

COUNT OUT LOUD

Federal and NSW Government
Lockdown Support



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What lockdown support is available to business?



Business

The NSW and Federal Governments have announced a series of new measures to support business during extended lockdowns of four weeks or more.

- Up to \$15,000 through the expanded NSW 2021 COVID-19 business grants program
- Up to \$10,000 cashflow support per week
- NSW micro business grants
- NSW payroll tax deferrals and a 25% payroll tax waiver
- NSW Rent protections and grants
- NSW Sector support for the arts and accommodation sector

You can streamline the process of applying for business support by ensuring:

- Your business and contact details are up to date on the Australian Business Register
- Your personal and business details are up to date and you have a MyServiceNSW account with a business profile

2021 COVID-19 Business Grant

The previously announced small business grants have been increased to up to \$15,000 and expanded to eligible businesses (including not-for-profits and sole traders) with annual wages of up to \$10 million.

The value of the grant is determined by the impact of the lockdown on your turnover. Your business will need to prove a decline in turnover across a minimum 2 week period after the commencement of the major restrictions.

Decline in turnover	Grant
70%+	\$15,000
50% or more	\$10,500
30% or more	\$7,500

2021 COVID-19 Business Grant

Eligibility

The full eligibility criteria, including how the decline of turnover test will be applied, have not been released as yet.

In general, your business will need to have a NSW registered ABN or be able to demonstrate it is physically located and primarily operating in NSW with turnover of more than \$75,000 per annum.

For businesses under the \$75,000 threshold, see \$1,500 Micro Business Grants.

How to apply

Applications open on 19 July 2021 through the Service NSW website.

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/2021-covid-19-business-grant>

Cashflow Support

A cashflow payment between a minimum of \$1,500 and maximum of \$10,000 per week based on 40% of the NSW payroll payments of your business (including not-for-profits).

Businesses without employees that meet the eligibility criteria such as sole traders, will be able to access a payment of \$1,000 per week.

The cashflow support will cease when lockdown restrictions are eased or when the Commonwealth hotspot declaration is removed.

Cashflow Support

Eligibility

- Annual turnover between \$75,000 and \$50 million
- Demonstrate a 30% decline in turnover
- Maintain your full time, part time and long term casual staffing level as of 13 July 2021
- Impacted by the current Greater Sydney COVID-19 restrictions

The full eligibility details, including how the decline in turnover test and how the headcount will work have not been released yet.

How to apply

Applications for the cashflow support have not yet opened but you can register your interest from 14 July 2021 through the Service NSW website.

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/covid-19-business-support-2021>

Micro Business Grants

A new grant for micro businesses (including sole traders) providing \$1,500 per fortnight while lockdown restrictions apply. The grants are available from week one of the lockdown until restrictions are eased.

Eligibility

- Annual turnover of more than \$30,000 and less than \$75,000
- Demonstrate a 30% decline in turnover
- Impacted by the current Greater Sydney COVID-19 restrictions

How to apply

Applications for the cashflow support have not yet opened but you can register your interest from 14 July 2021 through the Service NSW website.

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/covid-19-business-support-2021>

Payroll tax relief

- NSW payroll tax has been deferred for July and August 2021 until 7 October 2021 for all businesses.
- The due date for the 2020-21 annual reconciliation has also been deferred until 7 October 2021.
- Previous payroll tax deferrals and payment arrangements for 2020-21 due in July 2021 have not been deferred.
- Businesses with Australian wages of between \$1.2 million and \$10 million that have experienced a 30% decline in turnover, will be provided with a 25% payroll tax waiver in 2021-22.

Further details of the reduction will be available by the end of August from Revenue NSW.

Rent protections and grants

Eviction moratorium

Legislative amendments will be introduced shortly providing a short-term eviction moratorium for rental arrears where a residential tenant suffers loss of income of 25% due to COVID-19 and meets certain other criteria.

Commercial and retail landlords will need to attempt mediation before recovering a security bond, or locking-out or evicting a tenant impacted by Public Health Orders.

Land tax relief

Land tax relief equal to the value of rent reductions provided by commercial, retail and residential landlords to financially distressed tenants will be available for up to 100% of the 2021 land tax liability.

Specific sector based support

Arts community

A \$75 million support package will be provided to the performing arts sector to be administered by Create NSW.

Eligible organisations include performing arts organisations with heavy reliance on box office income, including not-for-profit performing arts companies who were staging, or scheduled to stage performances during the lockdown period, commercial producers and some live music venues.

Create NSW will open applications from 23 July 2021.

<https://www.create.nsw.gov.au/category/funding-and-support/>

Accommodation sector

A \$26 million support package will be provided to the accommodation sector.

No further details are available at present.

What lockdown support is available to individuals?



COVID-19 Disaster Payment

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

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

Area	Date of declaration	Disaster payment accessible from
City of Sydney, Waverley, Woollahra, Bayside, Canada Bay, Inner West and Randwick	23 June 2021	1 July 2021
Greater Sydney including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong	26 June 2021	4 July 2021
All of NSW		18 July 2021

The COVID-19 disaster payment amount available depends on:

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

The higher payment rate applies if you have lost 20 or more hours of work per week.

Disaster payment amount	Lower rate	Higher rate
First and second period of lockdown	\$325	\$500
Third period and beyond	\$375*	\$600

** This payment rate applies if you have lost at least 8 hours of work per week or a full day of your usual hours of work per week.*

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

COVID-19 Disaster Payment

Eligibility

- Are an Australian citizen, permanent resident or temporary visa holder who has the right to work in Australia, and
- Are aged 17 years or over, and
- Can't attend work and lost income on or after day 8 of a COVID-19 lockdown, and
- Don't have paid leave available through your employer (other than annual leave), and
- Are not receiving income support payments, a state or territory pandemic payment, Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment or state small business payment for the same period.

How to apply

Australian residents need to claim online. To claim online you need a myGov account linked to a Centrelink online account.

Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment

You may be eligible if NSW Health has told you to self-isolate or quarantine, or if you're caring for someone who has COVID-19 or has been told to self-isolate or quarantine.

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

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

Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment

Eligibility

You must also meet **all** of the following conditions:

- You're at least 17 years old and live in New South Wales
- You're an Australian resident or hold a visa that gives you the right to work in Australia
- You're unable to go to work and earn an income
- You have no appropriate leave entitlements, including pandemic sick leave, personal leave or leave to care for another person, and
- You are not getting any income from paid work or any income support payments, ABSTUDY Living Allowance, Paid Parental Leave or Dad and Partner Pay

How to apply

- Call Services Australia on 180 22 66, or
- Prepare the "Claim for Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment – New South Wales" form and fax it to 1300 727 760.

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/pandemic-leave-disaster-payment-new-south-wales>

Other Support

Eviction moratorium

A targeted eviction moratorium will be introduced to protect residential tenants who have lost 25% of their income due to COVID-19.

Residential landlords who decrease rent for impacted tenants can apply for a grant of up to \$1,500 or land tax reductions depending on their circumstances.

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