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COVID-19 is evolving and it's challenging the ability of businesses to operate and remain viable.

For the most up to date information, go to www.australia.gov.au

Here are the three most common questions I'm being asked by business owners right now.

1. Is my business permitted to keep operating?

Make sure you access the most up-to-date list of prohibited businesses and activities because it changes. Go to www.business.gov.au or ring the Business Hotline on 13 28 46.

2. How do I look after our people who have lost their job or their income?

Many people are losing their job, others are retaining their job but losing substantial income. Go to www.treasury.gov.au to read about Australian Government assistance measures:

- JobSeeker payments – here's a practical guide on how to [register online](#)
- Additional income support – e.g. a Coronavirus supplement of \$550 per fortnight and two separate payments of \$750 payments for JobSeeker recipients; and
- Access to superannuation – e.g. temporary early releases of superannuation are available, up to \$10,000 this financial year and a further \$10,000 next financial year.

3. How do we pay our bills and stay afloat?

Some businesses need help to manage cash flow while others are in deeper distress. Go to www.treasury.gov.au to read about Australian Government measures, or call 13 28 46:

- Tax-free cash flow boosts – e.g. between \$20,000 and \$100,000 for eligible small and medium businesses (including not-for-profits) accessed via their BAS so they can keep operating, pay rent, electricity and other bills and also retain staff; and
- Lessening the threat of insolvency – e.g. temporary increases in threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand, increases in the threshold for a creditor to initiate bankruptcy proceedings and relief for directors from personal liability.

Go to www.qld.gov.au to read about Queensland Government measures, or call 1300 654 687:

- Rebates, Refunds & Relief – e.g. a \$500 rebate on electricity bills for small and medium sized businesses, a mix of immediate payroll tax refunds, relief for businesses renting government premises and the waiving of selected fees; and
- Loans – e.g. low interest job support loans of up to \$250,000 for carry on finance.

The list of measures I have mentioned above is not exhaustive – e.g. assistance is also available in areas such as instant asset write-offs, investment incentives, accelerated depreciation etc.

Two tranches of economic assistance have been announced to date with a third tranche to be announced over coming days.

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