

JUNE 2021

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS SUPPORT ADVISORY

The Real Media Collective



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
NEW SOUTH WALES	4
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	6
QUEENSLAND	7
NORTHERN TERRITORY	8
CLOSING REMARKS	9

INTRODUCTION

With recent restrictions and lockdowns in various states and locations across Australia, various state governments have released a range of support packages to assist businesses who have suffered negatively. Following is a summary of the available support packages for NSW, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

NEW SOUTH WALES

SMALL BUSINESS COVID SUPPORT PACKAGE ANNOUNCED

The NSW Government has announced a new package of grants and other measures for businesses impacted by the recent COVID-19 outbreak and ensuing two-week lockdown.

Although the complete details of this support package have not yet been released, we understand that affected businesses will be able to apply for these grants and access payments through the Service NSW website from 19 July 2021. Successful grant recipients can use the funds for business expenses such as rent, utilities and wages, for which no other government support is available.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be available to eligible NSW businesses that have suffered turnover reductions as a result of state lockdowns that commenced on 26 June 2021.

Eligibility criteria:

- > This grant will be available to businesses and sole traders with more than \$75,000 turnover but below the NSW Government 2020-21 payroll tax threshold of \$1.2m as at 1 July 2020.
- > Have less than 20 full time equivalent workers.
- > Have an ABN registered in NSW, or be able to demonstrate they are physically located and operating within NSW.
- > Businesses will need to evidence a decline in turnover across a minimum two-week period after restrictions commenced on June 26 2021.

Decline in turnover (%)	Grant available
70%	\$10,000
50%	\$7,000
30%	\$5,000

How the turnover decline will be determined was not clarified at the time of the announcement, however we understand it will be a comparison against the same period in 2019.

The NSW Treasurer mentioned in the announcement that proof of the decline in turnover is expected to be in the form of an accountant's letter or statement that confirms the decline over the specific time period.

NEW SOUTH WALES

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

An optional deferral of payroll tax payments due in July 2021 with the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue able to provide for appropriate repayment arrangements on a case by case basis.

Further to our bulletin item from earlier this week, if your NSW based business is considered a small business or is a sole trader, you may also be eligible for a small business fees and charges rebate of \$1500. If eligible, this rebate can be used to offset a range of state and local government related fees and charges.

Further details on this business support package will be made available on the Service NSW website in the coming days: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/covid-19-help-small-businesses>

FOR AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS

For those individuals in NSW who can't earn an income because they must self-isolate, quarantine or care for someone who has COVID, they may be eligible for a Commonwealth Disaster Payment from 1 July 2021. More information on this support is available at the following federal government website: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/pandemic-leave-disaster-payment-new-south-wales>

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australia is currently experiencing a 4-day COVID related lockdown and related restrictions in the Perth and Peel regions. Although the WA government has not currently implemented new business assistance programs for this lockdown, there are small business support initiatives already in place that may continue to be relevant to your business. This includes the electricity offset credit program whereby eligible businesses can receive a \$500 credit if:

- > they operate from a property used for commercial or mixed uses;
- > they incurred electricity costs at a premises as at 2 February 2021; and
- > electricity consumption at the premises is no more than 50MW/h per year or electricity bills total up to \$15,000 per annum.

Applications for this offset credit open on 14 June 2021 and close on 30 September 2021. Further information can be found at the following government website: <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/apply-small-business-and-charities-electricity-credit>

Numerous of the business support initiatives announced earlier this year have now expired, for further information on any WA business support initiatives we recommend going to the WA government small business website: <https://www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/coronavirus>

QUEENSLAND

A light blue map of Queensland is positioned in the top left corner of the page, partially overlapping the word 'QUEENSLAND'.

Queensland is also experiencing variable conditions and from 6pm 29 June 2021 to 6pm 2 July 2021, areas in South East Queensland, Townsville (including Magnetic Island) and Palm Island are subject to a range of lockdown restrictions.

Although the Queensland government has not currently announced new measures to support businesses this week, there are currently a range of government support programs available

Business Boost grants of up to \$15,000 are to help small businesses improve their efficiency and productivity through organisational development and upgrades through automated software and CRM systems. Grants will be able to be used for website development and upgrades, strategic marketing, training and coaching, advisory services and planning for business continuity and succession. The launch date for this grant is mid-July and applications will open in late July. For more information go to: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/starting-business/advice-support/grants/schedule>

For other available business assistance for Queensland businesses impacted by COVID, please use the QLD government business assistance finder: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/covid-assistance>

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Northern Territory government has implemented the Territory Business Lockdown Payment Program to provide immediate financial support to businesses during the current lockdown period. Eligible businesses can receive a payment of \$1,000 and will need to submit an online application. The Territory Business Lockdown Payment is the result of a decision by the NT Government to provide one-off funding to assist eligible Territory businesses.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the payment, Northern Territory based businesses (including sole-traders) must meet a range of factors:

An eligible business:

- > is a Territory enterprise
- > be a valid legal entity
- > holds a valid ABN as at the date of announcement of the lockdown
- > was providing goods and / or services to the public wholly or substantially in the Northern Territory (NT) as at the date of announcement of the lockdown
- > is actively trading with an annual turnover of at least \$75,000 and less than \$10 million
- > has fewer than 20 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees
- > has had to temporarily cease or significantly reduce trading (ie, a drop of 50% or more in turnover) as a direct result of the lockdown

APPLICATION PROCESS

After checking your businesses eligibility (<https://businessrecovery.nt.gov.au/terms-and-conditions>) businesses can then go and apply via the NT governments 'smartygrants' website: <https://businessnt.smartygrants.com.au/lockdownpayment>

Applications for the payment are currently open and will close at 5pm 12 July 2021. If successful you will be notified by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade and the funds will be paid into your nominated bank account.

We recommend businesses seeking to apply for such a payment review the relevant terms and conditions.

For further information businesses should go to the NT governments business recovery website: <https://businessrecovery.nt.gov.au/businesses/territory-business-lockdown-payment-program>

CLOSING REMARKS

COVID is and remains a threat to both business and the individual. Spikes in cases experienced this week rapidly evolve and effect business in different ways depending upon your location. Where possible members should pursue any potential opportunity, including government support initiatives for business, that may assist your business and your people. TRMC will continue to advise members on these and related issues to keep you as informed as possible so you can make the best decisions available.

CONTACT

Members with any related queries on current state government business support initiatives should feel free to contact the Collectives Charles Watson via email: charles@thermc.com.au or phone 0428 568 032.

+61 3 9421 2206
hello@thermc.com.au

Suite 6, 151 Barkly Avenue
Richmond VIC 3121 Australia

therealmediacollective.com.au
therealmediacollective.co.nz

