

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

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The Prime Minister announced today the details around the mandatory Code of Conduct for Commercial Tenancies and Ted O'Brien has shared some answers to questions he has received since the announcement.

Also included in this edition are important links from Austrade, and some recently updated fact sheets.

We have also updated the information provided by both the Noosa and Sunshine Coast Councils.

And a reminder that with the Easter break fast approaching, that our National Parks are closed and that it's important for everyone to stay close to home unless you need to go out for exercise or other essential services.



Announced today - Mandatory Code of Conduct for Commercial Tenancies

Late yesterday the National Cabinet has today agreed to a Commercial Tenancy Code in response to COVID-19.

Ted O'Brien, Federal Member for Fairfax has supplied the following Q&A to some of the questions he is already receiving.

1. What's the Code all about?

It's a code-of-practice that aims to balance the interests of both landlords and tenants during this COVID-19 period by keeping tenants in properties and leases in place. The idea is to aid the management of cashflow for small & medium sized tenants and their landlords on a proportionate basis, while allowing the value of the assets to be maintained.

2. What does it mean for landlords and tenants?

It means landlords will be required to reduce rents proportionate to the reduction in trade experienced by tenants due to COVID-19 by

- i) waivers and
- ii) deferrals.

That is, rental relief would be proportional to a tenant's decline in turnover and provided in two parts: (at least) 50% as a waiver and 50% as a deferral for payment over the remaining term of the lease.

3. Can you give me an example?

Let's say a tenant pays \$100 a month in rent to a landlord. The tenant's business was averaging a turnover of \$500 a month last year which has now dropped to \$250 a month due to COVID-19 - i.e. there's been a 50% decline in turnover. As a result, the tenant's rent would now fall by 50% - that is, from \$100 a month to \$50 a month - and this relief would be delivered to the tenant in two parts: by way of a waiver of \$25 and a deferral of \$25.

4. Does this apply to commercial tenancies only?

Yes - including retail, office and industrial.

5. Will the code be mandatory?

Yes.

6. How will it be overseen?

The State Government will legislate and regulate the code and where agreements can't be reached between landlords and tenants, there will be binding mediation.

7. Does the code apply to everyone?

No. It only applies to small and medium sized businesses in distress - i.e. a business with a turnover of \$50 million or less that is eligible for the JobKeeper program.

8. Where can I read the detail about the Code?

Click on the button below to read more about the Code.

Read the Mandatory Code of
Conduct here



Cash flow boost for employers

From 28 April 2020, eligible businesses will receive a tax-free cash flow boost of between \$20,000 and \$100,000 through credits in the activity statement system when they lodge all relevant activity statements. This is to help during the economic downturn associated with COVID-19.

You do not need to apply for the cash flow boost. All you need to do is lodge your upcoming activity statements.

Make sure you lodge your March and quarter 3 activity statements on their due date and no earlier. This will ensure you receive the maximum refund available to you to assist with your cash flow.

If your business is eligible, the credit will be automatically applied - but not before 28 April 2020.

You can view the eligibility criteria [here](#).

If you are lodging online through our Business Portal, remember you now need to log in using your myGovID. [Set up your myGovID today](#), if you haven't already.

Remember, registered tax agents and BAS agents can help you with your tax.

[Boosting cash flow for employers](#)



Important updates from Austrade

Austrade is open for business and their network of 1,100 staff is committed to helping you through this time.

As part of 'Team Australia', Austrade is working closely with the network of government departments and industry agencies to help Australian businesses overcome complex and fast-evolving COVID-19-related challenges.

Their website contains updates on markets and logistics, and links through to the Government's extensive business support programs.

[Visit the Austrade Website](#)

Fact Sheets

Information on how the Australian Government's economic response could support you can be found in the following fact sheets.



Supporting businesses to retain jobs

Keeping Australians in work and businesses in business will lay the foundations for a stronger economic recovery once the Coronavirus crisis passes.

[Fact Sheet](#)



JobKeeper payment - Information for employers

This fact sheet sets out employer obligations for receiving the JobKeeper payment.

[Fact Sheet](#)



JobKeeper payment - Information for employees

Employees will receive a notification from their employer that they are receiving the JobKeeper Payment. Read the fact sheet below for more details.

[Fact Sheet](#)



Sunshine Coast Council Coronavirus latest news

- [Latest news and updates](#)
- [Preparing your business against coronavirus](#)
- [Government support programs](#)
- [Sole Traders](#)
- [Industry support](#)
- [Looking after your mental health](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Health FAQ's and advice](#)

[Council COVID-19 Update](#)



Business Community Update

Noosa Council has implemented the following initiatives to support affected local business:

- [COVID-19 Assistance Response - A Guide to Support for Small Business](#)
Outlines all the government packages for small business, including worksheets to calculate incentives, and How to apply. Includes the latest information on the new JobKeeper scheme.
- Hotline for general Business Assistance/Advice- delivered in partnership with Business Mentors Noosa. Hotline number is 5430-6652. The hotline will be staffed from 3.00pm - 5.00pm weekdays. Please don't hesitate to call and leave your details for a callback.
- [Subsidised Business Support](#)- Subsidised access to professional service providers to help business assess their current positions and actions to take in key areas such as Business Continuity/Finance, Legal, HR, Innovation, Communications.

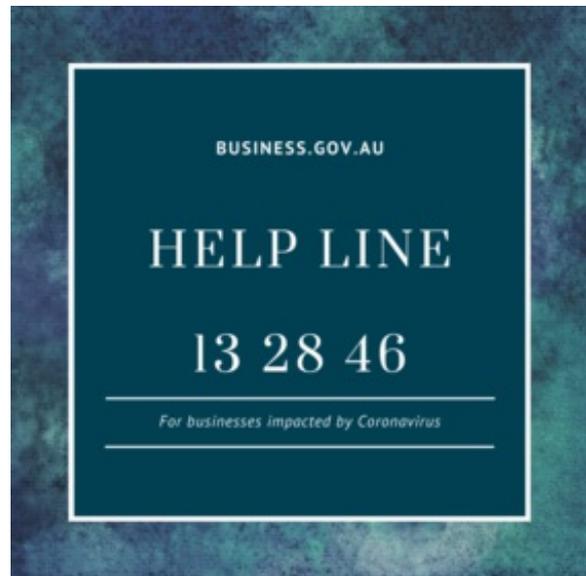
To keep up to date with all Council's Business e-Updates, [subscribe here](#).

Business and COVID-19

Helpline for Small Business

Operations at the www.business.gov.au Contact Centre has increased from five days per week to seven days per week, and will provide an additional two hours a day of support outside standard operating hours, answering calls from
ato 11.00pm AEST.

Click here for
more



Current Health Advice from the Department of Health

The latest information about COVID-19 is available on the Department of Health's website, including a number of fact sheets and resources for the public.

Latest Health
Information



Never miss out on our news

If you know people who wish to be added to this regular communication please drop us an email at media@rdasunshinecoast.org.au

Register to
receive our
newsletter

Contact us

RDASC, Tower 2, Level 1, The Hive Co-working & Office Space, Kon-Tiki Business Centre, 55 Plaza Parade, Maroochydore QLD 4558

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Regional Development Australia Sunshine Coast is an Australian Government initiative which works in collaboration with the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Councils to support economic development within the region.



An Australian Government Initiative

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