

Fact Sheet

VIC Covid-19 Lockdown Payments

19 July 2021

The Federal and State Governments have announced new support for Victorian businesses and employees, including changes to the Federal Government support package that will enable Victorians to access support immediately.

Below is a breakdown for businesses and employees.

Businesses

The Victoria State Government has announced a \$200 million targeted business support package including \$2000 grants for businesses whose staff cannot work from home with a payroll up to \$10 million. There are also industry specific grants available for the likes of sole traders, Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund grants and an Events Support Fund for businesses impacted by cancelled bookings and shows.

The grants will be automatically paid to businesses that qualified under the last round of the business support grants and should be paid into bank accounts early next week.

We recommend that businesses contact their Accountant or Bookkeeper for further information on this package.

Employees (Individuals)

Employees affected by the lockdown 5.0 will be eligible for a disaster relief payment.

A person will be eligible for the payment, including where they are still working, provided they have lost more than eight hours, or a full day, of work as a result of the lockdown.

How much is it?

The disaster payment will be \$600 a week if a person has lost 20 or more hours of work a week.

It will be \$375 a week if a person has lost between eight and 20 hours of work a week.

The revamped scheme means you will only have to apply once, and will then receive a weekly payment for the duration of the lockdown.

There are now no restrictions on who is eligible to receive the payment, the assets test having been removed. Previously, recipients of the disaster payment had to demonstrate they had less than \$10,000 in savings.

NOWACTUALLY

While eligibility for the individual payments is still based from the second week of a lockdown onward, the first week will also be covered “on an arrears basis” on application to Services Australia, seven days after the commencement of the lockdown.

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/covid-19-disaster-payment>

Unfortunately we cannot provide any further advice on this as it is independently evaluated. We would suggest that if your Employee’s have questions around this then they should their own independent financial advice.