



COVID-19 Disaster Payment

July 2021

About the Payment

COVID-19 Disaster Payment is a payment to support workers who are unable to work due to a state or territory public health order that imposes restrictions on movement such as a lockdown.

The amount of COVID-19 Disaster Payment is:

- \$500 per week of restriction for people who are ordinarily engaged in 20 hours or more of paid employment per week; and
- \$350 per week for people who are ordinarily engaged in less than 20 hours per week of paid employment.

COVID-19 Disaster Payment is taxable income.

Eligibility

To be eligible for COVID-19 Disaster Payment, you must:

- be at least 17 years old.
- be an Australian resident or hold a visa class permitted to work in Australia.
- reside or work in an area that is:
 - subject to a state or territory public health order that imposes restriction on movement; and
 - determined by the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer to be a COVID-19 hotspot.
- be unable to work and therefore earn any income as a result of the restrictions.
- have access to liquid assets of less than \$10,000.
- not be receiving:
 - an income support payment (including if on a nil rate)
 - Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment for the same period you are claiming COVID-19 Disaster Payment
 - a state or territory business support payment.
- not have access to appropriate paid leave entitlements.

Eligible visa classes include permanent visas, temporary visas which give you a right to work in Australia and New Zealand passport holders with a Protected Special Category Visa.

'Unable to work' includes being stood down by your employer, not being assigned any shifts for the period of restrictions and being unable to work from home.

Sole traders may apply for COVID-19 Disaster Payment if you are unable to operate your business from home.

Income support payments include: Age Pension, Austudy, Carer Payment, Disability Support Pension, Farm Household Allowance, JobSeeker Payment, Parenting Payment, Partner Allowance, Special Benefit, Widow Allowance, Youth Allowance and Income Support Supplement, Service Pension or Veteran Pension from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Appropriate leave includes special pandemic paid leave, paid sick/carers leave only when you are sick or injured or need to care for an immediate family/household member who is sick or injured, or for an emergency.

Appropriate leave does not include annual leave, unpaid leave, or any leave you are not able to access when you have been stood down without pay by your employer under the Fair Work Act.

Timing

COVID-19 Disaster Payment is available for the second and any subsequent weeks of restrictions. You only need to be eligible on one day of the relevant period of restriction to claim the Payment.

- You may apply for the Payment from the eighth day of the relevant period of restrictions.
- Should the restrictions continue beyond two weeks, you may claim the Payment again from the fifteenth day.
- You may continue to claim the Payment at the start of each subsequent week of restrictions.
- You must claim the Payment within 28 days of the start of each eligible week of restrictions.

If you live or work in the local government areas of Bayside, Canada Bay, City of Sydney, Inner West, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra:

- The relevant period of restrictions is 1 July to 9 July 2021.
- You can claim COVID-19 Disaster Payment from 1 July 2021.

If you live or work in the remainder of Greater Sydney, including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong:

- The relevant period of restrictions is 4 July to 9 July 2021.
- You can claim COVID-19 Disaster Payment from 4 July 2021.

How to apply

You can claim COVID-19 Disaster Payment in two ways:

1. Australian residents can claim online via a [myGov](#) account linked to a Centrelink online account.

2. Eligible visa holders can claim by calling Services Australia on 180 22 66. Phone lines are open Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm.

You must make a new claim for COVID-19 Disaster Payment for each eligible period of restrictions.

For more information about COVID-19 Disaster Payment, visit the Services Australia website at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/covid-19-disaster-payment/.

You can also call 131 202 to talk to Services Australia in languages other than English.

You do not need to do anything else once you have lodged your claim online. Progress updates on claim processing will be provided via SMS, or can be viewed online via your myGov account.

Money will be received within 24 hours of the claim being finalised, or on the next available business day.