



Regional Development *Australia*

F A R N O R T H

Australian Government Stimulus Package

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has recently confirmed that the Australian Government plans to spend \$11 billion before June 30 this year to stimulate the economy with the remainder to be injected into the economy before the end of the next financial year.

This funding falls into the below categories.

Tax relief for small and medium sized businesses

- Lifting the threshold for the instant asset write-off from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expanding it to businesses with an annual turnover up to \$500 million, up from \$50 million.
- Businesses with turnover up to \$50 million will receive a tax-free cashflow boost worth between \$2,000 and \$25,000. Businesses that pay income tax on their employees' salary either quarterly or monthly will receive a payment equal to 50 per cent of the amount withheld, but up to a maximum of \$25,000. Eligible businesses that pay salary and wages but do not withhold tax will receive a minimum payment of \$2,000. Businesses will receive payments of 50 per cent of their Business Activity Statements or Instalment Activity Statement from 28 April with refunds to then be paid within 14 days.
- Small businesses with less than 20 full-time employees set to receive up to \$7,000 in wage assistance for each apprentice per quarter over the next six months.
- The Government is also offering administrative relief for certain tax obligations, including deferring tax payments up to four months.

Regional Communities

- \$1 billion to support those sectors, regions and communities that have been disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of the Coronavirus, including those heavily reliant on export industries such as tourism, agriculture and education. Further information to follow.

Health and Welfare

- A \$750 one-off cash payment for welfare recipients including pensioners, carers, veterans, families, young people and jobseekers. The payment will be tax free and will not count as income for Social Security, Farm Household Allowance and Veteran payments. There will be one payment per eligible recipient. If a person qualifies for the one-off payment in multiple ways,

they will only receive one payment. Payments will be from 31 March 2020 on a progressive basis, with over 90 per cent of payments expected to be made by mid-April.

- Casual employees who get sick can apply for a job seeker payment.
- \$2.4 billion spend on healthcare costs associated with the coronavirus.
- 100 coronavirus fever clinics to be set-up, and a new Medicare item created to deliver health advice remotely.

More information can be found at the Australian Government's Coronavirus information and support for business website [here](#).

Advice on Employer, finance and business obligations can be found [here](#).

For the latest information and alerts on coronavirus, refer to the below trusted sources:

SA Health - <http://bit.ly/2TSKrgG>

Australian Government Department of Health - <http://bit.ly/2wcj8oF>

Smart Traveller - <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/>

Health Direct - <http://bit.ly/38R5553>

For information on the South Australian Government Stimulus Package go to <http://bit.ly/2QjPgNU>