June	Film industry support	<p>On 16 June, the Government announced \$16 million for the WA Screen Fund, to be delivered over the next 4 years. The funding will be used to support the recovery of the film industry after COVID-19 and to encourage production in the State's regions to help to boost local economies.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
11 June	Innovation support	<p>As updated on 22 June and 22 July.</p> <p>Up to \$800,000 in funding is available to support start-ups and innovative small and medium enterprises impacted by COVID-19. The funding will be sourced from the New Industries Fund, and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Innovation Vouchers Program: an additional \$300,000 to support 16 more Innovation Vouchers, worth up to \$20,000 each, to start-ups and SMEs. This is additional to the existing \$400,000 allocated for the 2020 program, bringing the total value to \$700,000.</p> 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>The total 36 Innovation Voucher grants will support SMEs to access professional skills, services and knowledge to advance their ideas and commercial activities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA Data Science Innovation Hub and the AustCyber WA Innovation Hub: \$400,000 funding to help build the hubs' capacity to advise start-ups and SMEs on cyber security and the use of data science for business development, including in regional areas; and • X-TEND WA Program: \$100,000 funding for education and mentoring programs, which will be delivered by existing X-TEND WA program recipients. This is intended to boost entrepreneurs and innovative projects that support diversity and promote inclusion in the innovation community, as well as WA businesses that wish to pivot their business models as a result of COVID-19. <p>On 22 June, the Government announced the GroundSwell program, through which grants of up to \$200,000 are available for experienced training providers to assist regional business with performance and technology adoption during the COVID-19 recovery, such as by delivering targeted entrepreneurship and technology training. GroundSwell aims to deliver technology uptake and capability building programs to support growth for regional entrepreneurs, small businesses and start-ups. Funding for GroundSwell will be sourced from the New Industries Fund.</p> <p>On 22 July, the Government awarded 36 Innovation Vouchers, each valued up to \$20,000, which included an additional 16 vouchers to help start-ups respond to the impact of COVID-19.</p>	<p>Australia - media statement</p>
9 June	FIFO incentives	<p>The Western Australian Government is offering incentives to fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers who reside in the Eastern states to relocate to WA permanently as part of its COVID-19 recovery plan. The core incentive is that FIFO workers will be eligible to access the \$20,000 Building Bonus grant announced on 7 June, which is ordinarily only available to Western Australians.</p> <p>Several members of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy will also offer incentives to assist with relocation costs and mortgage payments.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
7 June	Housing stimulus package	<p>As updated on 15 September.</p> <p>The Government has announced a \$444 million housing stimulus package to boost Western Australia's economic recovery, and support the building and construction sectors. The package is intended to provide incentives for Western Australians to build new homes and deliver more social and affordable housing options for Western Australians.</p> <p>It will deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$117 million for \$20,000 Building Bonus grants provided to homebuyers who sign up before 31 December 2020 to build new houses or purchase a new property in a single tier 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>development (such as a townhouse) prior to construction finishing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8.2 million to expand the 75% off-the-plan transfer duty rebate, capped at \$25,000, until 31 December 2020 to include purchases in multi-tiered developments already under construction; • \$97 million to construct approximately 250 social housing dwellings and purchase off-the-plan units for supported housing programs; • \$142 million to refurbish 1,500 existing social housing dwellings; and • \$80 million for targeted maintenance programs for 3,800 regional social housing properties, including remote Aboriginal communities' stock and subsidised housing for regional government workers. <p>The plan is scheduled for immediate rollout, and will run into 2021.</p> <p>On 15 September, the Government announced an Industry Support Fund, which includes an additional \$30 million towards the Building Bonus program.</p>	<p>statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
27 May	State Recovery Advisory Group	<p>As updated on 11 June.</p> <p>The Government has established a top-level State Recovery Advisory Group to help lead Western Australia's recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. The group includes representatives from business, industry, not-for-profit organisations, Unions WA, the public sector, local government and the community. The group will provide high level and strategic advice on the impacts of COVID-19 and help to guide the development of the State Recovery Plan.</p> <p>On 11 June, the State Recovery Advisory Group held a major workshop to provide strategic advice to help guide the development of the State Recovery Plan. The Group will provide input on the State Government's Draft Impact Statement, developed to summarise the known and emerging impacts of COVID-19 and focusing on 5 key recovery areas – health, economic and infrastructure, social, industry and regions.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
25 May	Support for artists	<p>The Government has approved a \$1.5 million support package to support Western Australian artists during the COVID-19 emergency, through an initiative developed by the Art Gallery of WA Board and the Art Gallery of WA Foundation.</p> <p>Under the initiative, all living Western Australian artists represented in the State Art Collection will receive \$2,000 towards creating an online State Art Collection archive. In addition, independent and art centre-based Aboriginal artists will share up to \$525,000 through a targeted acquisition program to purchase existing works from up to 15 independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		artists and from 25 Aboriginal art centres.	
21 May	Training, skills and workforce review	<p>As updated on 28 July.</p> <p>An urgent review of skills, training and workforce development will be undertaken in response to COVID-19. The review team will engage with industry and business to identify training needs and develop specific proposals that respond to these needs. The review will aim to identify practical and responsive training solutions for the post-COVID-19 recovery period. The review team will provide a report on key opportunities, practical actions and proposed TAFE implementation responses to the State Recovery Controller by 30 June 2020.</p> <p>On 28 July, the report of the Review of Skills, Training and Workforce Development was published, with the Government committing to advancing all of the recommendations within the report. The 41 observations and recommendations focus on preparing the workforce for the digital world, furthering new technologies and creating new futures for displaced workers.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
20 May	Agriculture and resources export support	<p>As updated on 15 July.</p> <p>Two Western Australian-based resource sector export hubs worth \$3.8 million in combined Federal and State Government funding will be established to help small and medium-sized enterprises get export-ready and be more internationally competitive.</p> <p>Subsea Energy Australia (SEA) and Austmine have received \$1.4 million and \$500,000 respectively from the Australian Government that will enable them to help small and medium-sized enterprises tap into new international markets. Invest and Trade WA committed \$350,000 and in-kind support worth \$50,000 to Austmine, and offered facilitation support to SEA, which helped secure their SME Export Hubs Initiative grants.</p> <p>On 15 July, the Government announced grants of between \$50,000 and \$100,000 to assist regional agri-food and beverage businesses to stabilise and capture market opportunities in Asia. Recipients will be able to invest in a range of areas that stimulate business growth, like improving scale, diversifying markets, product quality, competitiveness and supply chains, or that develop innovative ways to engage with Asian markets, customers or consumers on virtual or online platforms. Applications are open until 12 August 2020.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
20 May	Planning reforms	<p>As updated on 28 May, 24 and 26 June, 11 July, and 20 August.</p> <p>The Western Australian Government has proposed major planning reforms to help support COVID-19 economic recovery. The Planning and Development Bill 2020 will introduce a series of amendments to planning legislation and regulations to simplify the planning system, cut red tape</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>and increase support for small business.</p> <p>The first initiative, made effective upon the passing of the legislation, would introduce a new development application process for significant, job-creating projects for the next 18 months to provide immediate support for the State's economic recovery. This model is intended to ensure that large and complex developments receive a State co-ordinated approach with referral agencies and streamlined assessment processes to ensure job creating projects can start as soon as possible.</p> <p>Further proposed changes in the reforms will provide flexibility for small businesses, improve community engagement requirements and increase the number of exemptions for approval, including to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • abolish change of use approvals for a number of different types of small business, which is often required by local governments to start up or adapt a business; • exempt a wider range of small residential projects such as patios, decks and extensions from planning approval; • abolish onerous requirements on small businesses to pay cash-in-lieu for parking shortfalls up to 10 bays; and • improve community consultation by mandating consistent consultation processes across the State. <p>On 24 June the reforms passed Parliament. The Act introduces a new development application process for "significant developments" and developments of State or regional importance, being a metropolitan development with an estimated cost of \$20 million or more, or \$5 million in the case of a regional development. On 11 July, the Government confirmed that the reforms had received Royal Assent.</p> <p>An application for a significant development can be made directly to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) by the applicant. The new process gives the WAPC broad powers to consider and determine a development application. In particular, the WAPC is not bound or restricted by any "legal instrument" that would apply but for the new provisions. Similarly, the WAPC is not bound by planning schemes, interim development orders, or any other scheme, code, policy or plan.</p> <p>On 20 August, 30 proposed amendments to the <i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015</i> were released for consultation and public comment. The amendments are intended to streamline the planning system in support of Western Australia's economic recovery from COVID-19. Comments are open until 18 September 2020.</p>	<p>Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>KWM Insight</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
13 May	Tourism support package	<p>As updated on 22 and 28 May, 21 July, and 8, 11 and 18 August.</p> <p>The Western Australian Government has announced a new \$14.4 million package to support small tourism businesses in WA to recover from COVID-19.</p> <p>The initiative includes two funding programs, with an initial \$10.4 million in one-off cash grants for up to 1,600 individual small businesses around the State. The \$6,500 grants will provide immediate support to eligible tourism operators including micro tourism businesses, such as sole traders and businesses with 4 or fewer employees, with annual taxable wages of less than \$1 million, including accommodation, attraction, tour and transport businesses.</p> <p>The second \$4 million Tourism Business Survival Grants package will be available for tourism operators dealing with exceptionally difficult circumstances, with grants of \$25,000-\$100,000 available. The Survival Grants will target businesses located in parts of the State with more restrictive travel bans in place, or whose circumstances otherwise mean they will face a more difficult road to recovery. Businesses which deliver iconic experiences are also eligible to apply. A probity auditor will review the robust and transparent criteria-led application and panel assessment.</p> <p>On 22 May, the Government announced that the Donnybrook Regional Tourism Association will receive a \$50,000 grant to develop a tourism initiative designed to support local businesses in the COVID-19 recovery, by driving visitation to Collie-Preston.</p> <p>On 28 May, the Government announced \$1 million of funding to support 77 regional events, to help kick-start tourism in regional areas as regional border restrictions are lifted.</p> <p>On 21 July, the Government announced a partnership with Virgin Australia to deliver cheaper fares to Broome and Kununurra, in an effort to boost the recovery of Kimberley tourism operators who have been affected by COVID-19. Western Australians can book one of the nearly 8,000 discounted tickets to fly to Broome for \$199 one-way or Kununurra \$229 one-way from 3 August to 31 October 2020.</p> <p>On 8 August, the Government announced a \$150 million tourism package as part of the WA Recovery Plan. Key tourism attractions across the State will be enhanced, with construction to begin on new visitor facilities, camp sites, trails, jetties, boardwalks, and other amenities and infrastructure. Attractions that will benefit from the package include Kings Park, Margaret River, Karijini National Park, Monkey Mia, the Pinnacles, Rottneest Island and Ningaloo.</p> <p>On 11 August, \$3 million in funding was announced for the construction of 2 new jetties to boost tourism along the Batavia Coast. The jetties will be dedicated tourism facilities specifically designed for easy loading and unloading of passengers, and will assist commercial operators as they work to increase visits to the Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 18 August, the Government invited market-led proposals for new, high-quality tourism experiences that may support tourism industry recovery following COVID-19. The call for proposals is for any initiative relating to lands and waters managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, which include some of the State's premier visitor destinations.</p>	
13 May	Government procurement changes	<p>As updated on 27 May, and 3 and 22 July.</p> <p>New legislation has been introduced into Parliament to provide a simpler and more consistent Government procurement framework to help accelerate the State's economic recovery post the COVID-19 pandemic. The Procurement Bill 2020, which will replace the <i>State Supply Commission Act 1991</i>, is intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> streamline tender processes and documents across Government to make it easier for business to work with Government; simplify procurement processes for Government to support the objectives of the <i>Western Australian Jobs Act 2017</i> and the Government's plan for fobs; improve flexibility to apply economic and social policy objectives across all areas of procurement; encourage innovative opportunities with industry and other areas outside of Government through new and more flexible procurement opportunities; and improve the integrity of public sector procurement with greater audit and investigation powers. <p>The Bill passed the Legislative Council on 21 May. The changes will take effect on 2 June 2020.</p> <p>On 3 July, the Government announced the new and improved WA Buy Local Policy 2020, to create more opportunities for regional businesses and thousands of jobs in regional Western Australia to support the COVID-19 recovery. Local businesses in regions where the work is being carried out will be invited to bid for contracts in their local area and the revised Regional Price Preferences will ensure these businesses are given a stronger weighting than those from other areas.</p> <p>The changes to procurement of works contracts took effect on 22 July 2020, and will remain in place until the end of 2020.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
12 May	Regional Economic Development	<p>Applications are now open for round three of the Regional Economic Development Grants, with a total of \$6 million in grants available. This round of grants will have a particular focus on projects which help sustain jobs, expand or diversify industry, build skills and capacity, attract new</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	Grants	investment and maximise the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic impacts.	
4 May	Support for regional chambers of commerce	Regional chambers of commerce across Western Australia will receive a total of \$235,000 in funding to support their financial viability during COVID-19. During the crisis, chambers of commerce have reported a drop in income from memberships and the need to postpone fundraising events, threatening their long-term viability. Amounts between \$5,000 and \$20,000 will be provided to chambers, depending on size and need.	Government of Western Australia - media statement
2 May	Faster payment for government suppliers	The Department of Finance will fast-track payments to suppliers for invoices of under \$1 million as part of a new initiative that will provide additional support for Western Australian businesses during and after COVID-19. For eligible invoices, the standard payment terms will be reduced to 10 days.	Government of Western Australia - media statement
1 May	Disability jobs website	The Western Australian Government has launched a new website that will support workforce capacity in the disability sector, assist jobseekers to apply for roles and minimise disruption for people with disability during COVID-19. The website is intended to reduce the time and effort required to apply for jobs in the disability sector and to shortlist job seekers.	Government of Western Australia - media statement
30 April	Transport projects fast-tracked	<p>The Western Australian Government has approved new measures to streamline the process for the awarding of contracts for transport construction projects up to a value of \$20 million to create more opportunities for workers and businesses.</p> <p>The new State-wide Construction Panel will be established to expedite the delivery of these projects, with a mandate to minimise the costs of tendering for companies and to maximise the spread of work among small and medium-sized contractors. Up to \$140 million of transport projects will be expedited under the Panel arrangements.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement
23 April	Construction workforce support	<p>As updated on 5 June.</p> <p>A \$24.5 million support package for the Western Australian construction workforce has been announced. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$10 million in immediate support, including a \$2,000 payment to employers to retain existing apprentices and trainees; \$9.5 million for a new monthly payment program for employers of apprentices and trainees for 6 months from 1 April 2020 (payments will begin from 1 June and will be backdated); and \$5 million to support more than 5,000 apprentices and trainees to complete short training 	Government of Western Australia - media statement Government of Western Australia - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>courses to upskill (up to \$1,000 per course).</p> <p>On 5 June, it was announced that training costs will be covered for apprentices and trainees who have had their contracts cancelled or suspended to continue their training 'off the job' for up to 6 months as a result of COVID-19. Fees will be paid by the Department of Training and Workforce Development directly to training providers. Providers will be able to access these payments from 1 July 2020.</p>	
23 April	Mining industry support	<p>As updated on 7 May, 3 July and 4 August.</p> <p>The Mines Safety Levy will be reduced by 20% to 17 cents per billable hour from 1 July 2020 to provide relief to mining companies.</p> <p>On 7 May, the Government announced that it would streamline administrative procedures to the maximum extent possible to support the mining sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, a key focus will be encouraging the use of online services rather than lodging physical documents. To facilitate this, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety will now accept electronic signatures on documents, which are not required to be witnessed or sworn, and other tenement-related documents will be emailed where possible.</p> <p>The Mining Regulations 1981 have also been temporarily amended to support stakeholders impacted by COVID-19. Under the revised regulations, tenement holders can now apply for expenditure exemptions if they are able to demonstrate that COVID-19 has affected their ability to meet their expenditure conditions.</p> <p>The temporary amendments reduce the amount of time allowed for an objection to be lodged, from 35 days to 14 days, and all exemption applications will now be published online. Guidelines have been developed to assist stakeholders through the new interim process and to ensure applications remain of a high-quality.</p> <p>Additionally, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety has cut its assessment timeframes in half for exploration Programme of Work applications. The new timeframe target for applications has been reduced from 30 to 15 business days.</p> <p>On 4 August, an extra \$5 million in funding was announced for the Exploration and Incentive Scheme and \$3.2 million for Curtin University to purchase a new ion microprobe, as part of the WA Recovery Plan.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety - administrative changes</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
22 April	Support for air freight industry	<p>The Western Australian Government has provided support for the resumption of air freight of Western Australian agri-food exports to Singapore. \$624,000 in funding has been committed towards temporarily offsetting significantly increased air freight costs and supporting dedicated air freight services. This support recognises that travel restrictions for passenger flights have</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		drastically reduced agri-food cargo options.	
15 April	Lottery regulation	<p>The <i>Lotteries Commission Amendment (COVID-19 Response) Bill 2020</i> has been introduced into Parliament to support LotteryWest retailers, players and the community. The Bill will provide Lotterywest with temporary powers to utilise its expertise in grant administration to assist other public authorities to provide grant programs during and after COVID-19. It will also enable Lotterywest to expand its ability to fund other grant programs using its existing processes, during the emergency period.</p> <p>The Bill also supports social distancing by allowing for an extended prize pay-out period and for digital copies of tickets to be accepted to reduce the need for players to physically attend stores. Every profit made by Lotterywest from jackpots, draws and tickets is being directed into the newly created COVID-19 relief fund to assist the Western Australian community.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement
14 April	Industrial relations orders	<p>As updated on 14 May.</p> <p>The Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission will issue a General Order to allow private sector and State system employees to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if required to self-isolate, take unpaid pandemic leave of up to 2 weeks by agreement with their employer; • double annual leave at half pay, by agreement between the employer and the employee; and • take annual leave in advance, by agreement between the employer and employee. <p>These measures will operate from 14 April to 31 July 2020 and may be extended.</p> <p>The General Order applies to all private sector employees and State system employees, including casual staff, whether covered by an award or not. The General Order will prevail to the extent of any conflict with an applicable award, except where the award contains more beneficial terms than the General Order.</p> <p>On 14 May, the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission issued the COVID-19 JobKeeper General Order. The new Order applies in addition to the earlier Order.</p> <p>The new Order allows employers participating in the Commonwealth's JobKeeper scheme to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issue a 'JobKeeper enabling direction' to temporarily alter or reduce an employee's working hours, change an employee's duties and change their location of work; and 	Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission - media release Government of Western Australia - media release Government of Western Australia - media release Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> request that an employee change their days/times of work. <p>State system employers using the new provisions must comply with a number of specific requirements set out in the General Order.</p> <p>The new provisions apply immediately, and will be in place until 28 September 2020. The Order was made in response to an application by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA, which was supported by Unions WA and the State Government.</p>	
3 April	Changes to planning and development regulations	<p>As updated on 11 April.</p> <p>Changes to planning and development regulations came into effect, which provide for the continuation of essential public services in a State of Emergency.</p> <p>Amendments to the <i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015</i> provide the Minister for Planning with authority to temporarily override requirements and conditions set out in a local planning scheme, and existing conditions in planning approvals.</p> <p>This could include exemptions relating to noise or amenity restrictions that guide supermarket deliveries, waste and recycling services and construction activities, and take-away and retail delivery services among other locally driven compliance requirements.</p> <p>On 11 April, the Planning Minister released a range of exemptions made under the new powers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> medical or health-related facilities required in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; truck and logistic companies needing to deliver goods but currently with restricted loading and unloading times; businesses seeking to adapt by changing their current approved use; restaurants and cafes required to sell takeaway in contravention of current planning conditions; people operating their businesses from residential zones; the parking of commercial vehicles on residential properties; businesses needing to change signage; and provision of temporary workers' accommodation. <p>The Minister has also granted a blanket two-year extension for all current development approvals, as well as a temporary waiver of any requirement to provide up to 10 car bays and/or cash in lieu</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		for non-residential development.	
3 April	Tourism industry support	A new Industry Support Team has been established to assist WA tourism operators during COVID-19. From 6 April, the team will contact tourism operators to help them navigate the various assistance packages and to discover recovery ideas. These conversations will also be used to inform future support initiatives.	Government of Western Australia - media statement
2 April	Defence research grants	Applications are open for grants between \$50,000 to \$150,000 to support collaborative research that will help to strengthen Western Australia's defence industry during the economic fallout of COVID-19.	Government of Western Australia - media statement
1 April	Relief package for on-demand transport	<p>A \$9 million relief package for the On-demand Transport industry was introduced. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.7 million in Regional Taxi Assistance Payments available to around 200 former country taxi licensees who paid a sum to a third party to acquire a taxi-car business and were operating against that licence on 1 July 2019; • a cash payment of \$2,500 to around 600 authorised On-demand Booking Services that also hold an active Passenger Transport Vehicle (PTV) authorisation; • waiving PTV authorisation renewal fees of \$113 per vehicle for the next 12 months. This applies to approximately 17,500 vehicles used for on-demand taxi and charter, tourism and regular passenger transport services; and • waiving On-demand Booking Service authorisation renewal fees for the next 12 months. <p>Furthermore, the requirement for all metropolitan and regional taxis to have a new or upgraded cameras has been delayed from 2 July 2020 to at least 1 July 2021.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement
31 March	Utility bills for businesses and charities	<p>As updated on 27 May.</p> <p>Electricity bills for small businesses will be reduced, with a one-off \$2,500 credit available for Synergy and Horizon Power customers that consume less than 50 megawatt hours (MWh) per annum. The credit is available for current customers (as of 31 March 2020) and will be allocated from 1 May to reduce current and future electricity bills. The measure will provide relief to businesses such as cafes, delis, restaurants, beauticians and small retail stores that have been heavily impacted by recent trading restrictions.</p> <p>Furthermore, electricity bills for around 2,800 charities will be reduced, with a one-off \$2,500 credit</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement Government of Western Australia - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>provided for groups on community service and charitable accommodation electricity tariffs with Synergy and Horizon Power. The credit will be allocated from 1 May.</p> <p>No small businesses facing financial difficulty due to COVID-19 will face power or water disconnections due to late payments. In addition, no interest will be charged on deferred bill payments. For electricity, this will apply to Synergy and Horizon Power customers who consume 50MWh or less.</p> <p>On 27 May, the Government announced that businesses with 4 or more wastewater fixtures may be eligible to have their service charges waived for the period of 1 May to 31 August 2020. The businesses must be eligible for JobKeeper in order to apply for the measure and can receive approximately \$41,000 in relief through the waiver. The measure is estimated to be worth \$5.5 million.</p>	
31 March	Range of licence fees waived for SMEs	\$100.4 million has been allocated to waive a wide range of licence fees for small and medium-sized businesses in COVID-19 impacted industries for the next 12 months. This includes licences for building services, plumbers and electricians; tourism businesses operating in national and marine parks; boat registration and mooring fees for tourism operators and commercial fishers; commercial fisheries licences; taxi booking service authorisation fees; settlement agent licence fees; and other statutory planning fees.	Government of Western Australia - media statement
27 March	Mining exploration relief	Mining exploration businesses in Western Australia can apply for an expenditure exemption if they are unable to meet the tenement's expenditure requirements as a direct result of COVID-19 or because of restrictions imposed by the State or Federal Governments. The exemption is valid until 31 March 2021, unless rescinded earlier. Applications for the exemption can be made to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.	Government of Western Australia - media statement
27 March	Liquor licencing	<p>Foods outlets and venues with existing liquor licences can apply for an occasional liquor licence for up to 6 months to allow the sale of packaged alcohol with a takeaway meal. The licence will allow the vendor to sell one bottle of wine and six-pack of beer, cider or pre-mixed spirits with each takeaway or delivered meal order. Licence applications can be made online and will be fast-tracked, with the application fee waived.</p> <p>Wine producers can also make cellar-door sales of up to 12 bottles per customer per week to customers in Western Australia.</p> <p>On 31 March, the Government announced that liquor licence renewal fees for 2020 will be waived and refunds provided for businesses that have already paid.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement Government of Western Australia - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
27 March	Agricultural labour	The Western Australian Government and FoodAllianceWA have launched a program to support jobs and fill labour shortages in the agriculture and food industry, by connecting job seekers with opportunities. A new website and searchable employment database have been created, which can be accessed by Western Australian agricultural and food businesses for free for 12 months.	Government of Western Australia - media statement Jobs in WA - food and agriculture
23 March	Transfer duty, landholder duty, vehicle licence duty and land tax	<p>As updated on 31 March.</p> <p>From 23 March 2020, penalties for late payment of tax liabilities will be waived for households who demonstrate that COVID-19 has directly or indirectly affected their financial circumstances. These taxpayers may also apply for an interest-free payment arrangement for transfer duty, landholder duty, vehicle licence duty or land tax.</p> <p>Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can also apply for an interest-free payment arrangement and for late payment penalties to be waived for transfer duty, landholder duty, vehicle licence duty or land tax.</p> <p>This be in place until 30 September 2020 and will be reviewed when necessary.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement Government of Western Australia - media statement
20 March	Rental relief and tenant protection	<p>As updated on 30 March, 14, 21 and 23 April, 1 and 29 May, and 10 September.</p> <p>The Premier has announced that the Government is developing policies to prevent evictions of small businesses and to ease pressure on commercial tenants. Further details are to be released when the policies are finalised.</p> <p>On 30 March, the Government announced that it will waive rental payments for small businesses and not-for-profit groups in Government-owned buildings for 6 months to help these lease holders respond to the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 14 April, the Government announced that it would introduce new legislation to address tenancies impacted by rental distress due to COVID-19. The <i>Commercial Tenancies (COVID-19 Response) Bill 2020</i> includes measures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • place a 6-month moratorium on evictions for small commercial tenancies; • implement a freeze on rent increases and on-charging interest on rent arrears; • restrict penalties for tenants who do not trade or reduce their trading hours; and • introduce an enhanced dispute resolution process for commercial tenants and landlords. 	Small Business WA - media release Government of Western Australia - media statement Government of Western Australia - media statement Government of western Australia - media statement Government of western Australia - media statement Government of Western Australia - media

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>The <i>Residential Tenancies (COVID-19 Response) Bill 2020</i> includes measures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> place a 6 month moratorium on evictions except in limited circumstances (such as serious damage or abandonment); prohibit rent increases during the emergency periods; ensure that expiring fixed term tenancies continue as periodic tenancies; relieve landlords of ordinary repair obligations if under financial hardship; and enable a tenant to end a lease without incurring lease break fees. <p>On 21 April, both of the amending Bills passed Parliament. The eviction moratorium period will be backdated to 30 March 2020.</p> <p>On 23 April, the Government announced a new \$130 million relief package to support tenants and landlords:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100 million has been set aside for land tax relief grants for commercial landlords, equivalent to 25% of the land tax bill for eligible properties in 2019/20. To be eligible, the property must be rented by a small business that has suffered a 30% or more reduction in turnover due to COVID-19. The landlord must provide the tenant with 3 months of relief for rent and outgoings. \$30 million has been allocated for grants of up to \$2,000 for residential tenants who have lost their job and are facing financial hardship. Grants equivalent to 4 weeks' rent up to a maximum of \$2,000 will be paid directly to the tenant's landlord, to contribute to the tenant's rental payments. The grants will be provided in addition to rental reductions negotiated between tenants and landlords. To be eligible, the tenant or sub-tenant must have lost their job, applied to Centrelink for income support, have less than \$10,000 in savings and pay at least 25% of their income towards rent. <p>Applications for the grants will be open from 1 May 2020.</p> <p>On 29 May, the Government launched a new code of conduct for small commercial leases in Western Australia, which applies to small businesses with a turnover of less than \$50 million a year, and that qualify for JobKeeper, or have experienced a decline in turnover of 30% or more during the emergency period (6 months from 30 March 2020). Small charities only need to show a 15% reduction in turnover.</p> <p>The code provides guidelines to assist commercial tenants and landlords to negotiate a rent relief agreement during COVID-19 to ensure businesses survive the economic downturn associated with</p>	<p>statement</p> <p>Small Business WA - commercial tenancy support fact sheet</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>KWM Insight</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>the pandemic.</p> <p>The code outlines a process for tenants to request rent relief. Landlords are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> offer relief at least proportionate to the reduction in turnover that the business has suffered; and provide at least half of that rent relief as a waiver, with the rest to be either deferred or waived. <p>On 10 September, the Government announced that it is extending the emergency period under the <i>Commercial Tenancies (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020</i> until 28 March 2021. Existing laws, including the moratorium on evictions, freeze on rent increases and code of conduct for small business commercial lease rent relief negotiations, will continue to apply in a more targeted manner until this date.</p> <p>After 29 September 2020, when the current arrangements were due to end, the commercial tenancies legislation will be refined to offer assistance to small businesses that continue to experience financial hardship resulting from the pandemic and qualify for JobKeeper (or their loss in turnover is more than 30%).</p>	
16 March	Payroll tax	<p>As updated on 31 March, 9 and 21 April, and 23 September.</p> <p>The \$1 million payroll tax threshold will be brought forward by 6 months to 1 July 2020 and payroll tax payments to be deferred until 21 July 2020 for businesses impacted by COVID-19. The deferral is available to employers who pay \$7.5 million or less in Australian Taxable Wages and who have been directly or indirectly impacted by COVID-19, as compared to normal operating conditions.</p> <p>On 31 March, the Government further announced that payroll tax will be waived for a 4 month period between 1 March to 30 June for small and medium-sized businesses with Australia-wide annual wages of less than \$7.5 million in 2019-20. This payroll tax waiver replaces the payroll tax deferral mentioned above for particular small and medium-sized businesses.</p> <p>On 9 April, the Government confirmed that WA businesses will not need to pay payroll tax on Commonwealth JobKeeper payments.</p> <p>On 20 April, the <i>Pay-Roll Tax Relief (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020</i> received Royal Assent and is deemed to have taken effect from 1 March 2020.</p> <p>On 23 September, the Government confirmed that WA businesses will continue to be exempt from payroll tax on payments under the extended JobKeeper scheme.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - payroll tax information</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - payroll tax announcement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
16 March	Small business grant	<p>As updated on 31 March and 16 July.</p> <p>Employers that pay annual Australia Taxable Wages between \$1 million and \$4 million will receive an automatic one-off grant of \$17,500, to be paid by cheque from July 2020.</p> <p>Eligible businesses can be employers, or groups of employers. For a group of employers, a single grant will be payable to the designated group employer.</p> <p>It was further announced that small to medium businesses will begin to receive the one-off grants from 16 July. Eligibility for employers not registered for payroll tax in 2018-19 will be determined on their reconciled 2019-20 Australian taxable wages, with grants paid later in 2020.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - payroll tax information</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - payroll tax information</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media release</p>
16 March	Household payments	<p>As updated on 31 March, 25 June and 15 September.</p> <p>A freeze will be placed on household fees and charges, including electricity, water, motor vehicle charges, the emergency services levy and public transport fares. Household tariffs, fees and charges will not increase effective 1 July 2020. Previously, the Budget included an increase of 2% across these fees, tariffs and charges.</p> <p>\$91 million will be allocated to double the Energy Assistance Package (EAP) in 2020-21 to provide additional support. The payment will increase from \$300 to \$600 for eligible concession card-holders. On 31 March, the Premier announced that eligibility would be extended to include new applicants until 30 September 2020. This is to ensure that the EAP will also be provided individuals who become unemployed due to COVID-19 and becomes eligible for a concession card.</p> <p>Synergy and Horizon customers experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 will not have their utilities disconnected and from 1 April 2020 will not be charged interest on deferred bill payments.</p> <p>Keystart customers facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 can apply to defer principal repayments and waive interest costs by up to 6 months. Assistance will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in line with Keystart's Hardship Assessment policy.</p> <p>These initiatives will be in place until 30 September 2020. On 15 September, it was announced that the disconnection moratorium for residential water and electricity customers will be extended to</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - COVID-19 fact sheet</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>30 June 2021.</p> <p>On 25 June, it was announced that the total representative household basket of fees and charges will decrease by 1% in 2020-21. This measure is expected to cost \$37 million, saving households up to \$63.52. This is the first time that the household model in its current form has decreased.</p>	

Health and Community Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
26 August	Social Connectivity Grants for seniors	A new \$250,000 Social Connectivity Grants Program has been launched to ease the impact of COVID-19 on the connection of seniors to their communities. Grants of up to \$15,000 are available to local governments and community organisations to support capacity-building projects that prevent older people from experiencing isolation and reduce the risk and occurrence of elder abuse.	Government of Western Australia - media statement
5 August	Bunbury Hospital redevelopment	As part of the WA Recovery Plan, \$38 million has been announced in additional funding for the redevelopment of the Bunbury Hospital, with preliminary work expected to commence this year. The redevelopment will focus on priority clinical areas, including procuring clinical equipment for the intensive care unit and establishing an acute medical assessment unit.	Government of Western Australia - media statement
2 August	Youth support projects	<p>As updated on 28 August.</p> <p>As part of the WA Recovery Plan, \$17.76 million of funding has been announced for infrastructure and upgrade works at youth support and community centres across Western Australia. The projects selected to receive funding include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3 million for a youth centre in Madeley; • \$4.9 million for revitalisation of Ern Halliday Recreation Camp, including upgrade of camp accommodation and dining facilities, and improvements of asset sustainability across the camps network; • \$1.86 million for the Ellenbrook Youth Centre; and • \$8 million for additional multipurpose youth and community infrastructure. <p>On 28 August, a further \$180,000 in funding was announced to increase access to youth services. The funding will be implemented through the new Youth Digital Inclusion Project, which will repurpose laptops, tablets and phones to enable vulnerable youth to connect with online support services, and a Live Dashboard update to the Western Australian Youth Services Directory, to make it easier for young people to find the help they need when they need it.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement Government of Western Australia - media statement
19 July	Community Partnership program	\$1.1 million in community partnership funding has been announced to support the revitalisation of regional Western Australian communities post COVID-19. The funding will be provided by the WA Government through Horizon Power. Organisations can access funding of up to \$50,000, which can be used to support ongoing community programs, as well as one-off initiatives or events which	Government of Western Australia - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>address one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourages community activation; • is accessible to all; • is free or very low cost to attend; and • supports the wellbeing and good health of the community. 	
5 July	Household financial counselling	<p>A total of \$6.8 million in funding has been announced to expand financial counselling services to support Western Australians impacted by COVID-19. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.7 million to help to meet the existing and anticipated increase in demand for financial counselling advice arising from COVID-19 economic impacts; • \$1.5 million for traineeships and diploma scholarships to grow the financial counselling workforce; • \$180,000 for improving the skills of existing financial counsellors; and • \$1.5 million will deliver financial counselling services in regional areas for a further 2 years. 	Government of Western Australia - media statement
24 June	Health care worker support	<p>As updated on 13 August.</p> <p>The Government will introduce the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Amendment (COVID-19 Response) Bill 2020, to ease the burden on health care workers who contract COVID-19 and require access to workers' compensation entitlements, by providing a presumption of work-related injury. Regulations will also address health care workers suffering COVID-19 as a priority, meaning that such workers will not be required to go through lengthy claim investigations to prove they contracted COVID-19 at work.</p> <p>The Bill was passed by Parliament on 13 August.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement Government of Western Australia - media statement
4 June	Homelessness support fast-tracked	<p>The Housing First Homelessness Initiative, a major project to address homelessness in Bunbury, has been brought forward to provide rough sleepers with stable housing and support as part of the COVID-19 response. The initiative, worth \$34.5 million, will use an evidence-based approach to support rough sleepers to remain in housing over the long-term, including through rental subsidies and accompanying support services.</p> <p>The Department of Communities also announced that it had commenced negotiations to appoint Ruah Community Services as the coordinating body of the project. The agreement is expected to</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		be awarded by 1 July, with contracts for additional outreach workers and caseworkers to be finalised in the following 3 months.	
21 May	Community sports grants fast-tracked	<p>As updated on 14 June.</p> <p>\$12 million in funding for community sport and recreation projects will be fast-tracked to expedite the projects and support Western Australia's economy as part of the COVID-19 recovery. Grants of up to \$2 million are available for local governments, not-for-profit sport, recreation or community groups to improve local sporting facilities. Examples of projects that will be considered include new playing surfaces, floodlighting, upgrades to change rooms and ablutions and improvements to clubrooms. Applications opened on 25 May 2020.</p> <p>On 14 June, the Government announced that a further \$4.65 million in infrastructure funding would be brought forward to help State Sporting Associations maintain their assets, such as grounds and buildings, to assist WA's COVID-19 recovery by providing extra work for the construction and trades industries.</p> <p>The funding will be provided to Associations that operate venues capable of hosting state and national level sporting competition as identified in the State Sporting Infrastructure Plan. The funding will be for works such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining an asset in ready-for-service condition; routine maintenance and minor works in accordance with an asset maintenance plan; capital projects; and energy and water efficiency initiatives. 	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
19 May	Housing stimulus	<p>The Government is bringing forward funds earmarked in a \$150 million housing investment package to help maintain a pipeline of work for local tradespeople and building businesses. The immediate focus of the stimulus, originally scheduled to begin in 2020-21, is on refurbishing 70 homes across the metropolitan and regional areas. Construction of up to 500 social and affordable homes will come on line as the package unfolds.</p> <p>The stimulus initiative is expected to create and support about 1,000 jobs, while providing more social and affordable housing for people on low incomes or at risk of homelessness. The package also includes \$19.2 million for 200 additional shared equity homes, delivered in partnership with Keystart, WA's low deposit home ownership scheme.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
12 May	Kimberly community	As updated on 7 July.	<p>Government of Western Australia - media</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	grants	<p>The Water Corporation has launched a one-off round of grants to support not-for-profit organisations and community groups across the Kimberley that have been financially impacted by COVID-19. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available through the COVID-19 Community Relief Fund, which is an extension of the Kimberley Community Grants Scheme, delivered by the Water Corporation and the Lions Club of Broome.</p> <p>On 7 July, it was announced that grants totalling more than \$80,000 had been awarded to 12 community projects, and a further \$100,000 had also been awarded to 22 not-for-profits impacted by COVID-19. Among those to receive support were Kangaroo Haven Incorporation Kununurra, Wyndham Historical Society, Broome Aboriginal Media Association and Derby Sportsmen's Club.</p>	<p>statement</p> <p>Water Corporation - COVID-19 Community Relief Fund</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
7 May	Local government and university lending facility	<p>The Western Australian Government has announced a new \$100 million short-term lending facility to support local governments and universities impacted by reduced revenue due to COVID-19. The facility will be available from the Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC), with applications opening on 1 June 2020.</p> <p>To be eligible, local governments and universities will need to demonstrate the impact COVID-19 has had, and is expected to have, on forecast cash flows for 2020-21.</p> <p>Local governments and universities will benefit from a further 70 basis point reduction in overall cost of borrowing through WATC, with the loan guarantee waived for the facility, saving \$700,000.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
27 April	Subsidised aged care and disability skills course	<p>Workers in Western Australia's aged care and disability sectors can access a subsidised TAFE course, COVID-19 Direct Care Skill Set. The course will run for up to 2 weeks and will assist in protecting vulnerable people, aged care and disability workers from exposure to infectious disease. The course be subsidised by 99% by the Government and will cost \$22.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
24 April	Drug and alcohol services	<p>The Western Australian Government has allocated \$330,000 for a new campaign to reduce the risk of alcohol-related harm during COVID-19. The campaign will be accompanied by a new Drug and Alcohol Clinical Advisory Service, a dedicated phone line providing information for health professionals who do not specialise in alcohol and drug issues to provide better care to their patients.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
16 April	Essential shopping service	<p>A new community service was launched on 20 April to support vulnerable people with access to essential shopping and delivery. The service will support people isolated in their homes, including people with disabilities or mental health conditions, older Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. The service will be free, with users paying only for the goods purchased.</p> <p>This serviced can be accessed by calling 1300 103 880 or by registering online at</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		http://www.cahoots.org.au/cahootsconnects/	
9 April	Mental health support	<p>As updated on 9 June.</p> <p>The Government has launched a \$455,000 campaign aimed at supporting mental health during COVID-19 and linking people with support services.</p> <p>On 9 June, a \$56 million COVID-19 recovery mental health funding package was announced. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25 million for new 20-bed adult community care unit; • \$25 million for development of new 16-bed youth mental health and alcohol and other drug homelessness service; and • \$6 million to support vulnerable cohorts and community wellbeing and support an increase in demand for community mental health service. <p>This funding will also help services adjust to the new environment and maintain infection control standards required during COVID-19. It will also help to keep people well in the community and out of hospital, including emergency departments, so that wherever possible individuals can receive appropriate support and treatment while remaining in their community.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
31 March	Health funding and regulatory changes	<p>As updated on 2, 6 and 19 April, 12 May, and 1 July.</p> <p>The Western Australian Government has ordered \$15 million worth of clinical equipment to boost the public health system's capacity to respond to COVID-19. This includes an additional 301 ventilators (the first of which are due to arrive in April 2020) and 200 ICU beds.</p> <p>An additional \$500 million has also been allocated to health and other frontline service delivery. The funding will go towards increasing suppliers of personal protective equipment, ventilators, hospital beds and additional staff to cope with a surge in demand as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>New laws are also being introduced to allow doctors to trial new and emerging treatments for COVID-19.</p> <p>On 2 April, the Government sent a nursing team to Broome Hospital to assist staff on the ground with the response. Furthermore, on 6 April, the Government announced that a new COVID-19 clinic will open on 8 April at Broome Hospital. Clinic staff will test for COVID-19 in line with the expanded testing criteria for the Kimberley.</p> <p>On 19 April, the Government announced a plan to make more than 600 ventilated beds available in</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>response to COVID-19. The new beds will be brought online in three steps and will be a significant improvement from the state's previous capacity of 111 ventilated beds.</p> <p>On 12 May, the Government announced that it had fast-tracked its \$100,000 investment in the Palliative Care Information and Support Line phone service. The initiative was brought forward in response to an increased community need for information on palliative care due to COVID-19, including the need for greater information about end-of-life options at home.</p> <p>On 1 July, the Government announced a \$36 million investment in an elective surgery blitz, which aims to return waitlists to pre-COVID levels in 2021. The extra funding will enable approximately 5,800 more elective procedures to be conducted by the end of this year than was projected prior to COVID-19.</p>	<p>statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
30 March	NFP and community organisations relief fund	<p>As updated on 17, 26 and 30 June, 6 and 24 July, 10, 19, 20 and 26 August, and 15 September.</p> <p>The WA Government and Lotterywest have established a \$159 million COVID-19 relief fund to provide support to organisations that are helping people experiencing hardship. On 15 September, it was announced that the fund will be extended until 15 March 2021.</p> <p>An initial \$59 million will be available for crisis and emergency relief support for eligible not-for-profit and community organisations to assist with costs related to increased demand for food, clothing, shelter and other critical needs. Funding will also support new equipment and resources to update processes that are required to adapt to rapidly changing needs.</p> <p>This funding will also provide urgent financial relief for not-for-profit sports, arts and community organisations experiencing hardship as a result of cancelled events. It will compensate for cancellation costs, lost revenue and incurred or committed operational costs associated with the cancelled event.</p> <p>Eligible not-for-profit organisations and community groups can apply immediately for grant support by visiting http://www.lotterywest.wa.gov.au/grants or by calling 133 777.</p> <p>On 17 June, it was announced that almost \$6 million in financial support had been provided to 70 community groups through the relief fund to date.</p> <p>On 26 June, it was announced that Lotterywest has provided a \$50,000 grant to the Lucy Saw Centre to support women and children experiencing family and domestic violence in the context of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 30 June, it was announced that Lotterywest has provided a \$608,000 grant to Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation to support installation, fit-out and co-ordination costs for essential shelter and COVID-19 quarantine facilities for 7 East Pilbara remote communities.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 6 July, \$47.5 million in grants were announced for arts, sport and community groups impacted by event cancellation during COVID-19.</p> <p>On 24 July, 2 African community organisations received grants from the LotteryWest COVID-19 Relief Fund totalling more than \$63,500, which will help the non-profit associations to support the immediate needs of community members experiencing hardship due to COVID-19.</p> <p>On 10 August, Curtin University Student Guild received \$50,000 from the LotteryWest COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide aid packages to students experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 19 August, the Indian Society of WA received \$188,000 from the Lotterywest COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide food packs, financial assistance for accommodation and basic living costs for vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19.</p> <p>On 20 August, MATES in Construction Western Australia received 2 grants from the Lotterywest COVID-19 Relief totalling \$231,467, to address the financial impact of cancelled events during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to help support mental health and suicide prevention for construction workers and their families.</p> <p>On 26 August, the Gosnells Women's Health Service received \$60,736 to support the health of women and families in their community. The Gosnells Women's Health Service specialises in supporting women, families and children's mental and emotional health through counselling services, parenting programs, health promotion and life skill courses. The funding will enable the Gosnells Women's Health Service to offer online health promotion programs and develop their capacity to deliver online mental health support through self-paced learning modules that focus on various areas of mental health.</p>	<p>statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australia - media statement</p>
26 March	Medical research funding	<p>As updated on 9, 21 and 25 May, and 10 June.</p> <p>\$3 million of funding is available to Western Australia based researches to support COVID-19 related health and medical research.</p> <p>On 9 May, the Government announced a partnership with HBF and the resources sector to collaborate for COVID-19 medical research. \$6 million will be dedicated from the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund for the research, with legislation to be introduced into Parliament to facilitate the funding.</p> <p>On 21 May, legislation facilitating the above funding arrangements passed Parliament. The amendments enacted through the Western Australian Future Fund Amendment (Future Health Research and Innovation Fund) Bill 2019 will see the \$1.4 billion WA Future Fund repurposed, allowing interest earned on it to be directed to local health and medical research, innovation and commercialisation. The first year's allocation of this funding will be used to support the funding for</p>	<p>Government of Western Australian - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australian - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australian - media statement</p> <p>Government of Western Australian - media statement</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>COVID-19 medical research detailed above.</p> <p>On 25 May, the Government announced that 12 projects had received funding through these arrangements, including for research into COVID-19 treatments, less invasive tests and immunity testing, as well as studies of at-risk groups and mental health impacts.</p> <p>On 10 June, the Government announced a further \$5 million in funding for 34 university-led research projects that will contribute to the global understanding, treatment and management of COVID-19. Examples of the projects include the development of new drugs, research into the effects of COVID-19 on mental health, projects to upskill the health workforce and projects to support the resilience of businesses through the economic recovery.</p>	<p>Government of Western Australian - media statement</p>

Local Government

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
5 June	Local government funding flexibility	<p>The Western Australian Planning Commission has invited local governments to apply to use cash contributions collected from developers to undertake improvement works on open space, community facilities and infrastructure.</p> <p>Under the State's planning framework, developers progressing a subdivision can be granted permission to provide cash payments to local governments for reinvestment in public open spaces, in lieu of setting aside land in a subdivision. As the State responds to the impacts of COVID-19, greater flexibility will be provided to local councils to reinvest these funds to help kick-start local economies. 6 local governments have already been successfully approved for funds.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement
7 May	Local government and university lending facility	<p>The Western Australian Government has announced a new \$100 million short-term lending facility to support local governments and universities impacted by reduced revenue due to COVID-19. The facility will be available from the Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC), with applications opening on 1 June 2020.</p> <p>To be eligible, local governments and universities will need to demonstrate the impact COVID-19 has had, and is expected to have, on forecast cash flows for 2020-21.</p> <p>Local governments and universities will benefit from a further 70 basis point reduction in overall cost of borrowing through WATC, with the loan guarantee waived for the facility, saving \$700,000.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement
15 April	Local government by-laws	<p>As updated on 8 May.</p> <p>The <i>Local Government Amendment (COVID-19 Response) Bill 2020</i> has been introduced into Parliament. The Bill amends the provisions relating to the modification or suspension of laws and the operation of local laws, in order to give local governments greater flexibility in responding to changing local conditions. It will enable, for example, a local government to temporarily suspend all or some of a by-law by council decision.</p> <p>On 8 May, the Minister for Local Government issued an Order under the new Act, which provided that residential and small business ratepayers who are suffering financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic will not be charged interest on overdue rates in 2020-21. The maximum interest rate payable by all ratepayers has also been reduced. The Order also deals with issues relating to requirements to hold public meetings, access to information where council offices are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and budgetary matters.</p>	Government of Western Australia - media statement Government of Western Australia - media statement

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
31 March	City of Perth – Relief and Rebound Plan	<p>A 12-month, \$18 million package designed to provide immediate support to City of Perth businesses was approved by the City of Perth Commissioners on 31 March. The Relief and Rebound Plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accelerating capital works projects; • a 0% rate increase in municipal rates and charges, including sanitation and waste charge in 2020/21; • suspension of lease and rental payments for 3 months (effective 1 April 2020) to all City of Perth tenants leasing city owned property, including the relinquishment of bank guarantees; • free and discounted parking within the City of Perth; • an express planning service for change of land use and development applications for small businesses; • temporary exemptions from certain approvals and requirements within the local planning framework; • a full refund on all cancelled bookings at City properties or facilities; • shorter payment terms for creditors, reduced from 30 days to 15 days; • debtors experiencing hardship will receive a range of options to assist in payment; and • the City will waive fees and charges associated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food Premise Licence Fees; ○ Other Inspectorial Licence Fees; ○ Change of Land Use Fees; and ○ Small Business Development/Planning Fees (when the estimated cost of development is under \$500,000). 	<p>City of Perth - news and updates</p> <p>City of Perth - Relief and Rebound Plan</p>

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MEASURES

Tax, Grants, Concessions and Sector Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
25 August	Paid Pandemic Leave Scheme	<p>The South Australian Government announced that it will introduce a Paid Pandemic Leave Scheme in South Australia, offering 'isolation' payments of up to \$1,500 for eligible workers who are required to quarantine. They can also be offered to those who care for someone required to quarantine, for up to 14 days following a positive COVID-19 test or as a result of a public health directive.</p> <p>Under the scheme, a separate upfront 'testing' payment of \$300 will be available for eligible workers in an identified COVID-19 cluster, who are required to self-isolate while awaiting a coronavirus test result or as a result of a public health directive. The \$300 payment will also be available for someone who is caring for a person who meets the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>The scheme will apply from 25 August 2020.</p> <p>The eligibility criteria for the Paid Pandemic Leave Scheme in South Australia includes that the recipient must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be 17 years old and over; • be a citizen, permanent resident or holder of necessary visa and work permits; • be a casual employee or full-time or part-time employee who can demonstrate they would have ordinarily worked, and cannot as a result of the need to isolate, and has no or insufficient entitlement to necessary paid leave; and • not be receiving any other Australian Government payments such as JobSeeker or JobKeeper during the period of self-isolation. <p>Individuals who are required to quarantine for 14 days (or more) due to returning from overseas or interstate will not be eligible for the payment.</p> <p>People who consider they meet the eligibility criteria will be required to apply through an online application process, to be administered by the Department for Human Services.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>
4 August	Entrepreneurs-hip support	<p>The South Australian Government has announced \$3.5 million in funding to support programs under the Future Industries eXchange for Entrepreneurship (FIXE), to support entrepreneurship as</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>part of the COVID-19 recovery.</p> <p>The funding includes a \$2 million program Called Go2Gov which calls on startups and early stage high growth businesses to propose solutions to solve some of the public sector's biggest challenges, as well as a new scholarships and grants program.</p>	
11 June	Regional Growth Fund	<p>A special \$15 million stimulus round of the Regional Growth Fund has been brought forward to help fast track the recovery of regional economies after COVID-19.</p> <p>Applications are now open for the grants between \$50,000 and \$2 million to unlock business investment to jump-start economy-growing projects in regions across the State. Projects will be given preference if they can demonstrate a greater private-to-government funding ratio and demonstrable strong economic outcomes.</p>	Premier of South Australia - media release
7 June	Critical freight routes secured for exporters	<p>As updated on 16 August.</p> <p>South Australian exporters of fresh produce, seafood and meat now have another pathway into critical export markets, with the State and Federal Governments securing a critical freight route between Adelaide and Hong Kong.</p> <p>From 7 June, Cathay Pacific will commence a weekly freight flight from Adelaide to Hong Kong, with each flight expected to carry around 30 tonnes of premium South Australian produce including abalone, tuna, eggs and beef.</p> <p>Singapore airlines has also agreed to extend their weekly freight flight from Adelaide to Singapore for an additional 6 weeks due to ongoing strong demand.</p> <p>This is part of the Federal Government's International Freight Assistance Mechanism.</p> <p>On 16 August, it was also announced that Qatar Airways will commence flights out of Adelaide to the key freight hub of Doha, as part of the International Freight Assistance Mechanism.</p>	<p>Federal Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment - media release</p> <p>Federal Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment - media release</p>
24 May	Nature tourism support	<p>Nature-based tourism in South Australia will be supported through a \$5 million co-investment fund, to fast track recovery after the combined effect of COVID-19 restrictions and bushfires. The fund will provide grants to organisations to partner with the State Government to deliver sustainable, quality tourism experiences in South Australia. Grants of between \$20,000 and \$1 million will be provided, subject to a co-contribution of 50% or more from recipients.</p> <p>The fund will prioritise projects that support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tourism offerings related to Parks 2025 priorities, including tourism recovery in bushfire- 	Premier of South Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>affected areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stand-out walking journeys; • wildlife experiences (including immersive marine wildlife experiences); • Aboriginal and cultural tourism; and • activating heritage in national parks. 	
12 May	Further COVID-19 legislation introduced	<p>New legislation has been introduced into the South Australian Parliament aimed at keeping South Australians safe during COVID-19. The <i>COVID-19 Emergency Response (Further Measures) Amendment Bill 2020</i> includes a range of measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regulations that seek to protect both commercial landlords and tenants impacted by COVID-19, including a freeze on rent for commercial tenants; • reducing red tape to ensure major infrastructure projects can get started sooner, creating more jobs and economic activity across the State; • ensuring that community visitors and the Chief Psychiatrist can visit and inspect mental health and disability services remotely, through audio-visual or other electronic means; • confirming that Standing Committees of State Parliament can meet and hold hearings by audio-visual or teleconferencing; and • measures to ensure continued electricity supply to South Australians. 	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>
28 April	Support for exporters	<p>As updated on 19 May.</p> <p>The South Australian Government has launched the new Export Fundamentals Program to help emerging and existing exporters successfully market their products and services internationally, in recognition of the unprecedented challenges these businesses are facing because of COVID-19. This training program will support South Australian exporters by giving them the tools, connections and confidence to successfully move into international markets.</p> <p>The first series of the Export Fundamentals Program, which commenced on 28 April, will be delivered in 4 modular sessions in an online format. An anticipated 400 companies will participate in and benefit from the program over the 24 month delivery period.</p> <p>On 19 May, the Government announced the new \$500,000 eCommerce Accelerator Program (eCAP), to help South Australian exporters sell their products online. Through the program, eligible small to medium exporters can apply for up to \$10,000 in grant funding to diversify their business</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		model to include an online platform to generate more revenue and create new jobs.	
24 April	Commercial rent relief	South Australian Government agencies will provide an estimated \$4.5 million in full rent relief for tenants of commercial, retail, industrial and other non-residential sites that have been forced to close or are significantly impacted as a result of COVID-19. The rent relief will apply from the date the tenants were forced to close, or were significantly impacted, until 30 June 2020.	Premier of South Australia - media release
22 April	Witnessing legal documents	<p>As updated on 8 September.</p> <p>The list of people who can witness statutory declarations in South Australia has been expanded, ensuring community members can still access the service while public health restrictions are put in place.</p> <p>Under the changes, government employees, accountants, religious ministers and medical professionals are amongst those who can witness statutory declarations, alongside Justices of the Peace. These changes do not affect the witnessing of other legal documents.</p> <p>On 8 September, the Government announced that it will extend the alternative methods of signing and witnessing documents until 28 March 2021, or 28 days after the COVID-19 Emergency Direction expires (whichever comes first).</p>	Premier of South Australia - media release Premier of South Australia - media release
10 April	Taxi industry support	\$5.2 million in support has been announced for the taxi industry in light of COVID-19 impacts, including a \$4,300 ex gratia payment per metropolitan taxi to over 1000 taxi operators and a 12 month waiver of operator accreditation and vehicle fees.	Premier of South Australia - media release
9 April	Fishing industry fee relief	The commercial charter boat sector will have their annual fees waived for 6 months in 2020/21. All other commercial fishing and aquaculture sector fees will be deferred for 6 months, including any outstanding 2019/20 fees.	Premier of South Australia - media release
9 April	Small business emergency grants	<p>As updated on 4 May.</p> <p>Small businesses and not-for-profits can access a one-off \$10,000 emergency cash grant. To be eligible, the business must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> employ people in South Australia; have a turnover of more than \$75,000; have a payroll of less than \$1.5 million and not be entitled to a payroll tax waiver; 	Premier of South Australia - media release Premier of South Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hold an ABN and have been carrying on a business in South Australia on 1 March 2020; and have been subject to closure or highly impacted by COVID-19 related restrictions. <p>Businesses eligible for the JobKeeper payment will be deemed to have been highly impacted. Businesses must apply for the grant by 1 June 2020. Applications can be lodged on the Treasury website here.</p> <p>On 4 May, the Government indicated that the first tranche of cash payments would be made over the course of the first week in May to approximately 1,000 businesses.</p>	
8 April	Business mentoring	A confidential mentoring service has been launched to support the state's start-ups and scale-ups through the impacts of COVID-19. Start-ups will be paired with a business mentor to offer advice. South Australian start-ups that are less than 10 years old and have an annual turnover of less than \$10 million are encouraged to apply.	Premier of South Australia - media release
7 April	Infrastructure projects	The Government has announced the suspension of the requirement for major Government infrastructure projects to wait for a Public Works Committee report, minimising delays in starting major works.	Premier of South Australia - media release
7 April	Commercial and residential tenants	<p>As updated on 15 and 25 May, 5 June, 29 August, and 8 September.</p> <p>The Government has announced better protection of both commercial and private residential tenants by measures such as restricting evictions in cases of extreme financial hardship. More details will be released shortly.</p> <p>On 15 May, new regulations were made under the <i>COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020</i> to better protect commercial tenants from evictions and to provide greater certainty around rent relief. The regulations, which apply until 30 September 2020, implement the key elements of the National Code, including a moratorium on eviction for non-payment of rent or reduction of business hours.</p> <p>The regulations apply more broadly than in other States and Territories, to all leases other than residential leases. Some aspects of the regulations, including the obligation to negotiate in relation to rent relief, apply regardless of whether the tenant has suffered financial hardship.</p> <p>On 5 June, the Government announced that residential tenants who are suffering significant financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 restrictions may now be eligible for rent relief through a \$1000 grant to their landlords. Tenants would be eligible for State Government rent relief if they are either receiving JobKeeper or JobSeeker payments, have less than \$5000 in savings and are</p>	Premier of South Australia - media release Premier of South Australia - media release Premier of South Australia - media release Premier of South Australia - media release Premier of South Australia - media release Premier of South Australia - media release KWM Insight

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>paying more than 30% of their income in rent.</p> <p>On 29 August, changes were announced to the \$1000 rent relief grant for residential tenants. The scheme will now be open to any residential tenant who can demonstrate one of the following, since 30 March 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of employment; • reduction in working hours of 20% or more; • reduction in wages of 20% or more; or • operated as a sole trader business which was either suspended or experienced a reduction in turnover of 20% or more. <p>The previous requirement for applicants to be receiving either JobKeeper or JobSeeker payments has been removed, but they will still need to have less than \$5,000 in savings and pay more than 30% of their current income in rent.</p> <p>On 8 September, the Government announced that the following provisions under the <i>COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020</i> are to be extended until 28 March 2021 or 28 days after the COVID-19 Emergency Direction expires, whichever is first:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commercial leases measures; • restrictions on rent increases; and • breaches and terminations of tenancy agreements involving financial hardship due to the coronavirus for residential tenancies, residential parks and supported residential facilities. <p>Furthermore, protections for commercial SME tenants impacted by COVID-19 restrictions will be extended to 3 January 2021.</p>	
3 April	Resources sector relief	<p>The Government has implemented an immediate deferral of mineral exploration licence fees and annual petroleum and geothermal licence fees due in the next 6 months. These licence fees will now not be due until 31 December 2020.</p> <p>In addition, there is a 12 month waiver of committed expenditure for all mineral exploration licence holders as well as an expansion of allowable expenditures towards minimum Petroleum Retention Licence requirements during a period of low oil prices.</p>	Premier of South Australia - media release
1 April	Export Recovery	<p>A new Export Recovery Taskforce was announced to identify impacts across export sectors, and to coordinate government intervention and support for affected businesses during the COVID-19</p>	Premier of South Australia

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	Taskforce	<p>pandemic.</p> <p>The Taskforce will work to identify possible policy and program responses to help address the economic effects of COVID-19.</p>	<p>- media release</p>
29 March	Infrastructure projects	<p>As updated on 19 and 24 June.</p> <p>\$120 million worth of new major infrastructure projects in South Australia will be fast-tracked, including regional road repair and upgrades to various freeways and tunnels. The works are expected to support 165 jobs.</p> <p>On 19 June, it was announced that infrastructure projects which improve water delivery and create jobs across the Murray-Darling Basin will be prioritised as part of the COVID-19 recovery. The Basin Officials Committee has been requested to investigate and identify potential opportunities to invest in these infrastructure projects.</p> <p>On 24 June, the Government announced a further \$28.9 million in funding for shovel-ready infrastructure projects, to be combined with a contribution from the Commonwealth Government of \$115.6 million.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>
26 March	Land tax	<p>As updated on 24 April, 12 May, 1 June, 30 July and 8 September.</p> <p>From July, land tax reforms will kick in, delivering \$189 million in savings to investors and landlords over the next three years. Under the new measures, individuals and businesses with outstanding quarterly bills for 2019-20 will be able to defer payments for 6 months.</p> <p>For 2020-21, the Land Tax Transition Fund relief will be increased from 50% to 100% based on existing relief criteria guidelines.</p> <p>On 24 April, the Government announced a further \$50 million in land tax discounts. Landlords will receive a 25% discount on 2019-20 land tax liability if they pass on an equivalent rent reduction to tenants. The discount will apply to land tax payable on properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that are used for residential or commercial purposes; • that are leased to a residential tenant, or a commercial tenant with an annual turnover of less than \$50 million. In either case, the tenant must have been financially impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; • the landlord reduces rent by at least as much as the land tax discount; and • the land tax is directly related to the land for which the rent has been reduced. 	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>RevenueSA - COVID-19 relief</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>RevenueSA - Land tax portal</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 12 May, the Government introduced the <i>COVID-19 Emergency Response (Further Measures) Amendment Bill 2020</i>, which provides (amongst other things) that a landlord who receives land tax relief must pass on the full benefit to the affected tenant.</p> <p>On 1 June, the deadline by which land owners must advise RevenueSA of their individual land holdings and ownership interests was extended until 31 July (previously 30 June).</p> <p>RevenueSA has provided updated online guidance about the land tax relief measures for landlords, regarding eligibility, evidentiary requirements and the application process.</p> <p>On 30 July, the land tax relief measures were extended by 2 months. Applications can now be submitted until 30 September 2020.</p> <p>On 8 September, the land tax relief scheme was extended by 6 months, to the end of April 2021. Under the scheme, eligible landlords now can receive up to a 50% reduction on their 2019-20 land tax liability on affected properties (up from 25%), provided they pass on the full benefit in land tax relief to their impacted tenants. The relief measure will also be extended to include eligible commercial owner-occupiers.</p>	<p>- media release</p> <p>RevenueSA - COVID-19 relief information</p>
26 March	Payroll tax	<p>As updated on 5 and 9 April, 23 June, 23 July, and 28 September.</p> <p>Abolition of payroll tax for all small businesses had already been previously announced.</p> <p>A 6 month waiver for all businesses with an annual payroll (grouped) up to \$4 million and eligible businesses will not pay any payroll tax from April to September. Employers with grouped annual wages above \$4 million will be able to defer payroll tax payments for up to 6 months from the due date without interest or penalty tax.</p> <p>On 5 April, the South Australian Government announced that it will introduce urgent legislation to make an exemption to ensure that JobKeeper payments received by SA employers from the Federal Government will not be subject to payroll tax. However, this exemption does not apply to any part of wages paid or payable to an employee that are not subsidised by the JobKeeper payment. The COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, includes an amendment to the <i>Payroll Tax Act 2009</i> to ensure South Australian businesses will be exempt from paying any payroll tax on the JobKeeper subsidy.</p> <p>On 23 June, RevenueSA announced that the availability of the annual reconciliation for the lodgement of the 2019-20 financial year has been deferred until 13 July 2020 and that the due date for lodgement has been extended until 14 August 2020.</p> <p>On 23 July, RevenueSA released its 2020-21 Guide to Legislation: Payroll Tax, which provides</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>RevenueSA - COVID-19 relief</p> <p>RevenueSA - 2019-20 payroll tax annual reconciliation</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>additional guidance in relation to the payroll tax measures.</p> <p>On 28 September, the Government announced an extension of the payroll tax waiver. Under the scheme, businesses with grouped annual payroll of up to \$4 million will be granted an extra 3-month payroll tax waiver (worth approximately \$25 million), in addition to the 6 months' relief they have already received. Furthermore, approximately 1,900 businesses with grouped annual wages of more than \$4 million will be able to continue to defer their payroll tax liability on demonstration of impacts on cash flow from COVID-19 for a further 3 months.</p>	
26 March	Household expense concessions	<p>As updated on 22 April and 29 August.</p> <p>A one-off \$500 cash boost will be paid to South Australians receiving the JobSeeker Payment, to ease cost of living pressures. This is a one-off boost to the Cost of Living Concession which is payable per household. The total package is expected to be worth \$7.8 million.</p> <p>For eligible homeowners, the boost will bring their 2020/21 payment to \$715.10, and for eligible tenants to \$607.60. Households that ordinarily receive the Cost of Living Concession but do not receive JobSeeker will continue to receive the usual concession amount.</p> <p>Applications can be made online. The additional funding concession will be paid directly into bank accounts of those who are eligible.</p> <p>On 29 August, the Government announced that it will expand the Cost of Living Concession \$500 boost to eligible applicants over the age of 65 who meet all the criteria of JobSeeker (e.g. they have lost their job and meet the income test) but are on a Commonwealth pension, rather than the JobSeeker benefit.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>
26 March	Jobs Rescue Package	<p>As updated on 3 April.</p> <p>A Jobs Rescue Package worth \$650 million has been announced to save South Australian jobs and support key industries and local businesses. Details of the package will be finalised after discussion with leaders on the newly-established Industry Response and Recovery Council. Members of the state's key industries, such as business, property, retail, construction, tourism and hospitality, are represented on the 14-member Council.</p> <p>On 3 April, the Government announced that as part of the package, it will provide fee and rent relief for nearly 300 South Australian nature-based tourism businesses who have been significantly impacted in the wake of COVID-19. Commercial tour operator licence fees will also be waived for six months from 1 April, and rents for properties leased on Crown Land will also be waived.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
25 March	Liquor licences	<p>From 26 March, liquor licence holders operating a small bar, café or restaurant will be able to apply for a free short-term and temporary licence enabling them to sell a small amount of liquor along with any takeaway meals ordered. Purchases will be limited to two bottles of wine or one bottle of wine and a six pack of beer, cider or pre-mixed spirits, and will require the same responsible service requirements already imposed on takeaway liquor.</p> <p>In addition, community clubs will be able to sell any liquor for takeaway to club members and will also be able to sell alcohol to any member of the public purchasing a takeaway meal, but this will be limited to two bottles of wine or one bottle of wine and a six pack of beer, cider or pre-mixed spirits.</p> <p>These temporary measures will be in place for the same period that the Emergency Management Act and Public Health Acts are being utilised with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>On 26 March, the Government announced a waiver of liquor licence fees for 2020-21 for those hotels, restaurants, cafes and clubs forced to close as a result of new social distancing restrictions.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>
20 March	Regional growth fund	<p>The opening of the third funding round of the Regional Growth Fund has been brought forward. Applications are now being sought for the \$5 million competitive round for projects that will strengthen regional economies and provide tangible social benefits to local communities.</p> <p>Applications for Round Three of the Regional Growth Fund close at 12pm on Monday 11 May 2020.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>
19 March	Kinship carers payment	<p>Foster and kinship carers will receive a one-off, immediate \$200 payment for each child or young person in their care in a bid to help families buy essential cleaning and hygiene products.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>
19 March	Supermarket trading hours extended	<p>As updated on 16 June and 14 July.</p> <p>Supermarket shopping hours will be extended to help alleviate pressures due to COVID-19.</p> <p>The Government is granting an exemption to allow 24-hour weekday trading, and as part of the exemption, under the <i>Shop Trading Hours Act 1977</i>, all supermarkets and other non-exempt shops will also be able to open from 12am to 9pm Saturdays and 9am to 9pm Sundays.</p> <p>On 16 June, the exemption was extended for a further 30 days until 18 July 2020, to support social distancing in shops and supermarkets.</p> <p>On 14 July, the Government confirmed that no further exemptions would be granted, meaning that supermarkets and shops will be required to revert to their pre-COVID-19 trading hours from 18 July 2020.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
11 March	Economic stimulus package	<p>As updated on 12 and 16 March.</p> <p>An immediate economic stimulus package worth \$350 million was announced to help drive the South Australian economy and secure local jobs.</p> <p>The package will fund major road and hospital upgrades, significant tourism infrastructure and increased funding for the state's Economic and Business Growth Fund to support industry sectors.</p> <p>Projects to be funded under the package must meet certain criteria, including the ability to start works within a short period of time, and they must be labour-intensive and/or require significant local purchasing of materials, services and supplies.</p> <p>The package also includes a \$15 million investment in upgrades at country hospitals.</p> <p>On 16 March, the Government announced that as part of the package, it has doubled the Planning and Development Fund available this year to \$50 million, when matched with the local government contribution on a 50:50 basis. The previous grant round was extended until 9 April to give councils more time to submit shovel ready projects for funding.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>

Health and Community Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
9 September	Support for community wellbeing projects	<p>Community organisations across South Australia have been given an \$800,000 boost to deliver 19 projects to strengthen South Australians' resilience and wellbeing in response to the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Fund is part of the Government's new wellbeing strategy, <i>Open Your World</i>, launched to provide further support to South Australians after an unprecedented start to 2020.</p> <p>The 19 successful community-based projects have received individual co-contribution grants between \$10,000 to \$100,000 and will help people of all ages across both metropolitan Adelaide and regional South Australia. The projects promote physical activity, create connection through arts and culture, and link up people in their local communities.</p>	Premier of South Australia - media release
4 August	Pharmacy support	<p>A \$200,000 emergency fund has been established to ensure South Australian community pharmacies significantly impacted by COVID-19 can continue to provide critical pharmacy services. Called the 'Continuance of Critical Community Pharmacy Services Program', the initiative aims to ensure all South Australians have access to pharmacy services, including medicine dispensing and counselling, dose administration aids (such as WebsterPaks), medicines for residential aged care facilities and opioid pharmacotherapy. Further details about the program are forthcoming.</p>	Premier of South Australia - media release
6 May	Volunteering support	<p>The South Australian Government has committed \$20,000 to Volunteering SA&NT in response to a surge in demand for the services of community organisations as a result of COVID-19. This will help mobilise volunteers, ensuring essential services can continue to be delivered to vulnerable South Australians.</p>	Premier of South Australia - media release
30 April	Funding for family violence support	<p>As updated on 10 and 13 June.</p> <p>The South Australian Government has announced \$2.4 million in funding for family violence support services to manage the expected increase in domestic violence incidents due to COVID-19. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$900,000 for a new 24/7 men's domestic violence hotline; • \$1 million for services to provide immediate support to people experiencing violence, including transport, safety upgrades to accommodation, financial counselling and support for children; • \$250,000 for a targeted communications campaign to connect more women with support 	Premier of South Australia - media release Premier of South Australia - media release Premier of South Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>services; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$250,000 to upskill the current and new workforce, including for example, specialist training for existing helpline staff at Lifeline. <p>On 10 June, a further funding boost of \$600,000 was announced to support ongoing domestic violence support initiatives, in light of increased demand as a result of COVID-19. The funding includes \$500,000 to enable the existing domestic violence disclosure scheme to continue for an additional 12 months. The disclosure scheme gives South Australians the opportunity to find out if their current or former partner has a history of violence or similar offences while also connecting them with help and support in risk assessment and safety planning. The package also includes \$100,000 for the continuing of an app that connects at-risk women to police and support services.</p> <p>On 13 June, \$200,000 in funding was announced for a new domestic violence awareness campaign called 'Break the Cycle', in recognition that reports of domestic violence have increased during COVID-19.</p>	
29 April	Community organisation funding	<p>\$3.35 million has been committed towards support grants of up to \$10,000 for community organisations so they can continue to provide services and support to vulnerable South Australians during COVID-19. Organisations can use their funding for items like IT equipment and software to enable staff and volunteers to work from home, personal protection equipment and website upgrades. The grants will be available for an initial 6 month period, with applications closing on 30 October 2020.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>
17 April	Legal assistance funding boost	<p>The South Australia Legal Services Commission is boosting the capacity of its free telephone and online legal assistance services. The service will prioritise COVID-19 legal inquiries including those about employment law, landlord/tenant disputes, family violence assistance, welfare payments, mortgage stress, credit and debit problems, and family law disputes.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>
11 April	Vaccine trial funding	<p>The Government will inject \$200,000 into a trial to test whether the established tuberculosis vaccine may provide an immune system boost against COVID-19. The trial will be conducted by the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, in partnership with the Murdoch Research Institute.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>
9 April	Support hotline	<p>The COVID-19 Relief Call Centre (tel: 1300 705 336) has been established to provide general support to South Australians experiencing hardship and to connect those people to services including relief organisations, wellbeing support, and short-term accommodation for those unable to self-quarantine at home.</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
5 April	Funding for organisations who support vulnerable people	An additional \$1.6 million funding boost will be provided to relief organisations, NGOs and charities over the next three months. The package includes, for example, \$500,000 for the food relief sector and \$800,000 for emergency relief to vulnerable South Australians (such as food and pharmacy vouchers).	Premier of South Australia - media release
1 April	Access to essential medicines	<p>A temporary provision has been announced allowing patients in urgent need of certain medications and have not been able to access medical services or get to their doctor to receive their usual prescription, they can contact their pharmacist to discuss their options to get their essential medicines without a prescription.</p> <p>Pharmacists will be allowed to dispense different strengths of a product, such as two 20mg tablets in place of a 40mg tablet, or a different dose form of the same medicine, such as a capsule instead of a tablet.</p> <p>Pharmacists are required to limit dispensing of certain prescription medicines to one month's supply at the prescribed dose, and sales of certain over-the-counter medicines to a maximum of one unit per purchase.</p>	Premier of South Australia - media release
27 March	Public housing maintenance	<p>As updated on 21 May.</p> <p>\$10 million will be provided for immediate maintenance work up to 1,000 Housing SA homes. The measure is intended to boost work for local contractors whilst improving properties for vulnerable residents.</p> <p>On 21 May, the Government announced that upgrades to more than 1,400 public housing properties, worth approximately \$6 million, are set to be completed in the next month, with the remaining \$4 million to be spent early in the new financial year.</p>	Premier of South Australia - media release Premier of South Australia - media release
25 March	Nurses and midwives skills boost	<p>The Government will fund the boosting of the number of highly skilled nurses and midwives in the health workforce as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response.</p> <p>The strategy to increase nursing and midwifery workforce capacity and capability includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rapid upskilling of nurses by working with education partners; • fast-tracking recruitment of nurses and midwives with a range of skills including intensive care, home care and aged care; • supporting student nurses to assist in key COVID-19 response functions, including as part 	Premier of South Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>of multi-disciplinary teams in sample collection centres, testing clinics and border screening;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing innovative models of care that allow nurses/midwives to work more flexibly across a number of healthcare sites or through a hospital at home model; supporting nurses/midwives through clinical mentoring and coaching; and investigating the capacity of part-time nurses/midwives to increase their hours. 	
23 March	Telehealth services	The Government, in partnership with the Hospital Research Foundation, will investing more than \$300,000 to develop a dedicated telehealth service to treat Cystic Fibrosis patients from home, reducing their need to attend hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Premier of South Australia - media release
10 March	COVID-19 testing and response	<p>As updated on 17-31 March, and 1-6, 10, 18 and 23 April.</p> <p>A COVID-19 test collection centre will open at the reactivated Repat site on 11 March, supporting GPs and easing pressure on hospital emergency departments. The Repat site will also be developed to have 90 coronavirus dedicated beds ready in time for the winter demand. Another test collection centre was opened on 24 March, located at the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre.</p> <p>On 17 March, the Government announced that a series of COVID-19 clinics will open in regional South Australia over the coming days to further protect and prepare the community against the spread of the virus. In addition, the Government also announced that three new deputy Chief Public Health Officers would be appointed to assist in strengthening the COVID-19 response.</p> <p>On 19 March, the Government announced that two dedicated COVID-19 facilities would be established at ECH College Grove and Wakefield hospitals.</p> <p>On 20 March, the Government launched a multi-agency COVID-19 Command Centre.</p> <p>On 25 March, the Government called for expressions of interest from hotels to provide centrally-located accommodation for frontline health workers. The free accommodation will be available for eligible staff, on a priority basis, who have been involved in the direct on-going clinical care of COVID-19 patients.</p> <p>On 26 March, the Government announced that those with COVID-19 and requiring community care can be accommodated at the Marion Holiday Park. As part of the initiative, Flinders Medical Centre Hospital @ Home nurses and specialist consultants will review and assess isolated patients and families at a larger scale at the Park.</p> <p>On 30 March, it was announced that vulnerable South Australians can opt to receive a free, daily</p>	<p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>potentially life-saving phone call checking on their welfare in response to COVID-19. The community can register themselves, loved ones and friends for the Red Cross Telecross REDi service. Specially trained Red Cross staff and volunteers will make the calls, asking clients questions including how they are coping and if they need medical or food supplies, as well as reiterating latest government health advice.</p> <p>On 31 March, the Government announced a new support line for people to maintain their mental health and wellbeing. The support line will be staffed from 8am to 8pm and can be reached at 1800 632 753.</p> <p>On 1 April, the Government announced that the Communicable Disease Control Branch's contact tracing team will be boosted by up to 300 additional staff.</p> <p>On 2 April, the Government announced that the \$45.7 million expansion of the Flinders Medical Centre Emergency Department will be brought forward by four months to counter the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>On 3 April, it was announced that the former Wakefield Hospital site has been refitted with 70 beds, with a further 65 beds expected during the next week.</p> <p>On 4 April, it was announced that private hospitals will be mobilised into the public battle against COVID-19.</p> <p>On 5 April, the Government announced that 97 graduate paramedics had been fast-tracked into service to respond to COVID-19. Furthermore, 1000 extra nurses and 11 Triple Zero operators joined the ranks of health workers assisting in the response.</p> <p>On 6 April, it was announced that the Women's and Children's Hospital has opened 13 more high dependency beds and is training about 80 nurses to work in high-level care settings.</p> <p>On 10 April, it was announced that the Modbury Hospital redevelopment will be fast-tracked, making 16 extra beds available for responding to COVID-19.</p> <p>On 18 April, it was announced that a face mask testing facility will be established in Adelaide, the first in Australia. The Government is providing a \$450,000 grant through the Research Commercialisation and Startup Fund to support the facility.</p> <p>On 23 April, it was announced that eligible patients undergoing cancer treatment at the Royal Adelaide Hospital can now receive chemotherapy at home, to reduce their need to attend hospital during COVID-19.</p>	<p>- media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p> <p>Premier of South Australia - media release</p>
9 March	Priority Care	A new Priority Care Centre, which will boost patient services by diverting appropriate coronavirus	Premier of South Australia

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	Centre	cases away from the state's emergency departments, was opened at Marion.	- media release

Childcare, Education and Training

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
19 May	'COVID-clean toolkit' for hospitality	South Australian restaurants, pubs and cafes will benefit from a new training program to prepare the hospitality sector for reopening in the coming weeks and importantly, staying 'COVID-clean' into the future. The State and Federal Governments have equally contributed \$2.6 million towards the training which will be delivered through the State Government and promoted by key stakeholders such as the Restaurant and Catering Association, the Australian Hotels Association and the tourism industry.	Premier of South Australia - media release
5 May	Support for council childcare	The South Australian Government has announced a \$700,000 relief package to support 8 council-run child care centres across South Australia, which have suffered significant loss of income due to COVID-19. The package will match the Commonwealth Government's Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package for a period of 12 weeks, up until 28 June 2020 with payments backdated to 6 April 2020.	Premier of South Australia - media release
21 April	International study support package	<p>\$13.8 million of funding has been announced as part of an International Student Support Package. The package is designed to support international students currently residing in South Australia who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 million to be distributed between the University of Adelaide, Flinders University and the University of South Australia, to be matched by the universities and distributed to their pathway and international students; • \$500 emergency cash grants to eligible international students currently studying at private universities in Adelaide; and • \$200 assistance payment to families who provide homestays to international school students. 	Premier of South Australia - media release StudyAdelaide - international student support package
4 April	Trades market continuity funding	A \$16 million VET Market Continuity Package will support non-government training providers to continue to deliver training to students in South Australia. The package includes \$4 million for training providers to put new delivery modes and technology in place, and continuity of subsidy payments at pre-COVID-19 levels until June 2020. Training providers will be contacted directly about the measures.	Premier of South Australia - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
19 March	Funding for businesses to continue skills training	<p>South Australian small businesses will be given additional funding to hire new apprentices and trainees as part of a \$12 million Skills for Business scheme. Small business can receive up to \$5,000 for every new apprentice or trainee hired in South Australia on a paid training contract.</p> <p>The SA Government has also announced funding through the Group Training Boost. Eligible businesses that hire a new apprentice or trainee through a Group Training Organisation from March 2020 will receive up to \$5,200 off the apprentice's charge out rates for a period of 12 months.</p> <p>Eligible training contracts are first year training contracts for new workers at a minimum Certificate III level. The additional funding is available for a limited time and will apply to new paid training contracts signed by 31 August 2020 or until funding is exhausted.</p>	Premier of South Australia - media release

Local Government

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
24 August	Youth-led Recovery Grants	<p>\$500,000 worth of grants are available for local councils to fund youth-led initiatives that respond to the impacts of COVID-19. A one-off competitive grant of up to \$20,000 is available for individual councils, and up to \$50,000 for collaborations between councils and the non-for-profit sector.</p> <p>Initiatives funded by the Youth-led Recovery Grants are required to meet one or more of the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving individual and/or community social and emotional wellbeing and resilience; improving individual and/or community economic wellbeing and resilience; reducing social isolation and increase the participation of priority groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, international students and the elderly; and strengthening digital inclusion as a means to create social inclusion by facilitating digital access, digital literacy and digital enablement. <p>An additional \$240,000 will also fund two 12-month youth advocacy and support project officer positions at the Working Women's Centre and the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia.</p>	Premier of South Australia - media release
22 May	Greener neighbourhood funding boost	<p>Funding available to help metropolitan Adelaide councils with projects to keep suburban streets green and cool has been doubled for this year as another economic stimulus measure following COVID-19. The second round of the Greener Neighbourhoods grants program will now be worth \$1 million, up from \$500,000.</p> <p>Councils are able to apply for between \$15,000 and \$400,000 funding for individual projects, and may apply for funding for multiple projects. Councils must provide a co-contribution of at least 50%.</p>	Premier of South Australia - media release
23 March	City of Adelaide – support package	<p>The City of Adelaide has introduced a \$4m support package for local residents and businesses to address the social, cultural and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> free rent for 3 months for lessees of Council-owned buildings (small business operators), community leases of council-owned buildings and Adelaide Central Market Tenants; waiving the Rundle Mall Marketing Levy for 3 months; and facilitating access to hardship provisions advice with a Rates Hardship approach – options include deferral of rates payment. 	City of Adelaide - media release

TASMANIAN MEASURES

Tax, Grants, Concessions and Sector Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
19 August	Agricultural Workforce Resilience Package	<p>The Tasmanian Government has announced a new \$1.9 million package to support the State's agricultural industry to attract and retain an effective seasonal workforce, with a focus on keeping planting, production and harvesting seasons on track in light of COVID-19. The Agricultural Workforce Resilience Package, to be rolled out over 2 years, includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new "Feed our State" local agricultural jobs campaign linked to the national harvest trail and to encourage Tasmanians who are struggling to find employment to consider a new career option; • a 2 year boost to the Strategic Industry Partnership Program to co-invest with the industry peak bodies and organisations to support industry resilience, promotion and targeted skills, training and workforce development; • a Strategic Industry Partnership Program industry sponsored boost to regional transport; • an extension to the Farmpoint hotline and AgriGrowth liaison officers to provide a critical single point of contact for primary producers; and • a boost to Safe Farming Tasmania to ensure new agricultural employees are workforce ready and to provide COVIDSafe workplaces. 	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>
18 August	Tourism support	<p>The Tasmanian Government has announced a range of measures intended to boost Tasmania's tourism sector in the recovery from COVID-19, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a \$7.5 million 'Make yourself at home travel voucher' program, which will encourage Tasmanians to travel outside of their municipality, to stay midweek in accommodation or to purchase a tourism experience for any day of the week across the months of September, October and November 2020. The support will provide up to \$100 towards the cost of a room in commercial accommodation, or up to \$50 per booking to participate in a tourism experience; and • \$1.5 million will be provided to all Tasmanian schools through a school excursion voucher scheme, which is intended to support Tasmanian tourism, parks and heritage sites in the recovery from COVID-19 while also enriching educational experiences for students. 	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
31 July	Government procurement changes	<p>The Tasmanian Government has updated its Buy Local Policy to support the COVID-19 recovery. An Economic and Social Benefits Test and associated statement will replace the Local Benefits Test and Local SME Industry Impact Statement. The new test will allow for greater focus on Tasmanian social and economic factors when government agencies evaluate competitive procurements.</p> <p>The Economic and Social Benefits Statement will ask suppliers to respond to questions, including whether the supplier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is a Tasmanian SME; • has a Tasmanian workforce; • will engage Tasmanian businesses as sub-contractors; • has invested in the Tasmanian community; and • will source Tasmanian produced goods and services. <p>To further increase opportunities for Tasmanian businesses, the low value procurement threshold is being raised from \$50,000 to \$100,000.</p>	Tasmanian Government - media release
15 July	Forestry sector support	<p>The Tasmanian Government has announced that the Forestry Contractor Resilience Program will be extended from 31 July 2020 to 29 January 2021 to further support Tasmanian forestry contractors in dealing with challenges created by COVID-19.</p> <p>Tasmania's forestry contractors can apply under the \$500,000 Forestry Contractor Resilience Program for funding, which is being delivered through Rural Business Tasmania, to improve their business practices. Under the program, Tasmanian forestry harvest and haulage contractors have the opportunity to work with specialists in business and financial management to identify future opportunities and build stability and resilience into their operations.</p> <p>Eligible applicants will receive 5 hours of professional business coaching and may also be eligible for up to \$15,000 to deliver agreed business improvements.</p>	Tasmanian Government - media release
14 July	Trade development	<p>As updated on 21 July.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has announced \$2.65 million in funding for trade development, to help producers, exporters and manufacturers adjust to the new business climate of COVID-19.</p> <p>As part of this package, the Interim Trade Action Plan (ITAP) has been launched, which is a response to the COVID-19 pandemic trade disruption, and provides specific trade initiatives which</p>	Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>address the immediate needs for exporters over the next 6 months.</p> <p>The ITAP will include immediate trade initiatives to support Tasmanian business and industry to maintain, reclaim and grow their reputation in national and international marketplaces. It is intended to provide guidance and support for Tasmanian exporters as they rebound and reconfigure their business to capitalise on their potential and respond to changing global market dynamics.</p> <p>On 21 July, the Government announced a \$500,000 boost to the existing Accelerating Trade Grant Program to encourage Tasmanian businesses impacted by COVID-19 to continue their export market development plans. The grants can be used for new e-commerce opportunities, helping businesses build their online reputations, as well as support market research and business-matching services, promotional activities and materials, supply chain efficiency improvements and cluster development.</p>	
7 June	Mining exploration support	<p>A new Explorer Support Package will support the Tasmania mining sector and help shore-up the more than \$30 million in royalty and fee payments received from the sector each year. Key elements of the package include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspension of rental payments for exploration licences for the next 6 months; • exemptions from licence work conditions for up to 6 months, with fees for these applications waived; and • application fees for the surrender or extension of term of exploration licences waived for 6 months. 	Tasmanian Government - media release
4 June	Construction blitz	<p>As updated on 12, 22 and 25 June.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has announced a construction blitz over the next 2 years, which is expected to support an estimated construction value of \$3.1 billion and up to 15,000 jobs.</p> <p>The program of works will focus on building next-generation infrastructure, improving the opportunity for more Tasmanians to become home owners and increasing housing supply, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • housing (at a total construction value of \$792 million), delivering 2,296 new dwellings, including social and affordable housing and extended support for first home owners, including a \$20,000 grant available to all owner-occupier new home builds for contracts entered into from 4 June 2020 until the end of 2020 and the build completed within 18 months; 	Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government -

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> roads and irrigation infrastructure (at a total construction value of \$55 million); essential services, including upgrading regional health and ambulance facilities, police and court facilities, and child and family learning centres (at a total construction value of \$42.1 million); community infrastructure, including entertainment centres, public buildings, sports grounds and gardens (at a total construction value of \$167.5 million); education and skills facilities (at a total construction value of \$10.5 million); and investing 10% (at a value of \$200 million) of the Retirement Benefits Fund in the Tasmanian private sector to secure social and economic returns within the State. <p>The centrepiece of the package delivers 2,300 new dwellings, including social and affordable houses across the State.</p> <p>On 12 June, the Government published guidelines for the \$20,000 grant available to all owner-occupier new home builds for contracts entered into from 4 June 2020 until the end of 2020 (known as Tasmanian HomeBuilder grants). The guidelines specify eligibility criteria, including residency requirements, build requirements and timing. This package is being offered in addition to the Federal HomeBuilder program.</p> <p>The <i>HomeBuilder Grants Bill 2020</i> is expected to be introduced into Tasmanian Parliament on 24 June 2020 to give effect to the scheme.</p> <p>On 22 June, as part of the construction blitz, the Government expanded the asset and income limits of its HomeShare program, to provide more pathways to home ownership and to support more jobs in building and construction in the wake of COVID-19. HomeShare helps those on lower incomes into home ownership by reducing the initial cost of buying a house and the monthly cost of owning it, with the costs shared with the Director of Housing. It is estimated that the changes will facilitate 150 additional home purchases, including 75 new builds over 2 years.</p> <p>On 25 June, it was announced that \$10 million of the \$3.1 billion infrastructure funding will be allocated to projects at rural and regional hospitals and ambulance stations. This program will deliver more than 100 individual projects across 50 separate sites.</p> <p>It was also announced that the Tasmanian Government will contribute a further \$11.7 million for a new package of funding for 9 shovel-ready infrastructure projects. The package will be jointly funded by a \$34.6 million contribution from the Commonwealth Government.</p>	media release Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release State Revenue Office, Tasmania - COVID-19 Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - HomeShare fact sheet Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release
31 May	Construction regulatory	As updated on 3 and 19 June.	Tasmanian Government -

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	reform	<p>On 3 June, the Tasmanian Government introduced the <i>Building and Construction (Regulatory Reform Amendments) Bill 2020</i> into Parliament to reduce red tape in order to stimulate investment in the Tasmanian economy. The proposed reforms include introducing legislative timeframes for the permit process for energy, water and sewerage services, as well as apply timeframes to some planning processes that are not currently subject to any legislative timeframe.</p> <p>On 19 June, the Government issued a Notice pursuant to sections 14 and 16 of the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i> to extend current building, plumbing, demolition and partial completion permits issued under the <i>Building Act 2016</i> for a further 6 months.</p>	<p>media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>
28 May	Red meat industry steering committee	<p>A new Steering Committee has been established to ensure that Tasmania's red meat industry remains strong and competitive in re-establishing supply chains during the rebuild from COVID-19.</p> <p>The Steering Committee is responsible for pursuing the objectives outlined in the 2016 Tasmanian Red Meat Industry Strategic Plan and will focus on issues that are specific to the Tasmanian meat industry.</p> <p>The Steering Committee will also seek input as required from key stakeholders including producers, livestock agents/buyers and wholesalers, transport operators and other industry representatives and organisations.</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>
26 May	Fuel price reporting scheme	<p>The Tasmanian Government will introduce a mandatory real-time fuel price reporting scheme, requiring fuel retailers to update fuel prices as they occur. The scheme is intended to improve transparency in fuel pricing and responds to the experience during COVID-19, where fuel prices in mainland Australia reduced quickly in line with global oil markets, but the same did not occur in Tasmania.</p> <p>The scheme, which is expected to be operational from July 2020, will be established through a Code of Practice under the <i>Australian Consumer Law (Tasmania) Act 2010</i> which will be subject to a consultation process with stakeholders, including the RACT and fuel retailers.</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>
10 May	Support for regional Chambers of Commerce	<p>The Tasmanian Government has allocated a \$100,000 support package for regional Chambers of Commerce, ensuring that they can continue to provide vital support services to Tasmania's many regional businesses.</p> <p>Grants of more than \$8,300 will be provided to 12 regional Chambers of Commerce. These funds will support activities and services identified by each of the Chambers as essential to their region and includes administration support, localised marketing campaigns, enhanced social media promotion, digital video conferencing and the development of regional recovery action plans.</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
10 May	Program support for exporters	The Tasmanian Government is hosting a series of free webinars to support Tasmanian exporters to diversify their businesses, maintain access to key international markets and prepare for new opportunities for post-COVID-19 trade. The webinars, to be rolled out over the next 2 months, will address various topics including freight and logistics, marketing and branding, and insights into developing an international ecommerce and social media marketing strategy.	Tasmanian Government - media release
1 May	Emergency legislation passed	<p>As updated on 19 June.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Parliament has agreed to a series of additional legislative measures to deal with the impacts of COVID-19. The <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No. 2) 2020</i> provides for special measures related to the COVID-19 disease emergency in Tasmania by amending or modifying the application of a number of existing Acts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extending the terms of the Members for Huon and Rosevears to ensure those communities continue to be represented until it is safe to hold elections that were due in May; • providing that the Tasmanian Health Service may enter into contracts or arrangements as required to ensure that functions, hospital services, medical services, health services and health support services that are reasonably required may be performed or provided during the emergency period; • providing for a number of measures under the <i>Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Act 2008</i> to assist operators and licence holders in these unprecedented times; • amending the <i>Emergency Management Act 2006</i> to provide for infringement offences to be prescribed by regulation and for infringement notices to be issued and served by a police officer in relation to the infringement offences; and • amending the <i>Public Health Act 1997</i> to assist officers in their work to reduce the risk of contraction of COVID-19 across Tasmania. <p>On 19 June, the Premier issued a Notice under the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i> to provide the Magistrates Court with special authorisation to allow specified court documents to be served and witnessed electronically to improve access to justice during COVID-19.</p>	Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government - media release
30 April	Economic and Social Recovery Advisory	<p>As updated on 10 July.</p> <p>A new Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council has been established to provide advice to the Government on strategies and initiatives to support the recovery efforts from the COVID-19</p>	Tasmanian Government - media release Tasmanian Government -

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	Council established	<p>pandemic.</p> <p>The Council will provide advice and recommendations on how to best mitigate the economic and social impacts of the pandemic. It will also identify opportunities for economic and social renewal.</p> <p>The Recovery Council will provide advice on immediate actions and initiatives to the Government by July 2020 and an interim report containing findings and recommendations by September 2020 so that it can inform the development of the 2020-21 Budget later this year.</p> <p>On 10 July, it was announced that the Council is expected to deliver its first report to the Premier on 20 July 2020. The report will combine both immediate actions and recommendations to inform the 2020-21 State Budget.</p>	media release
18 April	Remote courtroom arrangements	The Tasmanian Attorney-General has provided special authorisation for Tasmanian courts to conduct proceedings remotely by telephone or audio-visual link to reduce the potential risk of exposure to COVID-19. The measures also include closing the court to the public for some proceedings, such as sentencing, subject to media access (either in court subject to social distancing or by audio-visual link).	Tasmanian Government - media release
15 April	Technology grants	Grants are available to assist organisations in the Community Managed Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs sector to purchase technology and transition into new ways of working in order to continue supporting clients during COVID-19. The package is worth \$450,000 in total. Grants can be in the form of reimbursement for purchases on or after 10 March 2020. Applications close on 22 April 2020.	Tasmanian Government - media release
7 April	Racing industry support	The Government confirmed a support package for the state's racing industry of around \$2 million per month. The package broadly ensures stakes money will continue to be paid to the racing industry through the COVID-19 postponement.	Tasmanian Government - media release
1 April	Landcare Action Grants Program	<p>Tasmanians will have more time to apply for the second round of the Landcare Action Grants Program with the deadline for applications extended until Thursday 30 April 2020.</p> <p>With funding allocated in the 2018-2019 state budget, the Program is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve landscape and riverine health, stability and resilience; • support enhanced land management practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation; and • assist the community to holistically manage natural and productive land and waterways across the landscape. 	Tasmanian Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
30 March	Business Support Loan Scheme	<p>A Business Support Loan Scheme is now open for applications through the Business Tasmania website.</p> <p>Interest free loans (for the first three years) of between \$20,000 and \$250,000 have been made available to assist eligible local businesses through this difficult time.</p> <p>Loans are available for business continuity purposes, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the purchase of business plant and equipment; • improving distribution channels and online shopping accessibility; • implementing initiatives to improve the sustainability and viability of the business; and • ensuring essential business continuity is maintained. <p>Generally, loans will be considered for eligible businesses in Tasmania that operate in the hospitality, tourism and seafood export sectors, as well as related supply chain businesses and those that can demonstrate they have been significantly impacted by the outbreak.</p> <p>Loans will be available to businesses with a turnover of \$10 million or less as per the applicant's most recent financial statements, however businesses with turnover in excess of \$10 million per year that operate in multiple locations will be considered by exception.</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>
26 March	Individual skills grants and support	<p>As updated on 17 April, 11 and 26 May.</p> <p>The Government will boost funding for the Rapid Response Skills Initiative with an additional \$6.3 million. Through this program, up to \$3,000 will be available for individuals to gain skills or licences to help them into a new role.</p> <p>On 17 April, the new Rapid Response Skills Matching Service became operational. The service will assess the skills of displaced workers and match them to businesses who need new, work-ready employees. Businesses and workers can register online.</p> <p>On 11 May, the Government announced 'SKILL UP for your future', a suite of new, free online short courses to support Tasmanian workers who have become unemployed or stood down due to COVID-19 to re-enter the workforce. The short courses include transferrable skills useful to employers across various jobs and industries, as well as courses tailored specifically towards job ready skills in particular areas, such as health, business, ICT and tourism and hospitality.</p> <p>On 26 May, the Government announced that 330 people had sought help through the Rapid Response Skills Initiative, with 258 people signed up to or actively pursuing training and 30 people connected with local employers through the Skills Matching Service.</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - business and industries</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
26 March	Business grants programs	<p>As updated on 1, 3, 8, 11 and 30 April, 29 July, 8 August, and 7 September.</p> <p>A new \$40 million Small Business Grants Program was announced, with \$20 million set aside for emergency grant support and \$20 million for larger grants payments.</p> <p>The Government will also boost the Digital Ready for Business Program, with \$150,000 to assist businesses who want to take their business online. On 11 April, this funding was boosted to \$400,000 to reach a greater number of businesses. Digital Coaches will also help small businesses to transition to e-commerce.</p> <p>On 3 April, the Government announced that it would soon opening a Small Business Hardship Grant, where \$20 million has been allocated to provide one-off grants to those businesses that can demonstrate severe hardship or are in positions to continue to support local jobs and economic growth into the recovery phase.</p> <p>On 8 April, the Government announced the opening of round 2 of the Emergency Grants program, with grants of \$2,500 available to businesses under severe hardship who did not receive funding in the first round. The definition of 'small business' has been lifted to those having less than 25 FTE employees, and any small business experiencing a loss of revenue of 30% of more may apply. This is in addition the Small Business Hardship Grant detailed above.</p> <p>On 30 April, the Government announced a further \$20 million in funding for small businesses. \$10 million will be allocated to each of the Small Business Grants Program and Small Business Hardship Grants Program, bringing the total support package to \$60 million. Both programs have also been extended, with applications open until 4 May 2020.</p> <p>On 29 July, a further \$20 million in funding was announced for small businesses, bring the total support to \$80 million. The new funding includes \$17 million in grants to directly help local operator, which will be implemented through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a \$15 million Small Business Sustainability and Recovery Grant program to assist small businesses across a number of sectors to sustain themselves, recover, re-open, build capacity and innovate whilst continuing to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications will open on 3 August 2020 and close on 24 August 2020; and • \$2 million in a second round of the Small Business Continuity Grant program to be announced shortly. <p>The remaining \$3 million will be used to enhance existing small business support programs and provide additional mental health support.</p> <p>On 8 August, round 2 of the Small Business Continuity Grant program opened. Grants of \$750 are available to support eligible small businesses in engaging the services of a qualified specialist or</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - business and industries</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>consultant to advise them on continuity planning or provide financial advice to assist with business recovery. On 7 September 2020, the second round of the Small Business Continuity Grant program was extended by a further 4 weeks.</p>	
26 March	Various fees and charges waived	<p>As updated on 1 April, 26 May, 15 June, 6 July, and 7, 18 and 30 August.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government will freeze, waive or cap various fees and charges, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water and electricity bills will be waived for the first quarterly bill received after 1 April this year for eligible small businesses; • electricity prices will be capped, and water prices will be frozen next financial year; • residential or small business customers of Aurora Energy will not be disconnected without their agreement during the crisis; • freezing all fees and charges subject to the Government Fee Units Act 1997; • waiving the roads component of motor tax and vehicle registration where that business has been significantly impacted by measures taken to manage COVID-19; and • waiving land tax for 2020-21 for commercial property owners financially impacted by COVID-19, where the land tax is paid by the business owner. Amendments to the <i>Land Tax Act 2000</i> to provide the waiver received Royal Assent on 6 July. <p>Energy prices will also be capped for 12 months for all regulated electricity customers, and Aurora is implementing a range of measures to help such as payment plans, freezing debt, bill relief, and waiving fees and charges.</p> <p>On 26 May, the Government announced that temporary arrangements for cashless buses and a bus fare amnesty will be extended until 5 July 2020, to provide passengers with extra time to access a smartcard and arrange for non-cash credit top ups. These measures are intended to minimise cash handling on buses to reduce the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 15 June, the Government extended all annual and two-year passes for Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service facilities, which have re-opened following COVID-19 closures. Fees to walk the Overland Track at Cradle Mountain Lake-St Clair National Park will also be halved between 1 October and 31 December 2020.</p> <p>On 8 August, the State Revenue Office published guidelines for the land tax waiver measures. The guidelines confirm the eligibility criteria, being that the taxpayer must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • own commercial land as at 1 July 2020; and 	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - business and industries</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>State Revenue Office, Tasmania - COVID-19 measures update</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrate a significant and unexpected financial impact from COVID-19, including either loss of income relating to the land (such as rent or licence fees), inability to rent the land, or financial impact to the business operated by the owner on the land. <p>Applications close on 30 June 2021.</p> <p>On 18 August, a further \$1000 grant was announced for small business electricity customers in embedded networks (such as a shop inside a building or complex), managed office accommodation or who are leaseholders at a business estate. Applications for the grants open on 1 September and close on 26 October 2020.</p> <p>The Government will also introduce legislation in the next session of Parliament that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extend the application of the 2016 Standing Offer Price Determination for regulated electricity prices by 1 year to 30 June 2022; extend the 2019 Regulated Feed-in Tariff Rate Determination by 1 year to 30 June 2022; and extend the 2018 Water and Sewerage Service Price Determination by 1 year to 30 June 2022. <p>The legislation will also fix the next Water and Sewerage Price Determination to be from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2026.</p>	
26 March	Affected industries support	<p>As updated on 9 and 30 April, 6, 20 and 27 May, 1 and 29 June, and 3 September.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government announced a support package for the following affected industries:</p> <p>Seafood and Fishery Support – the Government will provide an additional \$1.8 million for fisheries fees and licence relief for 12 months. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$604,000 for fee relief for a range of wild fisheries licence fees, including commercial dive scallops and fishing vessels; \$427,000 for licence and rental fees relief for shellfish farming; and \$770,000 for ShellMAP Program Fee Relief. <p>Creative and Cultural Industries – the Government will provide \$1.5 million to support the Creative and Cultural industries. The programs to be funded include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$500,000 for an Arts and Screen Digital Production Fund, which will enable Arts and Screen Tasmania to commission excerpts of digital versions of cancelled or postponed 	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>performing arts events and supporting recording projects of music ensembles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$250,000 one-off funding for script and other development activities that are able to continue under the current restrictions; • \$250,000 to support contemporary musicians to record music and video for digital distribution and business relaunch; • \$500,000 to support additional arts organisations not currently funded; • extension of arts organisation contracts due to expire by one year; • immediate payment of final instalments of grants; • temporary suspension of repayments of Arts Tasmania low-interest loans and loans through the COLLECT Art Purchase Scheme; and • increase in the maximum amount delivered to each project through Screen Tasmania's Project Development Program and increase (to 90%) of the proportion of funding delivered on the commencement of the activity. <p>On 27 May, the Government announced that, in addition to the \$1.5 million of funding above, it would bring forward a further \$2 million of previously announced funding to assist Tasmania's cultural and creative sector.</p> <p>On 1 June, further funding was announced for the cultural and creative sector, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 million for the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery to open a new exhibition in 2021; and • \$100,000 to Screen Tasmania for a new television series to be filmed in Tasmania later in 2020. <p>On 3 September, the Government announced new funding of \$500,000 as part of its Cultural and Creative Industries stimulus package. Furthermore, 23 arts organisations around the State will receive more than \$2.3 million in support in 2021 through contract extensions as part of the arts stimulus package and existing multi-year agreements. Launceston based Junction Arts Festival has also received support to work with local creators to develop and deliver a range of artistic activities during the event in 2021.</p> <p>Critical Air Freight for Industry and Islands – the Government will provide \$2.6 million towards air freight services for time sensitive freight, including seafood, as well as providing freight and access to the Bass Strait Islands. On 20 May, it was announced that Tasmania's seafood exporters and fresh food producers will have access to additional freight flights connecting Hobart</p>	<p>media release</p> <p>Department of Communities Tasmania - grants information</p> <p>Federal Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>and Sydney, with connecting flights expected to see products distributed to key Asian markets including Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore.</p> <p>Taxi Licence Fees – the Government will waive annual taxi licence fees for the calendar year 2020 at a cost of \$240,000. If licence fees have already been paid, a refund will be provided.</p> <p>On 30 April, the Government announced various fee relief for the taxi industry for the period 1 March to 30 September 2020, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a free 12-month registration extension for taxi operators with registration expiring during that period, if the taxi continues to operate; • for taxi operators with registration due to expire in the same period that do not continue to operate, the ability to freeze their registration until operating conditions improve; • extending the maximum operating age of taxi by 6 months for vehicles that have or will reach their maximum age during that period; and • cancelling the annual release of new taxi licences in 2020. <p>Sports organisations – the Government will make available \$2 million in grants to ensure their continuity for grass-roots sports organisations through the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus of the first round of grants will be on helping to maintain employment throughout Tasmania’s sporting associations. Capped funding of \$150,000 per sport will be available to provide 6 months of support for the salaries of those who ensure the provision of sports to the public, such as administrators, managers and development officers. On 6 May, the Government announced that \$750,000 of approved grants were set to be distributed to sports organisations as part of the first tranche of funding. Information regarding Tranche 2 will be provided in July 2020.</p> <p>The Government will also provide \$250,000 for business continuity advice in the tourism, retail, hospitality, arts, entertainment and health sectors suffering financial hardship.</p> <p>On 29 June, the second tranche of sports grants was opened, worth \$914,000. The grants will focus on returning to play and assisting grassroots sporting clubs with their recommencement.</p>	
25 March	Rental property and tenants	<p>As updated on 3 and 22 April, 6, 7, 19 and 27 May, 23-24 June, and 4 September.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government will introduce new laws to protect residential tenants, particularly those who are experiencing hardship from a loss of income as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>An ‘emergency period’ of an initial 120 days will put in place a moratorium on the eviction of tenants for failing to be able to pay their rent. Furthermore, any appeals from tenants for a notice to vacate due to rental arrears will be put on hold.</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>The amendments will also include the reduction of the need for third parties to enter a rental property. It ensures that only emergency and urgent repairs for a rental property are required to be undertaken, and that rental inspections are only required in urgent and emergency situations.</p> <p>In addition, the amendments will make it clear that a residential tenancy agreement can be varied by mutual agreement of the tenant and landlord, and will also enable tenants or owners to break a fixed term lease if its continuation would cause the tenant severe hardship. To access this, a tenant can apply to the Residential Tenancy Commissioner, who can issue an order to terminate a lease.</p> <p>The amendments also include a provision to enable future action relating to commercial leases, allowing the Minister to issue a notice during the emergency period relating to a business or a class of businesses preventing termination of commercial leases or rent increases. The emergency period will commence on the date the legislation commences, for an initial period of 120 days. The Minister may extend the period for 90 days.</p> <p>On 3 April, the Government issued a notice to prevent residential rental evictions. This will mean that evictions cannot occur for at least the next 90 days. The notice protects residential tenants, particularly those who are experiencing hardship from a loss of income as a result of COVID-19, however is not an opportunity to avoid paying rent (if tenants are able to do so). There are several exemptions to the evictions ban, including unlawful use of property, wilful damage, violence and notices to vacate due to the sale of a property (where that sale contract was signed before the notice was issued).</p> <p>On 22 April, the Government issued a Notice under the <i>COVID-19 Disease (Emergency Provisions) Act 2020</i> to implement a freeze on rent increases for residential tenancies until 30 June 2020.</p> <p>On 6 May, the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Commercial Leases) Bill 2020</i> was agreed to by the Tasmanian House of Assembly, to give effect to the National Code agreed upon by the National Cabinet. On 7 May, the Bill passed the Legislative Council. Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the protection of commercial leases for eligible tenants (a tenant who is eligible for the JobKeeper program and has a turnover of less than \$50 million per annum); • a freeze on rent increases (a lessor must not, unless agreed by the lessee, increase rent for a protected lease during the financial hardship period); • rent reductions (the lessor must provide the lessee of a protected lease a reduction in rent in line with the provisions provided in the Code); and • the establishment of mediation services and a Code Administration Committee to support the Code. 	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 19 May, the Government established the COVID-19 Rent Relief Fund, to provide support of up to \$2,000, or 4 weeks' rent, for tenants suffering from extreme hardship due to COVID-19. Assistance will be made available to tenants experiencing COVID-19 related hardship, are paying more than 30% of their income in rent and have less than \$5,000 in savings. The Fund will also be made available to migrants and temporary visa holders subject to them meeting all other eligibility criteria.</p> <p>On 27 May, the Government provided further information about eligibility criteria for the Rent Relief Fund and noted that the funding for the Fund would not be capped. Click here for the tenants factsheet, and here for the landlords factsheet.</p> <p>On 23 June, the Government announced that it will issue further notices under the <i>COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020</i> to extend the emergency period until 30 September 2020. This means that the protections for residential tenants, which were due to expire on 30 June 2020, will remain in place for a further 3 months.</p> <p>On 24 June, the Government appointed the Commercial Code Administration Committee to promote awareness of the Code, monitor its operation and encourage use of its provisions by commercial tenancy lessees and lessors.</p> <p>On 4 September, the Government announced that the emergency period for residential tenancies, the financial hardship period for commercial tenancies and the Rent Relief Fund would all be extended to 1 December 2020. The Government also announced that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new COVID-19 Landlord Support Fund will be established which will offer landlords, who can demonstrate they have tenants in rent arrears, up to 4 weeks' rent to a maximum of \$2,000 in financial relief; and • tenants who have accessed the Rent Relief Fund will be able to apply for a further payment of up to 4 weeks' rent to a maximum of \$2,000 if they are still in arrears. <p>Furthermore, the Government will soon release for consultation a Bill that will provide for residential landlords and tenants to formally enter into a payment plan to deal with the tenant's rent arrears. This Bill will be brought to Parliament before December 2020, and will help provide a pathway forward for tenants and landlords when the emergency period concludes.</p>	
24 March	First home owners grant	The First Home Owners Grant, at \$20,000, will be extended for a further 24 months, to 30 June 2022.	Tasmanian Government - media release
17 March	Payroll tax	As updated on 26 March and 30 April. Payroll tax liabilities will be waived for hospitality, tourism and seafood industry businesses for the	Premier of Tasmania - fact sheet

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>last four months of 2019-20.</p> <p>Other businesses with payrolls of up to \$5 million will be able to apply, based on the impact of virus, to have their payroll tax waived for April to June 2020.</p> <p>The Government also announced a payroll tax rebate for one year, to businesses that employ a young person aged 24 and under, between April and December 2020, as well as a payroll tax rebate for 2 years, to businesses that employ an apprentice or trainee in the building, construction, tourism, hospitality and manufacturing industries between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2021.</p> <p>On 26 March, the Government announced that it will extended previously announced payroll tax waivers for the hospitality, tourism and seafood sectors and for Tasmanian businesses with payrolls less than \$5 million which have been impacted by coronavirus to ensure that these businesses will pay no payroll taxes for the entire 2019-20 year.</p> <p>On 30 April, the Government confirmed that it would waive payroll tax on JobKeeper payments made by employers in Tasmania.</p> <p>The Payroll Tax (Pandemic) Order 2020 and Payroll Tax (Pandemic) Order (No. 2) 2020 have been made to implement these measures.</p>	<p>State Revenue Office, Tasmania - fact sheet</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - business and industries</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>State Revenue Office, Tasmania - fact sheet</p> <p>State Revenue Office, Tasmania - fact sheet</p>
17 March	Miscellaneous fees and charges waived	<p>For April, May and June 2020, the Tasmanian Government will waive a number of lease, license and park entry fees for tourism operators.</p> <p>A 50% discount on liquor licencing fees and a waiver of all application fees for the calendar year 2020, back dated to 1 January 2020.</p> <p>Annual fees and levies for the rock lobster, giant crab, fin fishers and for abalone divers, will be waived for 12 months.</p>	<p>Premier of Tasmania - fact sheet</p>
17 March	Range of small business funding / loans / concessions	<p>To assist with small business cash flow, the Tasmanian Government will reduce from 30 days to 14 days payment terms by Government agencies (unless otherwise required by contractual arrangements).</p> <p>Offering \$20 million in loans to small businesses in the hospitality, tourism, seafood production, and exports sectors. The loans will be available to businesses with a turnover of less than \$5 million to purchase equipment or restructuring business operations and will be interest free, for three years. On 26 March, this scheme was extended to \$50 million, which is available for businesses with turnovers of less than \$10 million.</p> <p>A \$5,000 grant for businesses that hire an apprentice or trainee in the tourism, hospitality, building and construction, and manufacturing industries.</p>	<p>Premier of Tasmania - fact sheet</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - business and industries</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
17 March	Household assistance	<p>One-off payments of \$250 for individuals or up to \$1,000 for families, for those who are required by Public Health to self-isolate as a result of the coronavirus. Eligibility includes those with a Health Care Card or a Pensioners Concession Card and those on low incomes who can demonstrate a need for financial support, including casual workers.</p> <p>A further \$1 million for emergency accommodation support will be available for individuals and families who have been placed on home quarantine but who are unable to return to their regular place of residence.</p>	Premier of Tasmania - fact sheet

Health and Community Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
2 June	Veterans support	<p>As updated on 25 June.</p> <p>\$500,000 in grants are available through the new Supporting our Veterans – COVID-19 Grants Program, which is open to RSL Clubs, RSL sub-branches, Ex-Service Organisations, and other organisations with a demonstrated commitment to veterans and their families, which have been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>On 25 June, applications for grants were extended until 12 July 2020. To date, \$326,790 has been awarded to 41 organisations.</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>
27 May	Alcohol and drug service funding	<p>The Tasmanian Government, in partnership with Primary Health Tasmania, is expanding alcohol and drug services with a joint \$300,000 package in response to COVID-19. The one-off package includes \$235,000 to support small grants of up to \$25,000 to community sector organisations providing alcohol and other drug treatment interventions and support, and up to \$50,000 to support community information.</p> <p>A further \$450,000 Technology Fund Grant has also been made available to support the community-managed mental health and alcohol and other drugs sectors to purchase the technology required to adapt their services.</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>
29 April	Housing and homelessness support package	<p>Almost \$4.3 million in funding has been announced for additional housing and homelessness support in the context of COVID-19. This includes providing funds to expand the current Safe Night Space pilot, which has provided a safe overnight refuge for people sleeping rough in Hobart, delivered through a partnership between Hobart City Mission and the Salvation Army.</p> <p>The new funding will extend the program from an overnight service into a 24/7 full wrap-around support service operating in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie, with additional support from Launceston City Mission.</p> <p>The package also includes extra funding to expand Housing Connect's capacity to provide emergency accommodation, increased mental health support services, and greater investment in services to support young people experiencing homelessness, including intensive case management, outreach support and family mediation.</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>
22 April	Support for temporary visa holders	<p>As updated on 3 June.</p> <p>\$3 million in funding has been announced for temporary visa holders stuck in Tasmania due to travel restrictions. Temporary visa holders who can demonstrate financial hardship will be eligible</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government -</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>for Pandemic Isolation Assistance Grants of \$250 for individuals or up to \$1000 per family. Additional funding will also be provided to non-government organisations to provide emergency relief to temporary visa holders where required.</p> <p>On 3 June, the Government announced that part of the \$3 million funding package will be used to establish the Temporary Visa Holder Skilled Employee Assistance Program, which is designed to assist skilled temporary visa holders to maintain a connection with their employers during COVID-19. The focus is on employees with skills and experience that make them critical to the business to continue or resume trading as COVID-19 restrictions are eased. The program is expected to support 500 visa holders.</p> <p>Funding will be available on a competitive basis, taking into account the impact of COVID-19 on the business, the skill level and experience of the employee, the importance of the employee in the business continuing or resuming trading, and the lack of available skilled workers in the Tasmanian labour market.</p> <p>Successful grants will be paid directly to the skilled visa holder and priority will be given to the tourism and hospitality sector. Other sectors will be considered on a case-by-case basis with reference to Tasmanian Government COVID-19 restrictions.</p>	<p>media release</p> <p>Business Tasmania - Temporary Visa Holder Skilled Employee Assistance Program</p>
9 April	Family violence and mental health support	<p>As updated on 1 and 2 May, and 27 June.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has announced \$2.7 million in funding to meet any increase in demand for family violence support services as a result of COVID-19. This includes funding for more on-the-ground workers, emergency housing and support packages for people leaving unsafe homes.</p> <p>\$1 million in funding has also been provided to organisations including the Red Cross and Salvation Army to support vulnerable South Australians who are self-isolated.</p> <p>On 1 May, the Government announced \$875,000 in funding to establish a new phone service called A Tasmanian Lifeline (tel: 1800 984 434) to support Tasmanians who may struggle with stress and social isolation during COVID-19.</p> <p>On 2 May, the Government further announced that as a result of a new partnership with the Federal Government, a further \$1.4 million of funding will be provided to boost resources and services for people in Tasmania who experience or are at risk of domestic, family or sexual violence during COVID-19.</p> <p>On 27 June, the Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments jointly announced that 15 Tasmanian projects will receive funding under the <i>National Partnership: COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence</i> program, worth \$1.5 million. This funding is in addition to the previously-</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		announced Tasmanian Government funding above.	
4 April	Health personal protective equipment	<p>A new senior position has commenced within the Health Emergency Coordination Centre, specifically responsible for overseeing the management and logistics of personal protective equipment (PPE).</p> <p>The Government has also secured additional supplies of PPE for its health system, with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an extra 6,000 single use gowns per month; • more than 20,000 litres of hospital-grade hand sanitiser to come over the next few weeks; and • delivery of 91,000 surgical masks and 72,000 P2 masks from the National Medical Stockpile. 	Tasmanian Government - media release
3 April	Primary health care grants	<p>The Tasmanian Government is investing \$5 million to support the primary healthcare sector to ensure GPs and pharmacists can continue providing essential primary health services to their local communities.</p> <p>GPs and Pharmacists will be able to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 to support the purchasing of necessary equipment, minor capital works and ICT, workforce and other items to support them to continue to deliver primary health services during the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>The grants are now open for applications through the Business Tasmania website.</p>	Tasmanian Government - media release
26 March	Assisting vulnerable members of society	<p>The Tasmanian Government is allocating an additional \$5 million to support vulnerable people. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 million for emergency accommodation; • funding for various non-governmental organisations providing food hampers to certain communities; • \$100,000 to TasCOSS to ensure a joined-up and connected community sector response; • \$250,000 in an Essential Technology Fund to be managed by TasCOSS to enable community sector organisations to access technology; • \$130,000 to Volunteer Tasmania to assist in mobilising volunteers; 	Tasmanian Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500,000 to commercially trading RSL sub-branches and ex-serving organisations; • an extra \$1 million to increase provisions of the No Interest Loan Scheme to support low income families obtain finance for goods and services; • \$700,000 for Neighbourhood Houses to support their local communities; • \$65,000 for Tasmanian Men's Sheds; • \$260,000 to Community Transport Services Tasmania to continue to maintain essential transport and deliveries; and • \$15,000 towards National Disability Services to support those with disability faced with the additional challenges of COVID-19. 	
17 March	Health and safety funding	<p>As updated 26 March, and 3-5 and 7 April.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has established a provision of \$150 million to purchase essential equipment and supplies and to provide additional staff in the context of COVID-19.</p> <p>\$5 million of further funding has been provided towards child safety and wellbeing and family violence systems in the current climate.</p> <p>On 26 March, the Tasmania Government announced that an additional \$5 million of support has been allocated for primary health care providers, up from the figure of \$2 million that was announced on 17 March. GPs and Pharmacists can apply for \$10,000 grants to support the purchasing of necessary equipment, minor capital works and ICT, workforce and other items to support them to continue to deliver primary health services during the coronavirus pandemic. The grants opened on 3 April.</p> <p>It was also announced that \$4 million has been allocated to those experiencing mental health difficulties as a result of the challenges associated with COVID-19, including funding for a helpline to provide psychosocial support and increasing mental health supports in rural areas. This is an increase from the initial \$1 million package that was originally announced on 17 March.</p> <p>On 4 April, it was announced that additional coronavirus testing clinics will be installed in each region across Tasmania over the coming weeks. Modules have been ordered and installation of four modules for the south has commenced. There are a further eight modules being constructed to service the North and North West, which will be installed from mid-April. These clinics will be established at the Elphin Sports Centre in Launceston and the East Devonport Recreation Centre. Plans are also being developed for drive-through screening/testing capability at each clinic site. Overall, the Government is investing approximately \$1 million on the construction of the twelve</p>	<p>Premier of Tasmania - fact sheet</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>modules and other infrastructure to support these vital clinics.</p> <p>On 5 April, it was announced that telehealth services had been expanded, with 20 virtual rooms having been expanded to now accommodate up to 5000 virtual appointment bookings. This will enable up to 500 connections at any one time.</p> <p>On 7 April, it was announced that new coronavirus mobile testing clinics (buses) are being fitted out to deliver services in a safe environment. A total of 3 buses will be in operation by the end of the month.</p>	

Education

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
16 April	Government schools – levy refund	<p>As updated on 5 May and 20 August.</p> <p>Parents and carers of Government school students can access a refund of school levies paid by completing an online form. The online form closed on 4 May 2020, however an alternative arrangement of refund will be managed by the Tasmanian Department of Education for families who did not submit a form in time.</p> <p>As of 20 August, the refund / waiver of school levies had provided \$14 million in relief to families.</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Department of Education - COVID-19 information</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>

Local Government

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
27 May	Local council loans	<p>As updated on 4 June.</p> <p>20 Tasmanian local government authorities will share in \$147 million worth of no interest loans over 3 years to encourage investment and employment in local communities. The interest-free loans will apply to upgrades, renovations and maintenance on existing local government infrastructure, as well as other measures councils are taking to respond to the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>Across the projects which will receive a loan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$59.3 million will be for property improvements; • \$46.2 million for road, bridge and jetty improvements; • \$16.5 million for rates relief; • \$15.4 million to fund cash flow shortfalls and other operational initiatives; and • \$9.4 million for stormwater improvement. <p>On 4 June, an additional \$50 million in local government loans was announced. All Tasmanian councils are eligible to apply for a share in this extra funding.</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p> <p>Tasmanian Government - media release</p>
23 March	City of Hobart – Community Support Package	<p>As updated on 2 April.</p> <p>On 23 March, a Community Support Package was approved at the Council Meeting. Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deferral of penalties and interest for the fourth instalment of 2019-20 rates; • payments for ratepayers experiencing hardship; • an amendment to the existing policy to allow postponement of rates payments for ratepayers experiencing hardship; and • waiving fees, such as for outdoor dining, for businesses experiencing hardship. <p>On 2 April, the City of Hobart announced that it will offer business grants designed to assist small business as well as the wider community by providing financial assistance for marketing activities. These grants cover fees that are associated with selling goods online (ecommerce). These grants are available to small businesses located in the City of Hobart municipality where customers come to purchase non-perishable goods. Up to 100 grants of \$300 each are available through the</p>	<p>City of Hobart - Community Support Package</p> <p>City of Hobart - Business Grants</p> <p>City of Hobart - COVID-19 updates</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		eCommerce Support Grant. The grant amount represents the approximate cost for six months of ecommerce support.	

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY MEASURES

Tax, Grants, Concessions and Sector Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
27 August	Jobs & Economic Recovery Plan	<p>As updated on 28 August.</p> <p>The ACT Government has released its Jobs & Economic Recovery Plan, outlining the ACT's map for recovery from the effects of COVID-19. The Plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a \$4 billion infrastructure investment program, including transport and active travel projects, health infrastructure and schools upgrades; a further \$720 million investment in immediate support to Canberra businesses and households; and a further \$65 million in fee relief for local businesses. <p>On 28 August, the Government announced that it will establish a Canberra Economic Recovery Advisory Group (CERAG) to assist the implementation of the Jobs and Economic Recovery Plan. CERAG will bring together economists, public policy experts, industry representatives, community sector partners and unions to provide advice to the Government. The Government will also be running an expression of interest process for 2 small business owners to join CERAG, opening on 31 August.</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p>
17 August	Tourism support package	<p>The ACT Government has announced a new Tourism and Hospitality Support package, which is designed to protect and create local jobs. The package will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishment of a Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund to provide matched funding to cooperative marketing projects proposed by ACT tourism operators and attractions; further tax relief to Canberra's hotels and hospitality industry through rebates and fee relief; increased funding for community events and support staffing to deliver the current Events ACT calendar of events throughout the year; and support for a physical distancing technology pilot to help position Canberra to attract new business events in the current environment. 	<p>ACT Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		Funding of \$100,000 for an infection control support program will also be allocated to an online platform to provide information to businesses about workplace health and safety, workers' rights and how to keep safe and report non-compliance in the hospitality industry.	
12 August	Youth jobs and skills support	<p>The ACT Government is implementing new policies to create and protect jobs for young people in the ACT who may be disproportionately affected by COVID-19.</p> <p>The ACT Public Service graduate, cadet and apprenticeship program will be extended by \$2 million to provide more positions over the next 2 years, which is anticipated to employ around 120 graduates, cadets and apprentices during this period. Increased recruitment of new teachers, police, firefighters, ambulance officers, nurses, doctors and allied health professionals was also announced, with further details to come.</p>	ACT Government - media release
26 June	Lease variation charges	The ACT Government has proposed a new, short-term 50% remission to the Lease Variation Charges (LVC) as a stimulus measure to encourage development projects to move forward. The additional remission is capped at \$250,000 per development and will expire on 23 December 2020. To be eligible for the remission, the LVC must be paid before 23 December 2020, and construction must begin within 3 months of payment. An exposure draft of the proposed legislation is expected to be forthcoming.	KWM Insight
4 June	Commercial properties rates	<p>A rates rebate of \$2,622 will be applied to commercial properties with an average unimproved value (single property or unit) of \$2 million or below. The rebate amount will be automatically applied against any outstanding charges currently owing and rolled over to future rates charges.</p> <p>The issuing and due date of instalment notices for the 4th quarter 2019-20 for commercial properties has also been delayed by 1 month.</p>	ACT Revenue Office - COVID-19 assistance
4 June	Stamp duty concessions	<p>The ACT Government is offering stamp duty concessions for certain home buyers planning to live in their new property.</p> <p>The following concessions will apply to contracts exchanged between 4 June 2020 and 30 June 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no stamp duty on single residential dwelling blocks; no stamp duty on off-the-plan unit (unit-titled apartment and townhouses) purchases up to \$500,000; and an \$11,400 stamp duty reduction for off-the-plan unit (unit-titled apartment and 	ACT Government - media release ACT Revenue Office - COVID-19 assistance

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>townhouses) purchases between \$500,000 and \$750,000.</p> <p>Eligibility requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contracts must be signed and exchanged from 4 June until 30 June 2021; at least 1 buyer must live in the home continuously for at least 1 year, starting within 12 months of settlement or completion of construction; the concessions relating to off the plan 'units' refer only to unit-titled apartments or townhouses; and the concession relating to 'single residential dwelling blocks' mean the land must be vacant when it is purchased, and the land title must only allow 1 residence/house to be built on the land. <p>Eligible new homeowners will be identified as part of the settlement process.</p>	
3 June	CBD upgrades	<p>2 popular entertainment and dining strips will get significant infrastructure upgrades over the next 18 months as part of a \$13.9m investment through the Canberra Recovery Plan. Infrastructure works will be undertaken on Lonsdale Street Braddon and Woolley Street Dickson to make the area safer, more accessible and more attractive.</p>	ACT Government - media release
20 May	CBD business support	<p>Commercial property owners in Canberra's city centre will benefit from a series of waivers and deferrals on their annual City Centre Marketing and Improvement Levy for the upcoming financial year, allowing them to support their tenants throughout this period. The waiver will not affect the outcomes that are supported by the levy, such as improved cleaning and maintenance.</p>	ACT Government - media release
20 May	Portable long service leave access	<p>Eligible Canberra workers who have had their employment affected or need to take COVID-19 related leave will be able to access their Portable Long Service Leave early as a result of temporary amendments to the Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Act 2009.</p> <p>The measures will temporarily allow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eligible workers to access up to 2 weeks of leave earlier than is allowed under current legislation; and eligible workers who have left the industry because of the COVID-19 outbreak to access a payment instead of leave for their recognised service. <p>A registered worker will be eligible for early access to their Portable Long Service leave if:</p>	ACT Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the registered worker has 18 months or more recognised service in the ACT; the registered worker has recognised service in their relevant industry in the ACT in the 12 months immediately before the COVID-19 emergency; and the registered worker suffers hardship because of the COVID-19 emergency. 	
1 May	Virtual owners' corporation meetings	The ACT Government has issued a regulatory exemption to allow meetings to be held remotely during COVID-19. It will also consider making the changes permanent.	ACT Government - media release Planning ACT - Owners Corporation meetings
24 April	Environmental works funding	Environmental works are being fast-tracked and new jobs have been created to undertake bushfire recovery works, catchment restoration and trail maintenance as part of the ACT Government's ongoing COVID-19 stimulus. The works will include fence repairs, water catchment restoration works, native seedling plantings and weed removal. The works are expected to support 26 temporary jobs.	ACT Government - media release
22 April	Fast-tracking infrastructure and maintenance projects	<p>As updated on 23 April, 20 and 22 May, and 11 June.</p> <p>The ACT Government will fast-track infrastructure and maintenance projects across Canberra to support the economic recovery from COVID-19. The projects are expected to be worth close to \$9.75 million and include footpath and cycleway upgrades, new pedestrian crossings, upgrades to waste and transport facilities, and open space landscaping works.</p> <p>On 23 April, the Government announced a further \$3 million in funding for various maintenance projects around Canberra, including tree planting, playground updates and public space maintenance. This will include establishing a new tree team which will employ people living in south Canberra.</p> <p>On 20 May, the Government announced that it would fast-track improvements and maintenance to health service facilities for work that can start immediately and be completed by 30 June 2020. The works include improvements to landscaping and outdoor spaces, improvements to heating and ventilation systems, and security upgrades. The Government has contracted 5 local firms to complete the upgrades.</p> <p>On 22 May, the Government announced that \$365,000 would be allocated to undertake solar and sustainability upgrades on public and community housing as part of the fast-tracking of infrastructure projects.</p>	ACT Government - media release ACT Government - media release ACT Government - media release ACT Government - media release ACT Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>On 11 June, the fast-tracked infrastructure program was expanded, with an additional \$8 million being allocated to new projects and \$2 million for early planning and design work. New projects will include upgrades to public buildings, maintenance works in schools and urban renewal projects.</p>	
21 April	Heritage Grants Program	<p>\$355,000 in grants funding has been announced for projects to move Canberra's history online during COVID-19. Projects could include those that bring heritage to life in line with social distancing requirements, like online resources and virtual visiting tools. Applications close on 12 June 2020.</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p>
17 April	Sports funding	<p>As updated on 16 June and 8 August.</p> <p>The ACT Government will provide funding and relief equivalent to \$3.3 million for Canberra's sports sector. This includes an immediate injection of \$700,000 across peak sport and recreation bodies as well as early access to approximately \$1.5 million through the 2021 Sport and Recreation Grants Program. Recovery of existing invoice payments for sports ground hire fees will also be suspended and fees will be waived going forward.</p> <p>On 16 June, applications for the 2021 Sport and Recreation Grants Program opened. The program has been brought forward due to the challenges generated by COVID-19. The package will help sporting organisations meet their costs, and assist the sport and recreation sector to return in a strong position.</p> <p>On 8 August, it was announced that the waiver of fees for hiring ACT sportsgrounds, running tracks and other facilities will be waived for a further 6 months until 31 March 2021. Pool and lane hire fees at all ACT Government aquatic facilities will also be waived for community and commercial groups from 1 August 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p>
2 April	Jobs for Canberrans fund	<p>As updated on 9 June.</p> <p>The ACT Government has established a 'Jobs for Canberrans' fund to allow ACT Government Directorates to continue employing people for cleaning, repairs and maintenance projects. The fund will focus on providing secure work opportunities for people who have relied on casual work and are not eligible for the Federal wage subsidy measures.</p> <p>To be eligible people must have lost their job or have been significantly impacted as a result of COVID-19. Roles will be made available to people most in need with the highest priority being given to those ineligible for Federal support. Registration is still open and available here.</p> <p>On 9 June, the fund was expanded to \$28 million in total, which is expected to support a further 100 jobs and a total of 500 jobs overall.</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - Jobs for Canberrans information</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
2 April	Residential rental assistance	<p>As updated on 15 April, 13 May, and 22 July.</p> <p>The ACT Government will encourage landlords to reduce rents by at least 25% for tenants under rental stress by sharing the cost reduction of the rental on a 50/50 basis, capped at \$1,300 per quarter (around \$100 a week). The Government's share of the rent reduction will be provided to landlords through a rebate. This could result in rental relief of up to \$200 a week for tenants who have lost income due to COVID-19.</p> <p>A head of power in the Residential Tenancies Act will also give the Government the ability to quickly implement a 6 month, temporary moratorium on eviction for the non-payment of rent for commercial and non-commercial leases due to COVID-19. A temporary freeze on rental increases will also be implemented. The Government is currently preparing regulations to formalise these measures.</p> <p>On 13 May, the Government further announced that the Canberra Conflict Resolution Service will provide free mediation to residential tenants and landlords who have been impacted by COVID-19, to assist in arriving at negotiated temporary agreements. Parties can register online or by phone ((02) 6198 0590).</p> <p>On 22 July, the moratorium on eviction for COVID-19 impacted residential tenants was extended by a further 3 months, to 22 October 2020. In addition, COVID-19 impacted households will now be able to terminate their fixed-term tenancy agreements early without penalty, subject to giving their landlord 3 weeks' notice. If a tenant is in rent arrears at the time their tenancy ends (or owes money for property damage) this will still be a debt owing to their landlord.</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - families and households information</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Justice and Community Safety - media release</p>
2 April	Commercial tenancies	<p>As updated on 8 April, 11 May, and 10 and 15 September.</p> <p>A scheme has been developed that provides relief for business tenants and owner-operated commercial properties.</p> <p>The scheme recognises that there are three broad categories of businesses emerging through COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1 - those who have been partially or not affected; • Category 2 - those who have been significantly affected (at least 30 per cent reduction in business income); and • Category 3 - those who have to shut-down operations due to COVID-19 health restrictions. <p>Cost-sharing or the deferrals of losses will be shared between Government, landlords, tenants and</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - local business and industry information</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - Guidance notes</p> <p>KWM Insight</p> <p>KWM Insight</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>financial institutions.</p> <p>Landlords and tenants should work together to reach an agreement that allows the business to bounce-back when the time is right. The Government will appoint a Commercial Tenancy Mediator (Business Commissioner) to support and encourage commercial landlords and tenants to engage and negotiate mutually agreeable outcomes. Further details on this role are to be announced shortly.</p> <p>Depending on the level of hardship commercial tenants are facing, landlords will be eligible to apply for a waiver or rebate on their commercial rates, tied to the rental relief passed onto their tenants.</p> <p>The tiered category system above will ensure that tenants that have little to no impact to their financial situation, so that those that suffering the most financial hardship get the highest level of support from both their landlord and the ACT Government through matched relief.</p> <p>A head of power in the Residential Tenancies Act will also give the Government the ability to quickly implement a short term, temporary moratorium on eviction for the non-payment of rent for commercial and non-commercial leases due to COVID-19.</p> <p>On 8 April, the Government appointed Brendan Smyth as the COVID-19 Local Business Commissioner, whose role will include working with commercial landlords and tenants to mediate mutually agreeable outcomes to changes in commercial lease arrangements.</p> <p>On 11 May, the Government announced its regime to implement the National Code through the Leases (Commercial and Retail) COVID-19 Emergency Response Declaration 2020. The Government has also released guidance notes for tenants and landlords which provides a summary of the key elements of the ACT Government's approach to implementing the National Code.</p> <p>On 10 September, the Government registered the Leases (Commercial and Retail) COVID-19 Declaration 2020 (No. 2) to extend its assistance to incentivise commercial landlords to offer rent relief for tenants impacted financially by COVID-19. The updated Declaration takes effect from 28 September 2020 and expires on 31 January 2021 at the latest.</p> <p>The new Declaration will only apply to those tenants who had a turnover of less than \$50 million for the 2018-19 financial year, and qualify for and receive a payment under Extension 1 of the JobKeeper scheme from 28 September 2020. The new Declaration does not apply to new lease arrangements entered into from 7 April 2020, however does preserve the protections available to impacted tenants under the previous Declaration for conduct arising during the prior protected period (7 April 2020 to 27 September 2020).</p>	
1 April	Business	A business liaison helpline (tel: 6205 0900) has been created to assist businesses to understand the support available to them through the ACT Economic Survival Package, and to provide practical	ACT Government - local business and industry

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	helpline	<p>advice for business operations during COVID-19.</p> <p>Small businesses impacted by COVID-19 in Canberra can also access the Canberra Business Advice and Support Service (tel: 6297 3121). The Service provides up to four hours of fully-subsidised, one-on-one business management advice, as well as access to online business development resources.</p>	<p>information</p> <p>ACT Government - support for business information</p>
1 April	Community clubs funding	<p>As updated on 2 April.</p> <p>An additional payment of \$1.5 million will be made to support clubs to keep staff employed at the award rate. This is in addition to the existing \$1.8 million in the Clubs Diversification Fund.</p> <p>The Government will provide further support to community clubs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing gaming machine licensees with the opportunity to access a payment of \$15,000 per authorisation if they voluntarily surrender gaming machine authorisations; • a waiver/refund of gaming machine tax liabilities for clubs for March 2020 gaming activity (for clubs that pay tax monthly) or gaming activity in the first quarter of 2020 (for clubs that pay tax quarterly); • providing clubs with a rebate of fixed water and sewerage charges on their Icon Water bills for the next two quarters; and • a waiver/refund of the annual licence fee and gaming tax liabilities for March 2020 activity for Casino Canberra. 	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - local business and industry information</p>
26 March	Liquor licenses	<p>As updated on 2 April.</p> <p>The Government is offering licensees with on liquor (i.e. restaurants and pubs) and general (clubs) a free three-month commercial liquor permit. This will allow businesses to sell liquor for consumption off premises.</p> <p>Small off-licence small businesses will receive a 12 month waiver of the liquor licencing fees from 1 April 2020.</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p>
24 March	Arts and events funding	<p>As updated on 26 May, 24 June and 24 July.</p> <p>Funding of up to \$10,000 per artist will be available to support arts development and the sustainability of their arts practices over the next 6-9 months. A total of \$500,000 will be available. Funding will be for activities including research and development, making of new works or sharing</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - community sector</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>of works via online platforms, and for artists fees and living expenses to undertake arts activities.</p> <p>Applications closed on 17 April 2020.</p> <p>On 26 May, the Government announced the creation of RISE Canberra, an online events calendar to support the local arts and events sector. RISE Canberra will also facilitate the creation of the Where You Are Festival, a \$240,000 investment in the arts and events sector designed to promote jobs in the sector as it recovers from COVID-19. Organisations will have the opportunity to apply for support through the Where You Are Festival through an open Expression of Interest process. The Where You Are Festival will launch on 10 July 2020 and be rolled out over the following 2 months.</p> <p>On 24 June, the Government announced an additional \$1.07 million to support 9 arts organisations that have been significantly impacted by COVID-19, including the ACT Writers Centre and the Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres. The support is intended to ensure that the organisations can continue to employ Canberrans, support artists and remain an important part of the fabric of the ACT community.</p> <p>On 24 July, the Government announced grants of up to \$10,000 for Canberra street artists. A further \$311,287 will go towards local street artists who will be commissioned to undertake a range of street art projects across the ACT.</p>	<p>information</p> <p>artsACT - applications</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p>
20 March	Range of business funding / loans / concessions	<p>As updated on 1 and 2 April, and 9 August.</p> <p>Small business owners with electricity usage below 100 megawatts per year will receive an automatic rebate of \$750 applied to their next electricity bill.</p> <p>In addition, commercial property owners with an Average Unimproved Value below \$2 million will receive a \$2,622 credit to commercial rates bill for 2019/20.</p> <p>The ACT Government will also review rent charges for commercial tenants in government-owned properties whose operations have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Commercial tenants who can demonstrate this impact may receive up to 6 months of rental relief from 1 April 2020 and should contact the ACT Property Group. However, the ACT Government will not charge any rent, for a 6 month period, to community groups occupying ACT Government owned properties that have been impacted by COVID-19. This rental relief will take effect from 1 April 2020. Community tenants will not need to contact the ACT Government for this to take effect.</p> <p>The Government will also defer the issuing of notices for 2019-20 quarter four commercial rates instalments by 4 weeks to provide immediate cash flow assistance to commercial property owners.</p> <p>There will also be a \$20 million fund for simple infrastructure works on public buildings, and</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government – local business and industry information</p> <p>ACT Government - community sector information</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>additional funding for clubs to retain casual staff.</p> <p>On 9 August, the deferral of rates for commercial property owners significantly affected by COVID-19 was extended for a further 6 months until 1 April 2021. Commercial landlords and owner operated businesses can also continue to apply for rates rebates for an additional 3 months to December 2020 if their tenants or themselves are significantly affected by COVID-19.</p>	
20 March	Payroll tax	<p>As updated on 1 and 2 April, and 9 and 12 August.</p> <p>All businesses whose operations are directly affected by the 'prohibited activities list' will receive a 6 month waiver of payroll tax from April to September 2020. Businesses will need to apply online to confirm their eligibility.</p> <p>All ACT businesses that pay up to \$10 million of Group Australia-wide wages can defer their 2020-21 payroll tax, interest free until 1 July 2022. Businesses will need to complete an online application form to confirm their eligibility, which will be made available soon on the ACT Revenue Office website. In addition, affected industries will receive a one-off 6 month waiver on payroll tax.</p> <p>The Government is also enabling businesses in the construction sector to access interest free payroll tax deferrals for 6 months.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Emergency Response Legislation Amendment Act 2020 exempts JobKeeper payments from payroll tax. The Act also amends the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1999</i> to ensure the Treasurer has the power to implement COVID-19 response measures with respect to taxation laws.</p> <p>On 9 August, the Government extended the interest free payroll tax deferral for businesses in the construction industry to December 2020. The payroll tax waiver will also remain in place for 3 months to December 2020 for businesses unable to trade, or able to trade on a very restricted basis only, due to ACT Government restrictions.</p> <p>On 12 August, a 6 month payroll tax exemption was announced for businesses that pay wages for new employees who are apprentices or trainees. The exemption will apply to 6 months of wages for eligible employees recruited between 1 August 2020 and 31 January 2021. It is estimated that this will result in \$2.2 million of foregone revenue.</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - local business and industry information</p> <p>ACT Treasury - payroll tax</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p>
20 March	Miscellaneous fees and charges waived	<p>As updated on 1 and 2 April, 15 June, and 1 July.</p> <p>Taxi and rideshare fees will be waived. Taxi drivers who lease their taxi plates from private owners will also receive a one-off payment of \$5,000. The Government will also provide a one-off payment of up to \$5,000 to taxi drivers who lease their taxi plates from private owners.</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government – local business and industry</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Licensed venues and off-licensed venues with annual gross liquor purchase values below \$3 million will receive a 12-month waiver of their food business registration and liquor licensing fees from 1 April 2020. Outdoor dining fees for 2020/21 will also be waived.</p> <p>The Government will also waive fees for 12 months from 1 April 2020 for businesses that require an infection control licence such as beauty therapists, nail salons, tattoo parlours and dentists.</p> <p>On 15 June, it was announced that a range of government fees and charges such as parking, business registration and development application fees will not increase in the 2020-21 financial year. Fees that will be frozen at the current 2019-20 level include those for birth, death and marriage registration, building fees, domestic animal registration, land title fees and vehicle registration.</p> <p>From 1 July, public transport fares across Canberra were frozen at January 2019 levels. From 18 July, a network update will also see an increase in off-peak services to better enable the community to spread out their travel during the COVID-19 recovery.</p>	<p>information</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p>
20 March	Household payments and relief	<p>As updated on 1 and 2 April.</p> <p>Includes rebates of \$150 on residential rates and \$200 on electricity bills, for eligible concession holders, as well as a freeze on a number of ACT Government fees and charges, including the fire and emergency services levy, public transport, vehicle registration and parking fees.</p> <p>Housing ACT will also make a one-off bank payment of \$250 to all social housing households by June 2020.</p> <p>On 2 April, the Government announced that any owner occupier in the ACT experiencing hardship because of COVID-19 will be eligible for a deferral of their general household rates for 12 months. No interest will be applied to the deferred amount.</p> <p>The Government will also delay the issuing of all general rates notices by 4 weeks, and push back payment dates, to allow people eligible for Commonwealth assistance to start receiving it.</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - families and households information</p> <p>ACT Government - community sector information</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p>

Health and Community Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
17 August	Hardship Fund	The ACT Government has announced a new Hardship Fund for workers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. Canberrans who are unable to temporarily work under a COVID-19 direction or health guidance will be eligible payments of up to \$1,500 depending on an individual's circumstances (such as available sick leave through their employer).	ACT Government - media release
12 August	Support for children, young people and families	The ACT Government has announced a new \$1.7 million Supporting Children, Young People and their Families Package, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one-off payments of \$300 for each child and young person in foster and kinship care, to support their wellbeing and ease the financial stress for carers whose employment or income may have been affected by COVID-19; • an extended carer subsidy for young people in out of home care who turn 18 in 2020 to support living expenses, housing costs or connect them with training and employment; • funding to support young carers to meet additional expenses, maintain wellbeing and support educational participation; and • one-off grant payments to non-government service providers to assist with direct service delivery, brokerage and support for young people and their families to respond to increased demand for services. 	ACT Government - media release
18 June	Community Recovery Plan	The ACT Government has announced its Community Recovery Plan, which aims to support the community through the COVID-19 recovery, with a focus on supporting wellbeing and resilience. The Plan involves a range of initiatives in partnership with the community sector including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a "know your neighbour campaign" to support Canberrans to connect with their neighbours, as these connections are important inside and outside times of a crisis; • wellbeing calls to counter the barriers of detachment and isolation that remain for many people in the community; • Community Activity Packs to help Canberrans to stay occupied and connected from a distance in absence of large-scale events; and • launch of the Connect in Canberra website to provide non-health related COVID-19 information on support services and activities available across the Territory. 	ACT Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
11 May	Support for Indigenous organisations	The ACT Government has allocated \$580,000 to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and services during COVID-19. The funding will boost the capacity of community-controlled organisations and culturally specific programs to provide services and support.	ACT Government - media release
6 May	Mental health support	<p>As updated on 3 June, 12 August and 2 September.</p> <p>The ACT Government announced \$4.5 million in additional funding for mental health services to address increased demand by Canberrans impacted by COVID-19. Funding will be provided to increase capacity of both government and non-government service delivery, as well as enabling new and innovative services, such as shifting to online service delivery where practicable.</p> <p>On 3 June, the Government released a suite of online resources, called Healthier Work, to help workers dealing with isolation, anxiety and general poor mental health during COVID-19 and into the future.</p> <p>On 12 August, an additional \$250,000 was announced for targeted mental health support for young people, recognising that this group may be disproportionately affected by the mental health impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 2 September, the Government announced the recipients of the COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Innovation Grants Program – a \$400,000 investment supporting selected organisations, local communities and individuals to develop innovative and creative projects that address the mental health and wellbeing impacts of COVID-19 – as part of the total \$4.5 million mental health stimulus package. The Program sees 20 grants awarded under 2 streams. A total of \$305,181 was allocated under the Organisational Grants stream and \$100,800 for the Community Grants stream.</p>	ACT Government - media release ACT Government - media release ACT Government - Healthier Work ACT Government - media release ACT Government - media release
20 April	Homelessness and family violence support	\$3 million will be allocated to support people facing homelessness or family violence arising from the circumstances of COVID-19. The package will provide immediate financial support to various organisations providing specialist response services and accommodation for those at risk.	ACT Government - media release
8 April	Helpline launched	The ACT Government has launched a COVID-19 Helpline (tel: 02 6207 7244) to ensure Canberrans and local businesses can stay updated. The helpline will provide information, amongst other things, about COVID-19 health advice and referrals, and stimulus packages.	ACT Government - media release
20 March	Health funding	<p>As updated on 2, 5, 9 and 28 April, and 6 May.</p> <p>The Government will provide all appropriate resources to support ACT public health services to</p>	ACT Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>continue providing essential health services to the community and to respond to the additional demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes funding for respiratory assessment clinics, an increase in inpatient beds and ICU capacity across the Territory, maintenance of COVID-19 testing capacity and the purchase of additional medical equipment and supplies. This includes the construction and operation of a temporary COVID-19 Emergency Department at the Canberra Hospital.</p> <p>The health funding will also involve working with Winnunga Nimmityjah to enable the service to provide a respiratory assessment service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans.</p> <p>On 2 April, the Government announced additional funding of \$126 million ensure health services are well resourced and prepared to respond to the pandemic. Further measures the Government is funding include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health facility infrastructure, flexing the bed base in Canberra Health Services by an additional 131 beds, and supporting Calvary Public Hospital to deliver dedicated COVID-19 wards and expanded ICU capacity; • working closely with private hospitals to identify all available capacity across the health system to deliver a coordinated response; • personal protective equipment and other medical supplies for doctors and nurses; • establishment of respiratory clinics and additional equipment; • a 24/7 Radiography service; • the Emergency Operations Centre; and • enhanced operational capacity for health protection services including contact tracing and COVID-19 testing. <p>On 5 April, the Government announced an expansion to the Weston Creek Walk-in Centre as a dedicated Respiratory Assessment Centre (RAC). Services at the Weston Creek RAC have now been expanded to provide clinical support for COVID-19 patients who do not require hospital admission. Post hospital support and follow up for positive cases will also be available.</p> <p>On 9 April, the Government confirmed that it will invest \$23 million to build, equip and operate a temporary COVID-19 Emergency Department, to be located at Garran Oval, adjacent to the Canberra Hospital.</p> <p>On 28 April, the Government announced that people who are ineligible for Medicare will receive free access to medical care for testing, treatment or other public health supports related to COVID-</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - supporting healthcare</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		19. On 6 May, the Government announced a further \$1.7 million to support a range of non-government organisations (NGOs) in the health sector to respond to COVID-19. More than 40 NGOs ranging from alcohol and drug services to palliative care will share in the funding.	

Education and Training

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
28 April	Support for temporary visa holders	<p>As updated on 17 August.</p> <p>Temporary visa holders and international students affected by COVID-19 who are ineligible for Commonwealth assistance programs, will be able to access more support through a \$450,000 ACT Government support package. The funding will be delivered through a partnership between the ACT Government and the ACT Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Humanitarian Coordination Committee, the Australian Red Cross and local tertiary institutions.</p> <p>On 17 August, utilities concessions were extended to eligible asylum seekers for 2020-21. Asylum seekers with a valid ACT Services Access Card will be able to apply by 30 June 2021 for a \$900 rebate on their electricity bills for 2020-21, which includes the annual \$700 utilities concession and additional one-off \$200 rebate.</p>	<p>ACT Government - media release</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p>
1 April	Vocational training subsidies and support	<p>As updated on 5 May.</p> <p>The ACT Government is increasing subsidies for apprenticeships and traineeships in areas linked to skills need across a range of industries. Subsidies will be provided automatically to Registered Training Organisations.</p> <p>On 5 May, the Government announced further support for the vocational education and training sector. An additional 2405 Skilled Capital places will be released in coming weeks across 60 qualifications and 39 skillsets, to provide more training options for Canberrans and tackle workforce demand and supply issues during COVID-19. Training will be prioritised in key areas emerging from COVID-19 including health care and aging support, tourism, retail and hospitality, and qualifications in community services.</p>	<p>ACT Government - local business and industry information</p> <p>ACT Government - media release</p>

NORTHERN TERRITORY MEASURES

Tax, Grants, Concessions and Sector Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
30 July	Boost for aircraft storage facility	<p>The Northern Territory Government has announced \$3.5 million in funding for the Alice Springs Asia Pacific Aircraft Storage Maintenance Facility through the Local Jobs Fund, which is intended to double the capacity of the facility and create more local jobs.</p> <p>Demand for the facility has increased dramatically due to the COVID-19 crisis, with international airlines seeking storage for grounded aircrafts. The funding will be provided through a \$3 million concessional loan and a \$500,000 grant.</p>	Northern Territory Government - media release
11 June	Tourism voucher scheme	<p>As updated on 14 July.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government has announced a \$5.2 million tourism voucher scheme to encourage Territorians to explore the Territory and support local tourism businesses until borders can safely re-open to interstate visitors.</p> <p>More than 26,000 vouchers worth \$200 will be available from 1 July, for Territorians aged 18 or over to put towards a tourism experience, tour, accommodation, hire car or recreational fishing charter, so long as they match the spend with their own money. Hospitality venues will also be able to benefit from the vouchers by packaging their offerings with a tourism product such as a 'Stay and Meal' deal. Vouchers are valid for 30 days, with bookings and travel to be completed by 31 October 2020.</p> <p>As of 14 July, the voucher scheme had generated \$3.3 million in bookings after 2 weeks of its operation.</p>	Northern Territory Government - media release Northern Territory Government - media release
22 May	Economic reconstruction authorities	<p>As updated on 26 and 27 May, 3 June, and 20 July.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government has established the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission. The Commission will be tasked with helping to write the roadmap for the Territory's recovery from COVID-19. It will provide advice to the Government on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating jobs; • attracting investment; 	Northern Territory Government - media release Northern Territory Government - media release Northern Territory

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cutting red tape; building on strategic advantages; and strengthening ties with the Federal Government, investors and trade partners. <p>The Commission has been asked to provide an interim report by late-July, and a final report in November.</p> <p>On 26 May, it was announced that Andrew Liveris, former Dow Chemical Chairman and CEO, and former Chief Minister, Paul Henderson, were appointed as co-chairs of the Commission.</p> <p>It was also announced that the Member for Braitling, Dale Wakefield, will be appointed to the new role of the Minister for Central Australian Reconstruction. Central Australia has been hard-hit by the economic impacts of COVID-19, in particular due to its heavy reliance on tourism. The Minister will work with the Commission to support Central Australia in its economic recovery.</p> <p>On 27 May, the Government announced the establishment of Team Territory, whose members are tasked with advising the Commission on its work, ensuring its recommendations can deliver jobs and investment for the Territory. They will also advise the Government on the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. Team Territory members are business, industry, community and cultural leaders from across the Northern Territory.</p> <p>On 3 June, the Government announced the establishment of the Central Australian Economic Reconstruction Committee (CAERC), which will provide advice to the newly created Minister for Central Australian Reconstruction on creating jobs, attracting investment including in remote communities, and ensuring priority economic projects are fast-tracked. The CAERC will work with and complement the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission and Team Territory.</p> <p>On 20 July, the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission released its First Report, setting out immediate priorities to capitalise on the Territory's competitive advantages, attract more private investment and create more local jobs. The Report contains 15 immediate recommendations to help attract and secure investment, make it easier to do business, and back locals. The NT Government has accepted all 15 recommendations and has committed to begin actioning them immediately.</p>	<p>Government - media release</p> <p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p> <p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p>
21 May	Creative industry support	<p>As updated on 29 and 31 May, and 10 and 30 June.</p> <p>\$2 million in funding has been allocated to support the arts, creative and screen industry in the Northern Territory through the Creative Industries Sector Immediate Response and Resilience Program.</p>	<p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p> <p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>Within the Program, \$200,000 has been allocated to Channel NT Virtual Territory, an initiative to showcase NT artists and support the creation of accessible digital content. Grant funding will be provided through the Channel NT Virtual Territory program to support artists and creatives to develop content. On 29 May, it was announced that 24 applicants had been selected to share in the funding, including Ittja Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation and Red Hot Arts Central Australia.</p> <p>On 31 May, further support for the arts and creative sector was announced, with 6 Northern Territory artists, arts workers and arts organisations sharing in \$200,000 of Strategic Projects and Arts Industry Development grants.</p> <p>On 10 June, the Government launched its first <i>Creative Industries Strategy 2020-24</i>, which includes the immediate establishment of a Creative Industries COVID-19 Recovery Working Group to provide expert and strategic advice to inform the sector's recovery in the short-term and the implementation of other recommendations over the coming years.</p> <p>On 30 June, the Government announced a \$1.5 million investment to support a new television series set in Central Australia, <i>Maverix</i>. An Alice Springs-based production house, Brindle Films, will shoot the series over 3 months next year which will provide employment opportunities for nearly 400 Territorians and to inject \$5 million into the local economy.</p>	<p>release</p> <p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p> <p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p> <p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p>
18 May	Sport and recreation resilience package	<p>Sporting Bodies, sporting and active recreation organisations and regional councils are encouraged to apply for grants as part of the Government's \$1.3 million Sport and Active Recreation Sector Immediate Response and Resilience Package, to support the sport and active recreation sector through the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>There are four grant categories available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Surfaces and Sewerage Stimulus Package: to support sporting organisations with costs associated with the watering of turf ovals/fields and payment of fixed sewerage costs with up to \$20,000 available per organisation; • Online Accreditation Program Stimulus Package: to improve the knowledge, skills and experience of officials, coaches and trainers. Peak Sporting Bodies can apply for up to \$5,000 to fund or offset costs of enrolment fees for online accreditation programs to a maximum of \$400 per person; • Online Active Recreation Stimulus Package: to support active recreation providers to develop and deliver online programs with up to \$10,000 available per organisation; and • Remote Sport Program Stimulus Package: to support regional and remote communities to deliver regular organised sport and recreation activities. Recognised Remote Sport 	<p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		Providers can apply for up to \$10,000 per community.	
6 May	Support for childcare operators	The Northern Territory Government is offering one-off grants of up to \$10,000 to NT childcare operators to support them through the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. These grants are intended to help support the early childhood care sector offset the costs of supplies, cleaning and maintenance, which have increased due to the pandemic. Applicants must satisfy demonstrated hardship criteria.	Northern Territory Government - media release
5 May	Tourism Rebound Taskforce	<p>The Northern Territory Government has established a Tourism Rebound Taskforce to provide strategic and practical advice on a potential recovery roadmap for the local tourism industry, which has been affected by COVID-19.</p> <p>The Taskforce will bring together leaders from across the tourism sector with expertise in accommodation and hospitality, drive tourism, aviation and touring to provide a national and international perspective on recovery. Taskforce members have been appointed for an initial 1 month period (up to 30 May 2020).</p>	Northern Territory Government - media release
24 April	Infrastructure enhancements	<p>As updated on 26 April and 22 June.</p> <p>The NT Government has announced infrastructure enhancements as part of a \$200 million Darwin City Deal Spend, including improved paving, lighting, greenery and shading. Works will commence in May 2020 and are expected to support 40 jobs.</p> <p>The works include construction of a new Charles Darwin University City Campus and a revamp of Austin Lane.</p> <p>On 22 June, the NT Government announced a further \$12.7 million investment in shovel-ready infrastructure projects and road safety upgrades, to be combined with an additional \$40.4 million from the Commonwealth Government.</p>	Northern Territory Government - media release Northern Territory Government - media release Northern Territory Government - media release
21 April	Parliament recalled	<p>As updated on 23-25 April.</p> <p>NT Parliament reconvened for an emergency session on 24 April 2020 to consider various COVID-19 legislation. Legislation introduced included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tenancies Legislation Amendment Bill 2020</i> to implement additional measures to support Territory landlords and tenants adversely affected by COVID-19; • <i>Public and Environmental Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2020</i> to implement tough fines on those who spit and cough on workers; and 	Northern Territory Government - media release Northern Territory Speaker - media release Northern Territory Government - media release

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Utilities Legislation Amendment Bill 2020</i> to help with the cost of power, water and sewerage for businesses. <p>The legislation was passed on 24 April 2020.</p>	Northern Territory Legislation
20 April	Gaming machine taxes	Gaming machine taxes due for collection for March 2020 will be waived for businesses in the Northern Territory. Going forward, the gaming tax rate will also be reduced to 2016 levels.	Northern Territory Government - media release
9 April	Public Accounts Committee oversight	The Public Accounts Committee will meet monthly to examine the NT Government's ongoing response to COVID-19 to provide greater transparency and accountability about the Government's actions.	Northern Territory Government - media release
8 April	Business relief	<p>The NT Government will deliver \$180 million in additional support to Territory businesses.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% discounts on power, water and sewerage bills for businesses for 6 months from 1 April 2020; and extra support for commercial landlords to provide rent relief to their commercial tenants – if they negotiate in good faith, landlords will be eligible for payroll tax relief, utilities bill relief, and rates relief from local councils. <p>The Government has also asked local councils to waive rates for 3 months followed by a 3 month deferral.</p>	Northern Territory Government - media release
6 April	Construction industry support – classroom stimulus program	The Government announced a \$10.8 million classroom stimulus program, in supporting the construction industry through the COVID-19 pandemic, to build 15 new pre-fabricated classrooms.	Northern Territory Government - media release
25 March	Jobs Rescue Plan	<p>As updated on 1 April and 2 May.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government has invested \$120 million to protect jobs and businesses. As part of this package, it has launched the Territory Jobs Hub, an online platform to connect</p>	Northern Territory Government - media release Northern Territory

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>jobseekers affected by COVID-19 with employers.</p> <p>The package will also assist nearly 1000 tradespeople and small businesses registered to take part in the Jobs Rescue and Recovery Package, including the Home Improvement Scheme, Business Improvement Grants and Immediate Work Grants.</p> <p>On 2 May, the Government announced that as part of the Jobs Rescue and Recovery Package, Territory businesses can now apply to be listed on a central Business Hardship Register which will then enable the business to apply for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waiving or deferring payment of payroll tax; • reduction on utilities bills where offered; • rate reductions where offered; • providing incentives for commercial landlords to reduce rents; and • other relief which may be offered from time to time. 	<p>Government - media release</p> <p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p>
24 March	Aviation sector support	<p>A \$2 million support package will be delivered immediately to retain the Regular Passenger Transport aviation services, which are critical for the supply of essential goods and services to regional and remote towns.</p>	<p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p>
23 March	Small business survival fund	<p>As updated 27 March, 16 April and 25 May.</p> <p>A \$50 million fund will deliver grants to help keep small businesses alive, even when they have to shut. An advisory board of business leaders will oversee the fund.</p> <p>From 27 March, eligible businesses in the Northern Territory can apply online for two payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an Immediate Survival Payment of between \$2,000 and \$50,000 as a lump sum to offset immediate cost pressures. Payments will be based on business size and full-time equivalent employee numbers (ranging from \$2,000 for sole traders or single employees to \$50,000 for businesses with more than 20 FTE employees); and • a Rapid Adaption Payment of between \$1,000 to \$5,000 to assist businesses to make necessary changes to adapt to the new operating environment. <p>On 16 April, it was announced that the second stage of the fund, worth \$20 million, will be put towards ongoing payments to assist businesses in covering operational costs, such as rent, utilities, invoice payments and keeping people employed who may not be eligible for JobKeeper payments. Businesses that are eligible for the Immediate Survival Payment will be automatically eligible for the</p>	<p>Northern Territory Government – Business Recovery</p> <p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p> <p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p> <p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		<p>second round of payments. Further details are anticipated about the value of each payment.</p> <p>On 25 May, the Government announced that the fund would transition to the 'rebound' phase. \$10 million has been allocated to provide Rebound Support Grants to businesses who are approved applicants under the Small Business Survival Fund or approved to be on the Business Hardship register.</p> <p>Rebound Support Grants range between \$1,000 and \$5,000, depending on the number of full time equivalent staff businesses had prior to the COVID-19 shutdown. A further \$10,000 is also available if the business also contributes \$10,000.</p> <p>The Rebound Support Grant may be used for improvements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical alterations to businesses such as hospitality venues to adhere to physical distancing regulations; • signage which illustrates COVID-19 safe practices; • training for staff; • strategic planning; and • advertising and marketing to inform Territorians that they are open and back for business. 	
18 March	Payroll tax	<p>As updated on 8 April, 8 May and 25 September.</p> <p>The payroll tax exemption for hiring Territory employees has been extended to 30 June 2021.</p> <p>On 8 April, the Government announced that payroll tax will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waived for 6 months for businesses with a payroll below \$7.5 million where turnover has been reduced by at least 30%; and • deferred for 6 months for businesses with a payroll above \$7.5 million where turnover has been reduced by at least 50%. <p>The measure will be effective from 1 April, and businesses can apply from 1 May.</p> <p>Furthermore, employers receiving the Australian Government's JobKeeper payments for employees working in the Northern Territory will not have to pay payroll tax on those payments.</p> <p>On 25 September, the Government announced that payroll tax relief has been extended. The relief was initially available for 6 months from April 2020, which aligned with the 6 returns between March and August 2020. This relief is now available for a total of 14 months from April 2020, which aligns</p>	<p>Northern Territory Treasury - payroll tax</p> <p>Northern Territory Government - media release</p> <p>NT Treasury - media release</p>

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
		with the 14 returns between March 2020 and April 2021.	
18 March	Miscellaneous fees/charges	All regular increases to government fees and charges, including electricity costs, will be put on hold until 1 July 2021. Electricity prices for small and medium-sized businesses will be frozen from 1 July 2020 with no increase due to indexation until 1 July 2021.	Northern Territory Government - media release
18 March	Business grants	<p>As updated on 1 April and 29 June.</p> <p>Eligible businesses will get an initial \$10,000 grant for business upgrades, and another \$10,000 if they contribute \$10,000 of their own money. Business owners will be able to spend their grant on upgrades or equipment if purchased from an eligible Territory business. The Business Improvement Grant has now been fully committed; applications are now closed.</p> <p>\$5 million has also been earmarked for an 'Immediate Works Grants' package which will provide grants of up to \$50,000 to not-for-profits and community organisations for repairs and renovations. The Immediate Work Grants have now been fully committed; applications are now closed.</p> <p>Grants of up to \$100,000 will be given to not-for-profit and community organisations to engage local businesses to do repairs, renovations and upgrades to their property and facilities. Applications are now closed.</p> <p>As of 29 June, over \$10 million in Immediate Works Grants and Business Improvement Scheme works have been approved.</p>	Northern Territory Government - jobs, rescue and recovery information Northern Territory Government - media release Northern Territory Government - media release
18 March	Household payments	<p>As updated on 16 and 22 April.</p> <p>Payments for improvements to land and buildings, and repairs and maintenance services. The scheme will operate on a voucher system, with homeowners receiving either a voucher worth \$4,000 if they contribute at least \$1,000 of their own money, or a voucher worth \$6,000 if they contribute at least \$2,000 of their own money.</p> <p>On 16 April, funding for the Home Improvement Scheme was expanded to \$60 million (up from \$30 million) to enable more households to benefit. Applications closed at 5pm on 17 April.</p> <p>On 22 April, vouchers for the Home Improvement Scheme began to be released. 20,000 applications were received and all will be assessed by around October 2020.</p>	Northern Territory Government - jobs, rescue and recovery information Northern Territory Government - media release Northern Territory Government - media release Northern Territory Government - media release

Health and Community Support

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
19 May	Infection control training for businesses	<p>The Northern Territory Government will match the \$400,000 in Federal Government funding to deliver low cost infection control training to Territory businesses. The training will enable the rollout of specific infection control short courses to a wide variety of businesses to make workplaces COVID-19 safe.</p> <p>Customer facing industries such as retail, hospitality, food preparation and transport and logistics, will be prioritised, along with cleaning and security service industries. Businesses will pay no fee or a small fee for training previously only widely available in the health sector.</p>	Northern Territory Government - media release
12 May	Family violence support funding	<p>10 organisations across the Northern Territory will receive close to \$3 million in total in funding to boost domestic and family violence services, and projects aimed at keeping vulnerable Territorians safe, particularly due to the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>The funding will be used to deliver 35 projects focused on introducing new or enhanced counselling services, creating flexible care packages for clients, increasing outreach services and improving the governance and operations of services, including staff health and wellbeing.</p>	Northern Territory Government - media release
30 March	Worker and Wellbeing Fund	<p>As updated on 9 April.</p> <p>A \$5 million Worker and Wellbeing Fund will be established to support workers struggling with the economic effects of COVID-19. The funds will be directed towards those experiencing unemployment, reduced income or otherwise affected in their workplace because of COVID-19. Further details about the operation of the Fund are due to be published.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Chief Minister has said that the fund will be used, in part to expand mental health and wellbeing services for those who are out of work. The Northern Territory Government has not yet announced more general health system funding measures. On 18 March, the Chief Minister pledged that further funding would be provided if required.</p> <p>On 9 April, the Red Cross and Melaleuca Refugee Centre become the first emergency relief organisations to receive funding. This will be used to provide immediate financial and counselling support to international students and visa holders who have lost employment.</p>	Northern Territory Government - media release ABC News - article Northern Territory Government - media release

Local Government

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
13 July	Local business voucher scheme	<p>The Government is offering a funding pool of \$1 million to local governments to take part in a local business-boosting voucher scheme. The scheme is based on the City of Darwin initiative, myDarwin, which is an online platform that provides discounts to the community to incentivise spending in support of local businesses.</p> <p>To assist with the successful implementation of this program across the Northern Territory, the Government will offer assistance to all Northern Territory Local Governments of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to \$200,000 funding contribution to the value of the voucher program, matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by Local Councils; • set-up of the system for the relevant Councils who agree to take part in this economy boosting initiative, with the City of Darwin providing the online platform to interested Councils; and • staffing assistance, to assist in engagement of the program. <p>These vouchers can be used in a variety of businesses including retail and hospitality.</p>	Northern Territory Government - media release
23 April	Local government support	<p>The Government has announced COVID-19 support measures for the local government sector, targeted at helping councils in their efforts to respond and recover from the impacts of COVID-19 in their local communities and businesses. Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a \$6 million Council Support Package in 2020-2021 to support councils in offering rates waivers and deferrals for commercial ratepayers facing hardship; and • inviting councils to repurpose approved, unspent grants under the Special Purpose Grants and Strategic Local Government Infrastructure Fund programs for initiatives related to business continuity or COVID-19-related costs. <p>Ministerial exemptions will allow councils to extend already-tendered contracts with Territory enterprises as well as supplies related to waste management or public health to 30 June 2021.</p> <p>Additionally, the commencement of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> has been deferred for 12 months to allow councils, and others affected by the new legislation, time to concentrate on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	Northern Territory Government - media release
18 March	City of Darwin	As updated on 9 April.	City of Darwin - media

Date of announcement	Measure	Brief explanation of measure taken	Source and Link
	measures	<p>The City of Darwin will waive car parking fees and charges for CBD on-street parking from 18 March 2020 until 30 June 2020. The City will also suspend the charging of interest on outstanding rates balances from 18 March 2020 until 30 June 2020.</p> <p>On 9 April, an economic package valued at \$55m was approved at the Ordinary Council Meeting. The package aims to provide wide-ranging economic support to local households and businesses during the COVID-19 response, including deferral of business and household rates to 30 June 2020 and rent relief for tenants leasing Council properties to 30 June 2020.</p>	<p>release</p> <p>City of Darwin - media release</p>