

# PREPARING YOUR BUSINESS

There is no doubt we are facing some unprecedented challenges ahead, as the current outbreak of Covid-19 (Coronavirus) has the potential to greatly disrupt ongoing business operations in Australia.

The Federal Government's stimulus package is widely regarded as a positive step to reduce the impact, with the focus on small business and targeted support for those in the community most impacted. There are four primary focus areas:

- Supporting business investment
- Providing cash flow assistance to help small and medium sized business to stay in business and keep their employees in job
- Targeted support for the most severely affected sectors, regions and communities
- Household stimulus payments that will benefit the wider economy

We have attached [a government fact sheet](#) on the package that will provide you with more details. Generally speaking small businesses with staff will get somewhere between \$2,000 and \$25,000 worth of cash relief. This will be based on the PAYG withholding you report in the March and June BAS's (and/or monthly IAS's). Your BAS payable will reduce or be put in to a refundable position. The cash relief will be 50 per-cent of PAYG withheld, with a minimum \$2,000 payment up to a cap of \$25,000 over the 6 month BAS period (January 2020 to June 2020). [Whilst the government has moved swiftly, it is important to evaluate your own situation and what steps you can address for business continuity. If major supply chains are disrupted, and significant quarantine measures be applied there will be real impact on many businesses.]

Some of the key questions you may need to ask include:

- Will I be able to keep paying all my staff?
- Will I be able to manage our financiers and creditors?
- What benefit will I get from the stimulus package and how do I take advantage of it?
- What other funding options are there for this interim disruption?
- How will I keep up to date with ATO payments?
- How will the business continue to operate under lock-down/quarantine scenarios?

There are a range of initiatives which could be employed to reduce your risk and stabilise your business in the event conditions worsen, and business owners should consider the appropriate strategies for their protection.

Further information is being released from the Government on a daily basis and we will continue to communicate this through our website and updates like this one to do our best to simplify these messages and keep our clients informed.

Should you wish to discuss any concerns regarding your business, including possible continuity strategies please don't hesitate to contact our office.

## Contact

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