

# State-by-State Stimulus Packages Summary

As at 31 March 2020

## Summary

Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia are offering payroll tax relief to businesses affected by the escalating economic crisis. Each state varies in criteria and delivery, particularly in whether an application is needed or whether it is applied automatically. Below is a general guide on what is on offer at this stage, but more details are expected to be released soon.

## Victoria

Businesses with payroll of less than \$3 Million will be able to defer any payroll tax payments for the first three months of the 2020-2021 financial year, up until January 2021.

The Victorian government will also begin refunding payroll tax payments to small and medium businesses across the state from this week.

The Victorian Government has announced \$500 million to establish a Business Support Fund to assist small to medium businesses most impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Register: <https://fs2.formsite.com/diirdwebteam3/u3qeftcfcc/index.html>

## New South Wales

There will be a waiver of payroll tax for businesses with payrolls of up to \$10 Million for three months (the rest of 2019-20). Meaning businesses can save a quarter of their annual payroll tax bill in 2019-20. It is expected to be applied automatically.

The next round of payroll tax cuts will be brought forward and raise the threshold limit to \$1 Million in 2020-21.

A range of fees and charges will be waived for small businesses – more on this will be released later. There will be a waiving the one-month notice period for taking long service leave (by mutual agreement between employee and employer) and greater flexibility for employees to take this leave in shorter blocks if they wish (rather than traditional monthly blocks).

NSW workers and businesses are now able to access a range of advice and support on non-health related COVID-19 enquiries via the Service NSW contact centre 13 77 88.

## Queensland

An employer (or part of a group of employers) who pays **\$6.5 million or less**, and is specifically impacted by COVID-19, will get a refund of two months' worth of payroll tax.

Small and medium businesses can then also get a three-month payroll tax holiday after that.

There is then an option for a further six-month payroll tax deferral as well – but this **is a deferral after the first three months, not an exemption.**

No Queensland business impacted by COVID-19 will need to make a payroll tax payment this year under this scheme.

Applications are now open for the Queensland Government's *COVID-19 Jobs Support Loan* scheme. These are low interest loans of up to \$250,000 are available to assist with carry-on expenses such as employee wages, rent and rates and other related expenditure.



*According to the government's website, a business is directly or indirectly affected by coronavirus if their current turnover, profit, customers, bookings, retail sales, supply contracts or other factors are negatively affected compared with normal operating conditions.*

Apply for a deferral:

[https://qldtreasury.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9Eu9CxAOX5dlhf](https://qldtreasury.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Eu9CxAOX5dlhf)

Apply for refund/holiday:

[https://qldtreasury.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0H5S0mZGFLwsY61](https://qldtreasury.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0H5S0mZGFLwsY61)

For more information on the COVID-19 Jobs Support Loan Scheme:

<http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/current-programs/covid-19-business-support/queensland-covid19-jobs-support-scheme>

Note: You must continue to lodge returns in OSRconnect - without paying them - during this time. You can resume paying returns at any time during the deferral period.

## Western Australia

Any WA small business that pays payroll tax will receive a one-off grant of \$17,500. Businesses with a payroll of between \$1 million and \$4 million will be eligible for the grant. You do not need to apply for the grant. These grants will be automatically paid by cheque and are expected to start being distributed from July. However, there may be delays for businesses whose tax status changed during the 2018-19 or 2019-20 financial year.

Western Australian businesses affected by the coronavirus outbreak may also be eligible to defer their payroll tax payments until July 21, 2020. Deferral is available to a group or non-grouped business with annual Australian taxable wages not exceeding \$7.5 Million, and that have been directly or indirectly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

*According to the government's website, a business is 'affected' if turnover, profit, customer numbers, bookings, retail sales, supply contracts, or other factors have seen a negative impact, because of the coronavirus outbreak.*

To secure the deferral, business owners need to fill in a form, and describe how their business has been affected. You can find the payroll deferral form here:

[https://rol.osr.wa.gov.au/Ecew/faces/Enquiry.jspx;jsessionid=dn0US\\_Ck9vMuh-x\\_pXt4Ixr0CcalGUHdyr62-FmeqAiXpkgWDE!-192945403?enquiryType=5&\\_afLoop=315820428391800&\\_afWindowMode=0&\\_afWindowId=null&\\_adf.ctrl-state=143b3815yy\\_1](https://rol.osr.wa.gov.au/Ecew/faces/Enquiry.jspx;jsessionid=dn0US_Ck9vMuh-x_pXt4Ixr0CcalGUHdyr62-FmeqAiXpkgWDE!-192945403?enquiryType=5&_afLoop=315820428391800&_afWindowMode=0&_afWindowId=null&_adf.ctrl-state=143b3815yy_1)

## South Australian

Any SA business with an annual payroll up to \$4 million will have a 6-month waiver on payroll tax. There is also a \$300 million Business and Jobs Support Fund to support individual businesses and industry sectors directly affected by coronavirus. Further information about how your business can access financial support and benefits from the state-wide response will be announced soon.