



COVID-19 support available to non-government schools

Depending on how your approved authority's financial arrangements are structured, you may be eligible for a range of support measures that have been announced by the Australian Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Boosting cash flow for employers

- The Government is providing assistance of up to \$100,000 to help eligible small and medium sized businesses and not-for profit organisations with their cash flow so they can keep operating, pay their rent, electricity and other bills and retain staff.
- Your approved authority may be eligible if your aggregated turnover is less than \$50 million a year and you have made eligible payments that you are required to withhold from (such as salary and wages).
- You do not need to apply for this assistance. If you are eligible, you will receive a credit through the activity statement system when you lodge your activity statement.
- If you are eligible, you will receive a payment equal to 100 per cent of the value of salary and wages withheld. The payment will be delivered as credits in the activity statement system from 28 April 2020.
 - The minimum amount payable will be \$10,000, and the maximum will be \$50,000.
- Eligible entities will receive a further payment of the same value between July and October 2020.
- Payments are tax-free.

JobKeeper Payment

- Under the JobKeeper Payment arrangements, eligible employers are able to claim a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 per eligible employee from 30 March 2020, for a maximum period of six months.
- Your approved authority may be eligible for the JobKeeper Payment if you can demonstrate that your turnover has fallen by 30 per cent where turnover is less than \$1 billion, or 50 per cent where turnover is above \$1 billion.
- You will need to self-assess that your approved authority is likely to experience the required turnover decline relative to a comparable period a year ago (e.g. a month or a quarter). The Commissioner of Taxation will have discretion to allow a business to use a different period depending on their circumstances.

- You can register your interest in receiving updates on the Jobkeeper Payment at <https://www.ato.gov.au/general/jobkeeper-payment/employers/>. Once you register you will receive information about the process to apply.

Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses

- The Government has made some [changes to the business regulatory environment](#) which relax the usual rules for responding to creditors' demands and trading while insolvent. There may be rare circumstances in which these changes become important to assist non-government schools.
- One of the changes temporarily increases the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand, and increases the time that entities have to respond to such a demand.
- Other changes provide temporary relief for directors from any personal liability for trading while insolvent, and changes to the Corporations Act 2001 to provide temporary and targeted relief from provisions of the Act to deal with unforeseen events that arise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coronavirus Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Guarantee Scheme

- Under [this scheme](#) the Government is providing a guarantee of 50 per cent to SME lenders to support new short-term unsecured loans (up to \$250,000 value) to SMEs, including non-government schools with an aggregated turnover of less than \$50 million.
- These loans may provide a useful source of working capital to manage short term budget issues.

Other support available to non-government schools

- Schools are strongly urged to talk to their bank to discuss what support might be available. The banking sector has announced a range of initiatives, including deferral of loan payments for businesses and fee waivers. For more information please go to www.ausbanking.org.au
- The ATO is also implementing measures that may assist: www.ato.gov.au/Media-centre/Media-releases/Support-measures-to-assist-those-affected-by-COVID-19/
- You can also contact the Fair Work Helpline (1300 135 367) for assistance with understanding your employer obligations during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- support may also be available from your state or territory government.

Where can I find out more about the Government's COVID-19 measures?

For more information on the Government's economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit treasury.gov.au/coronavirus

Additional information is available at business.gov.au and through the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission website at acnc.gov.au.