



COVID-19 Fact Sheet

I've been stood down or had my hours reduced at work, what can I do?

Being told that your hours are reduced or that you've been stood down can be very stressful. You may be wondering how you're going to afford your home loan and bills and keep your family safe. There are eight things that you can do to help you get through this challenging time:

1. **Speak to your employer**
2. **Reduce the tax withheld from your pay**
3. **Access some of your superannuation**
4. **Speak to your bank**
5. **Speak to your utility suppliers**
6. **Speak to your local council**
7. **Speak to your landlord**
8. **Speak to your financial advisor**

1. Speak to your employer

The Australian government may ask your employer to pay you \$1,500 a fortnight before tax for up to six months. This is called a JobKeeper payment. To be eligible for this your employer must:

- Register an intention to apply on the ATO website.
- Show that they have or expect to lose at least 30% or 50% (depending on their turnover) of their revenue this year compared to last year.
- Give the ATO information about employees that may be eligible and were employed by them on 1 March 2020

For you to be eligible for the payment you must:

- Have been employed full-time, part-time or as a casual by your employer on 1 March 2020. Casuals must have been employed for at least a year to be eligible;
- Still be employed, even if you've been stood down you will qualify;
- Be over 16 years of age;
- Be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident visa. Some other visa categories apply, please check to see if you're eligible; and
- Not be receiving the JobKeeper payment from another employer.

Your employer must apply for this payment on your behalf. They do this by registering an intention to apply first. The ATO will then contact them for more information. The first payments should begin to be paid in early May but this will depend on government finalising legislation on this.



2. Reduce the tax withheld from your pay

You can apply to have the tax withheld from your pay reduced for the rest of the financial year. This means you don't have to wait to get a refund when you lodge your tax return. If you'd like to do this you must complete a variation application by 30 April 2020. Just be aware that:

- Any variation you make will apply for the remainder of the financial year;
- If the tax withheld from your pay doesn't cover your actual tax liability at the end of the year, you will have to pay the balance in your annual tax return; and
 - You will not be able to vary the tax withheld from your pay if:
 - Your tax returns are not up to date.
 - You have a debit assessment for the previous year as a result of a previous withholding variation.
 - You have outstanding tax or superannuation debts.

To apply please complete this form: PAYG withholding variation application (e-variation)

3. Access some of your superannuation

If you have been made redundant or had your working hours reduced by 20% or more on or after 1 January 2020, you may be able to access up to \$10,000 of your superannuation in this financial year (2019/20) and a further \$10,000 next year (2020/21).

You will not pay tax on these amounts and they will not affect any Centrelink or Veterans' Affairs payments that you receive.

If you belong to a superannuation fund (and don't have a self-managed superannuation fund or SMSF) you must apply at myGov. You will be asked to certify that you are eligible. Once the ATO has processed your application, they will issue you and your superannuation fund with a determination. This will allow your superannuation fund to release your superannuation and your fund will make the payment to you directly. To ensure you receive your payment as soon as possible, contact your fund to check that they have your correct bank account details and proof of identity documents.

4. Speak to your bank

Most banks in Australia are offering their customers a range of things to help relieve financial pressure. This may include letting you:

- Defer your loan repayments for a few months
- Reduce the interest rate on your loan
- Break a term deposit without incurring a fee

We strongly encourage you to contact your bank and ask them how they can help you. Each bank has their own information and contact details on their website.



Contact us

Telephone: 1300 84 74 34

Email: enquiries@viridianadvisory.com.au

Website: www.viridianadvisory.com.au

5. Speak to your utility suppliers

Most electricity, gas and water suppliers in Australia are offering their customers options to help relieve financial pressure. This may include letting you:

- Defer your payments
- Put in place a payment plan

We strongly encourage you to contact your utility suppliers and ask them how they can help you. Each suppliers has their own information and contact details on their website.

6. Speak to your local council

Most local councils are offering people options to help relieve financial pressure. This may include:

- Waiving your property rates
- Deferring payment of your property rates
- Suspending, reducing or waiving interest charges on your rates

If you are experiencing financial hardship and need help paying your rates please contact your local council.

7. Speak to your landlord

The Australian Government has announced a moratorium on rental evictions for six months. This means your landlord may not be able to evict you for six months if you can't pay your rent. The details for this have not yet been released, but are expected soon.

Many landlords are already being reasonable about rent relief. We encourage you to speak to your landlord to see if you can reach an amicable agreement.

8. Speak to your financial advisor

Your financial advisor can help support you during this challenging time. Whether you need help navigating which type of government relief is right for you, managing your cashflow or ensuring your family's future is protected, we're here to help.