

Fact sheet for Business

<h2>Key contacts</h2> <p>Business Enterprise Centre - 8923 6133 Chamber of Commerce NT - 8982 8188 Department of Trade, Business and Innovation - 1800 193 111</p>	<h2>Stay up to date</h2> <p>Follow Secure NT on Facebook and Visit coronavirus.nt.gov.au</p>
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Practicing **good hygiene** and keeping a **healthy physical distance** between individuals is our most powerful weapon in fighting this virus and saving lives.

Social distancing measures

Facilities that cannot open (Stage 1)

- Pubs, registered and licenced clubs (excluding bottle shops attached to these venues), hotels (excluding accommodation)
- Gyms, including yoga and barre, indoor sporting venues
- Cinemas, entertainment venues, casinos, and night clubs
- Restaurants, cafes and food courts will be restricted to takeaway and/or home delivery

These measures also apply to outdoor spaces associated with the above venues.

From midnight tonight, additional places that cannot open (Stage 2)

- Auction houses
- Real estate auctions and open house inspections (private appointments for inspection are permitted)
- Hairdressers and barber shops (can only take up to 30 minute appointments and the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies)
- Beauty therapy, tanning, waxing, nail salons, tattoo parlours
- Spas and massage parlours
- Amusement parks and arcades
- Play centres (indoor and outdoor)
- Community and recreation centres (facilities may remain open for essential voluntary or public services, such as food banks or homeless services)

- Boot camps and personal training (can continue outside only if limited to groups of no more than 10 people and social distancing must be exercised)
- Social sporting-based activities
- Swimming pools
- Galleries, museums, national institutions and historic sites
- Libraries, community centres, and youth centres
- Local government non-essential facilities and services (such as libraries and pools)
- Community facilities (such as community halls, clubs, RSLs)
- Places of worship, weddings and funerals except:
 - Weddings with no more than 5 people and the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies
 - Funerals with no more than 10 people and the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies.

Other restrictions

- No non-essential gatherings of groups of people at home or in public
- Where possible, keep 1.5 metres between yourself and others
- Avoid non-essential travel
- Restrictions on visiting aged care homes, prisons and hospitals

Travel restrictions

Australian citizens will be restricted from travelling overseas from 25 March 2020 at 1200hrs AEDST.

This travel restriction does not apply to:

- Persons ordinarily resident in a country other than Australia;
- Airline and maritime crew and associated safety workers;
- Persons engaged in the day to day conduct of outbound and inbound freight;
- Persons whose travel is associated with essential work at offshore facilities; and
- Persons travelling on official government business, including members of the Defence Force.

All current travel restrictions for entry to Australia remain in place.

Border restrictions

From 4pm Tuesday 24 March 2020, strict border controls will apply in the Northern Territory (NT) for all access points by road, rail, air and sea.

If you are a non-essential traveller arriving at a Northern Territory border, you must self-quarantine for 14 days unless your situation is covered by an exemption category.

You must be able to prove you are an essential traveller before you will be granted an exemption from self-quarantine.

Anyone seeking to enter the NT must fill in a border arrival form to declare:

- where you have travelled in the last 30 days
- your personal and contact details
- information about where you intend to stay whilst in the Territory.

Who is exempt

Some people are exempt from the requirement to self-quarantine including:

- national and Northern Territory security and governance
- health and emergency services
- transport, freight and logistics
- defence and policing
- flight crews and freight – with strict guidelines in place to monitor and manage this
- people with specialist skills that are critical to maintaining key government services, industries or businesses.

An exemption may also be granted on compassionate or medical grounds.

Freight will continue to come in and out of the Territory. This will not impact the delivery of essential goods and services.

Food and freight including petrol will continue. Supermarkets and stores will remain supplied.

Rules for fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers

If you are a Territory resident FIFO worker and believe you fall into one of the essential traveller categories, you can apply for exemption.

Further information, relevant forms and how to apply for an exemption [is available here](#).

What happens if you don't comply?

There are penalties of up to \$62,800 for failure to comply with the new [COVID-19 directions](#).

If you are out of work

Job seeker allowance

If you don't have a job you can access the Job Seeker (Newstart) Allowance of \$550 per fortnight.

From 27 April you can also access an additional Coronavirus allowance of \$550 per fortnight if you receive the Jobseeker, Youth and Farm Household allowances, Parenting Payment and Special Benefits.

There will be streamlined access to Services Australia, removal of some requirements and reduced means testing and waiving of waiting times. [Read more](#).

Access your super

You can access up to \$10,000 from your superannuation balance before 30 June, and up to \$10,000 between July and October. [Read more](#).

Territory Jobs Hub

Free for employers and employees. Will be live on Wednesday 25 March. More details to come.

Apprentices and trainees

Call 8935 8200 for direct support and advice.

Help for business

Deferred business loan repayments

All Australian banks will defer loan repayments for small businesses affected by COVID-19 for six months.

Small businesses are encouraged to contact their banks to apply, [more information here](#)

Boosting cash flow

Small business can claim back 100% of tax withheld to a maximum of \$50,000.

Between July and October you can make a second claim, making the assistance available up to \$100,000.

Any organisations that don't withhold tax, can recover a minimum payment of \$10,000. [Read more.](#)

Temporary relief from financial distress

Threshold for when a creditor can issue a statutory demand on a company has been increased from \$2000 to \$20,000. The timeframe to respond to that demand is extended from 21 days to six months.

The minimum amount of debt for a creditor to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against a debtor will increase from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and the timeframe for response also extended to six months. [Read more.](#)

Directors will be exempt from personal liability for trading while insolvent for six months. Directors will still need to manage their general duties including to act in the best interest of the corporation and with due care and diligence, during these extremely trying times. [Read more.](#)

Resource from the Australian Institute of Company Directors - [Getting through the coronavirus financial downturn: a guide for directors](#)

Supporting the flow of credit

A guarantee of 50% to small business lenders for new unsecured loans for working capital.

You can borrow up to \$250,000 for up to three years with an initial six month repayment holiday. [Read more.](#)

Apprentices and trainees

Call 8935 8200 for direct support and advice.

Tourism operators

Tourism Business Support program for event organisers, suppliers and tourism operators offering business continuity and financial advice.

KPMG will present three workshops for event organisers, suppliers and tourism operators in Darwin on Monday 30 March 2020 and in Alice Springs on Wednesday 1 April 2020.

KPMG will also be available to provide financial advice and planning to tourism operators from 24 March 2020 up to the end of July 2020 with one hour preparation and one hour consultation per business. Find out more [here.](#)

NT Jobs Rescue and Recovery package

The Northern Territory (NT) Government is delivering a Jobs Rescue and Recovery plan to help stimulate the economy and keep Territorians in jobs.

This package is the second phase of the response to the significant economic impact of COVID-19, and is complementary to initiatives offered by the Australian Government to all jurisdictions.

Note that solar PV panels and solar PV install is excluded from the Home Improvement Scheme, Business Improvement Grant and Immediate Work Grant eligible works.

Inverter upgrades, batteries and other electrical work that supports energy efficiency are eligible works under these programs. Solar hot water systems are also eligible works under these programs.

Home Improvement Scheme - \$30 million

The scheme will help fast track around 5,000 screwdriver-ready projects in Territory homes. This means that projects are physical improvements to land and/or buildings, and repairs and maintenance services.

Registrations for businesses to provide services open 30 March 2020. Applications for homeowners open 6 April 2020. Read more [here](#).

Business Improvement Grant - \$20 million

Territory businesses will be able to access a \$10,000 grant, followed by an additional \$10,000 grant if they contribute \$10,000.

Registrations for businesses to provide services open 30 March 2020. Businesses can apply for a grant from 13 April 2020. Read more [here](#).

Immediate Works Grant - \$5 million

Grants of up to \$100,000 will help not-for-profit and community organisations to engage local businesses to do repairs, renovations and upgrades to their property and facilities.

Registrations for businesses to provide services open 30 March 2020. Grant applications open 20 April 2020. Read more [here](#).

Small Business Survival Fund - \$50 million

The Fund will help keep severely affected businesses alive, even when they have to shut.

An Advisory Board of business leaders will oversee the Fund, chaired by Dick Guit.

More detail on the Fund will be release by Friday 27 March.

Support and advice

Independent advice

Access to 4 hours of free and independent advice is available to directly help business.

Territory businesses can contact either the [Business Enterprise Centre NT](#) or the [Chamber of Commerce NT](#) to access independent and expert advisors on:

- Health and wellbeing
- Business strategy and managing through tough times
- Finance, accounting, bookkeeping and insurance
- Legal matters including intellectual property and contracts
- Web, ecommerce, social media and marketing

Co-contribution requirements are waived for all NT Government [Business Growth programs](#). You can [contact a small business champion](#) to find out which program is best for you.

Advice for employers

You can [contact the Chamber of Commerce NT](#) to receive free advice from expert advisors free of charge, even if you are not a member. [A guide for employers](#) is also available.

Call the Chamber of Commerce NT Hotline on 8982 8188 or the Business Enterprise Centre on 8923 6133.

The mental health of you and your staff

You can always ask for help when you need it.

Mental health and counselling	Aid and support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Territory Mental Health Line 1800 682 288 • Lifeline 13 11 14 • Beyond Blue 1300 22 46 36 • Mensline Australia 1300 789 978 • EASA Counselling, Training, Mediation and Consulting 1800 193 123 • Catholic Care NT 8944 2000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Red Cross (NT Division) 8924 3904 • Somerville Community Services 8920 4100 • Foodbank NT 8947 3669 • Anglicare NT 8985 000
Parenting support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FACES hotline 1800 999 900 • Parentline Queensland and the Northern Territory 1300 301 300 	

Find out more at: nt.gov.au/wellbeing/mental-health