

# Information note – Government responses to COVID-19 pandemic

2 July 2021

The Fair Work Commission will update this note regularly to keep subscribers informed of the latest developments.

The outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the responses from governments, both federal and state, initially put restrictions on some businesses and then forced many to close, which has consequences for employees.

## Measures taken to restrict gatherings and non-essential business

### Commonwealth

The Commonwealth Government has initiated the following [guidelines for social distancing](#) in order to stop or slow the spread of the disease:

- avoid handshaking and kissing;
- visit shops sparingly;
- consider whether outings and travel are necessary;
- reconsider non-essential business travel; and
- the suspension of non-essential gatherings for an initial period of 4 weeks.

On 13 March 2020, the Commonwealth and State Governments [agreed](#) to advise against all non-essential organised public gatherings of more than 500 persons, effective from 16 March 2020. This did not impact schools, workplaces, hospitals, public transportation, domestic travel and universities as well as public transient places such as shopping centres.

In [addition, on 18 March 2020](#), non-essential indoor gatherings of more than 100 people (including staff) and outdoor activities of more than 500 people were not to be permitted. Essential gatherings include:

- public transport;
- medical and health care facilities, pharmacies, emergency service facilities;
- correctional facilities, youth justice centres or other places of custody, courts and tribunals;
- Parliaments;
- food markets, supermarkets and grocery stores, shopping centres; and
- office buildings, factories, construction sites and mining sites.

For outdoor gatherings of fewer than 500 people, there must be no more than 1 person per 4 square metres of ground space.

On 20 March 2020, the Commonwealth [announced](#) that there must be a density of no more than 1 person per 4 square metres of floor space for indoor gatherings.

The [guidelines](#) also explain that, from midday local time on 23 March 2020, restrictions on opening were placed on the following facilities:

- pubs, registered and licensed clubs (excluding bottle shops attached to these venues), hotels (excluding accommodation);
- gyms and indoor sporting venues;
- cinemas, entertainment venues, casinos and night clubs;

- restaurants and cafes restricted to takeaway and/or home delivery; and
- religious gatherings, places of worship or funerals (in enclosed spaces and other than very small groups and where the 1 person by 4 square metre rule applies).

Further [measures](#), along with clarification of current guidelines, were announced on 24 March 2020 by the Commonwealth Government, which applied from 11.59pm local time on 25 March 2020. Restrictions on opening were placed on the following facilities:

- food courts (takeaway and/or home delivery remain operational);
- auction houses, real estate auctions and open house inspections (with the exception of private appointments for inspection);
- outdoor and indoor markets will be a decision for each state/territory (food markets continue to remain operational);
- beauty therapy, tanning, waxing, nail salons, tattoo parlours, spa, and massage parlours;
- hairdressers and barber shops to only have appointments of up to 30 minutes and must abide by the 1 person by 4 square metre rule;
  - On 26 March 2020, the Commonwealth Government [announced](#) that appointments would no longer be limited to 30 minutes per patron (effective immediately) for barbers and hairdressers, but the 1 person per 4 square metre rule must be strictly observed.
- gaming or gambling venues;
- strip clubs, brothels and sex on premises venues;
- concert venues, theatre, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums (live streaming of a performance by a small group can be permissible with social distancing observed);
- amusement parks, arcades and play centres (indoor and outdoor);
- community and recreation centres except for those that host essential voluntary or public services, such as food banks or homeless services;
- health clubs, fitness centres, yoga, barre and spin facilities, saunas, bathhouses and wellness centres;
- boot camps, personal training operating inside (for outside events, limited to groups of no more than 10 people and social distancing must be exercised);
- social-sporting based activities and swimming pools;
- residential facilities, such as hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, campsites, caravan parks, and boarding houses will be a decision for each state and territory (excludes permanent residents and workers);
- galleries, museums, national institutions and historic sites;
- libraries, community centres, and youth centres;
- local government non-essential facilities and services (i.e., libraries and pools)
- community facilities (i.e., community halls, RSLs, PCYCs);
- weddings restricted to a maximum attendance of 5 people and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies; and
- funerals restricted to a maximum attendance of 10 people and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies.

In addition, a 'do not travel' ban on Australians travelling overseas will be implemented, with exemptions to citizens that ordinarily live overseas, where travel is essential or necessary, where travel is in the national interest, and on compassionate and humanitarian grounds. Further, measures will be taken to prevent price gouging and exporting products essential to preventing and controlling COVID-19.

On 27 March 2020, the Commonwealth Government [announced additional restrictions](#) for return travellers and enforcement that require travellers returning from overseas to undertake a mandatory 14 days of self isolation at designated facilities and will be enforced with increasing compliance checks by state and federal police. Beginning from 11.59pm on Saturday 28 March 2020, anyone who returns to Australia will be forced to quarantine in a hotel or other accommodation for 14 days. They will not be allowed to return home. The Government also [announced](#) that part of their plan to tackle both the health and economic crises due to COVID-19 would be to hibernate parts of the economy, with the plan that effected business and workers would be able to start again on the other side.

On 29 March 2020, further measures from the Commonwealth Government [advised people to stay at home](#) people to stay at home unless partaking in one the following:

- shopping for what you need - food and necessary supplies;
- medical or health care needs, including compassionate requirements;
- exercise in compliance with the public gathering requirements;
- work and study, if it cannot be done remotely.

Playgrounds, skate parks and outside gyms in public places will be closed and bootcamps reduced to 2 persons, including the trainer.

The announcement limited both indoor and outdoor gatherings to a maximum of 2 persons with exceptions limited to the following:

- people of the same household;
- funerals – a maximum of 10 people;
- weddings – a maximum of 5 people; and
- family units.

In addition, on 30 March 2020, the National Cabinet [endorsed advice](#) from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) that:

- where vulnerable workers undertake essential work, a risk assessment must be undertaken with consideration of the characteristics of the worker, the workplace and the work;
- special provisions apply to essential workers who are at higher risk of serious illness and, where the risk cannot be sufficiently mitigated, should not work in high risk settings; and
- international flight crew and maritime crew are granted a concession from the mandatory 14 day quarantine requirements.

On 8 May 2020, the Commonwealth Government [announced a 3-step plan](#), called the [Roadmap to a COVIDSafe Australia](#) to and have a sustainable COVID safe Australia by July 2020. The exact role out and time is to be announced and implemented by state and territory premiers and chief ministers. The Roadmap has been amended over time in line with expert medical advice regarding the success of health measures implemented to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

Each step will still be underpinned by a commitment to:

- keep 1.5 metres away from other people whenever possible;
- maintain good hand washing and respiratory hygiene;
- stay home if feeling unwell, and get tested if you have respiratory symptoms or a fever;
- download the COVIDSafe app; and
- develop COVID safe plans for workplaces.

Step 1 will relax various baseline restrictions, including:

- gatherings of up to 10 people outside and in businesses;
- having up to 5 people visit at home;
- restaurants, cafes and shopping open;
- children back in the classroom;
- libraries, community centres, outdoor bootcamps and playgrounds open;
- home sales and auctions;
- some local and regional travel;
- people should work from home if it suits workers and their employers.

Step 2 was developed and defined based on the success of step 1 and pandemic situation, informed by expert medical advice and from June allows:

- gatherings of up to 20 people;
- more businesses opening including gyms, beauty services and entertainment venues such as galleries and cinemas;
- caravan and camping grounds open;
- some interstate travel.

Step 3 requires further refinement, which will occur based on the success in implementing steps 1 and 2. Provisionally it allowed:

- gatherings of up to 100 people;
- return to workplaces;
- nightclubs, food courts and saunas open;
- all interstate travel;
- possible cross-Tasman, pacific island and international students travel.

On 12 June 2020, based on AHPPC advice, the Commonwealth Government [announced](#) the extended removal of restrictions under Step 3 (the timing and implementation to be managed by states and territories):

- the removal of the 100-person limit on non-essential indoor gatherings; and
- outdoor events (including stadiums) with a capacity of up to 40 000 can operate at no more than 25 per cent capacity, with the event is ticketed and seated.

On 26 June 2020, National Cabinet met and [announced](#) they had asked AHPPC to develop a roadmap for re-opening arts and entertainment venues, which would build on the plan announced on 12 June in regards to outdoor seated and ticketed events. National Cabinet also noted that in later steps, states and territories may allow all large venues to admit larger crowds provided there is no evidence of community transmission and the event is seated, ticketed and physical distancing and other public health measures are maintained. They further agreed, based on [AHPPC advice](#), that under step 3 states and territories may allow small premises to apply a 1 person per 2 square metre rule.

On 4 September 2020, National Cabinet [agreed to a suppression strategy for COVID-19](#) with the goal of no community transmission. The Commonwealth, and all states and territories except for Western Australia, agreed in-principle to develop a new plan for Australia to reopen by Christmas. This included the use of the hotspot concept for travel between jurisdictions. The National Cabinet noted the COVID-19 hotspot definition proposed by the Commonwealth Acting Chief Medical Officer which would be a basis for decision-making using the following thresholds: a rolling 3 day average of 10 locally acquired cases per day (30 in 3 consecutive days) in metropolitan areas; and a rolling 3 day

average of 3 locally acquired cases per day (9 cases in 3 consecutive days) in rural or regional areas. Once a threshold has been activated, the Commonwealth would perform further analyses to assist in discussion between the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer and state and territory Chief Health Officers. Bilateral and multilateral arrangement between the Commonwealth, states and territories will continue to be developed to support border arrangements. Western Australia will continue to participate in discussions on the development of the reopening plan and timetable.

- [New South Wales](#), [Victoria](#), South Australia, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory agreed to adopt the [National Agricultural Workers code](#), with Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania giving consideration to the code as part of their own border restriction arrangements. The code allows permits or an equivalent approval to facilitate movement of critical agricultural industry workers across domestic borders where restrictions are in place. The Code commences within 15 days of National Cabinet agreement unless arrangement for a state or territory are specified separately. It covers workers, farm businesses, agricultural services and activities, as well as animal welfare support services.

On 2 October 2020, the Commonwealth Government [announced the establishment of a Safe Travel Zone](#) with New Zealand. From 16 October, passengers from New Zealand who have not been in a designated New Zealand COVID-19 hotspot in the preceding 14 days, will be able to travel to Australia without having to quarantine. Any state or territory that imposes travel restrictions consistent with the hotspot as defined by the Australia Government will be able to participate in the Safe Travel Zone. The first stage allows for travel from New Zealand to New South Wales and the Northern Territory without the requirement to quarantine.

From 16 October 2020, people can travel from New Zealand to Australia without having to quarantine as long as they have: been in New Zealand for 14 days or more; have not been in a designated COVID-19 outbreak location: and are on a quarantine-free flight.

[From 18 December 2020 to 13 January 2021](#), the Northern Beaches of New South Wales were declared COVID-19 hotspots.

Following a [National Cabinet meeting on 8 January 2020](#), it was announced that the local government areas of Brisbane, Logan, Moreton, Redlands and Ipswich would be considered as COVID-19 hotspots.

[Travellers from New Zealand were banned from 25 January](#) following new cases detected in Auckland. From 2pm on 31 January 2021, the 'travel bubble' between Australia and New Zealand was [reinstated](#).

[From 12 February 2021](#) to 17 February 2021, Greater Melbourne was declared a COVID-19 hotspot.

[From 15 February 2021](#), all flights originating in New Zealand were classified as Red Zone flights for an initial period of 72 hours. All people arriving on such flights originating within this 3-day period will need to go into 14 days of supervised hotel quarantine. This was [extended](#) for a further 3 days.

[From 24 February 2021](#), Australia restricted Green Zone travel from New Zealand, due to an outbreak in Auckland. This restriction was subsequently lifted [on 11 March](#).

[From 30 March 2021](#) to [1 April 2021](#), Greater Brisbane was declared a COVID-19 hotspot.

[From 27 May 2021](#), Greater Melbourne was declared a COVID-19 hotspot for the purposes of Commonwealth support (including provision of personal protective equipment from the National Medical Stockpile, contact tracing assistance, re-allocation of vaccines) for an initial period of 7 days, to be reviewed by the Chief Medical Officer on or before 3 June 2021. A review on 4 June 2021, extended the declaration until 11 June 2021.

[Announced on 10 June 2021](#), that from 11 June the Greater Melbourne area was no longer a COVID-19 hotspot for the purposes of Commonwealth support.

[Announced on 23 June 2021](#) that the local government areas of City of Sydney, Waverley, Woollahra, Bayside, Canada Bay, Inner West and Randwick were COVID-19 Hotspots for the purposes of Commonwealth support, for an initial period of 7 days from 23 June 2021 until 30 June 2021. [On 25 June 2021](#), extended these hotspots until 2 July 2021. [Announced on 26 June 2021](#), the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong were also declared as Hotspots to 9 July 2021.

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- Department of Health, COVID-19 Cluster in New Zealand, 27 February 2021: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/covid-19-cluster-in-new-zealand>
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## State and territories

Some states and territories had already made announcements to ease restrictions before the Commonwealth Government announcements. These and other announcements since 8 May 2020 from the states and territories and their proposed timelines are summarised below.

### New South Wales

- From 1 May 2020, 2 adults (and any dependent children) can visit another household to provide care or support; on 10 May, announced that from 15 May, outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people at cafes and restaurants that can seat 10 people at a time; up to 5 visitors to a household at a time; weddings with up to 10 guests; indoor funerals up to 20 people and up to 30 people for outdoor services; religious gatherings/places of worship up to 10 people; use of outdoor equipment (with caution); outdoor pools open (with restrictions); short and long-term accommodation are open at crisis and temporary accommodation, disability of aged care facilities, hotels, motels, youth hostel or other accommodation, caravan parks and camping grounds closed to the general public (with some exceptions), and bars, clubs and pubs are open with a maximum of 10 seated customers and alcohol only being served to customers eating.
- From 1 June 2020, there were no limitations to travelling within NSW; pubs, clubs, cafes and restaurants are able to have up to 50 seated customers (with a maximum of 10 customers per group) on the premises; up to 20 people can attend weddings and up to 50 for funerals and places of worship; possible to visit museums, galleries and libraries; beauty and nail salons can begin treatments (1 person per 4 square meter rule, physical distancing and hygiene and safety requirements will remain); caravan and camping grounds may open.
- From 13 June 2020, fitness, gyms, Pilates, yoga and dance studios can reopen with up to 10 people per class and 100 people in an indoor venue; community centres, including their recreational facilities can reopen; some indoor recreational facilities (excluding indoor pools) and saunas can reopen with a limit of 20 participants; tattoo and massage parlours can reopen with up to 10 clients.
- On 11 June 2020, announced that also from 13 June food courts will be allowed to reopen (with a maximum of 50 people per separate eating areas); the number of people allowed to visit homes to increase from 5 to 20; and the number of people allowed to gather outdoors to increase from 10 to 20.
- Further restrictions were eased, including allowing up to 20 visitors to visit another household; food and drink premises such as pubs, bars, cafes and restaurants can take group bookings of up to 20 customers; betting agencies will be allowed to have the lesser of 20 customers or the total number allowed as calculated by the 1 person per 4 square metre rule; holiday homes and rentals limit of 10 increased to 20; markets to reopen with restrictions; tattoo and massage parlours can reopen with up to 20 customers; nail, beauty, waxing and tanning salons can have the lesser of 20 customers or the total number as allowed by the 1 person per 4 square metre rule; indoor and outdoor pools can open subject to the 1 person per 4 square metre rule; major recreation facilities can have the lesser of 20 people or the number calculated by the 1 person per 4 square metre rule; scuba diving and snorkelling tours or marine animal watching tours can have up to 50 customers; vessels used for hosting function or for commercial tours (other than those listed above must have no more than the lesser of 50 customers or the total number of people allowed under the 1 person per 4 square metre rule.

- On 14 June 2020, further announced that from 1 July, the number of people allowed at indoor venues (including function centres) will be determined by the 1 person per 4 square metre rule, with no upper limit, and all activity must be seated only; cultural and sporting events at outdoor venues with a maximum capacity of 40 000 will be allowed up to 25 per cent of their normal capacity (events must be ticketed and seated); restrictions on funerals eased to allow the 1 person per 4 square metre rule to apply; kids and community sports competitions for those under 18 allowed, and adult community sport allowed.
- On 14 July 2020, announced new rules commencing on 17 July limiting group bookings at pubs to a maximum of 10 people (down from 20) and introducing a venue cap of 300 people inside a venue at any time.
- On 17 July 2020, announced tightened restrictions to come into effect on 24 July, which extended the limit of 10 people for group bookings to places such as restaurants, bars and cafés and registered clubs as well as limiting the amount of people (subject to the 4 square metre rule) in a venue for weddings or corporate events to 150 people and for funerals and places of worship to 100 people. Venue caps are the lesser of either 300 people or 1 customer per 4 square metres. For venues consisting of separate areas, the venue cap applies per area. Alcohol can only be consumed by seated customers.
- From 22 July 2020, people seeking to enter New South Wales from Victoria will require an [entry permit](#) and may only do so for essential travel, with some exceptions. Victorian residents living in metropolitan Melbourne or the Mitchell Shire are not eligible for entry permits. On 5 August, it was announced that from 7 August, New South Wales residents returning from Victoria must go into 14 days of mandatory hotel quarantine at their own expense. Those who can apply for a permit include defence officials, doctors and nurses, critical workers in energy, mining and construction, child protection workers and disability workers. The permit will indicate if the permit holder needs to self-isolate for 14 days, get tested for COVID-19, abide by a COVID-19 safety plan, or any other conditions.
  - Victorian residents living in designated border zone areas near the New South Wales and Victorian border may apply for a New South Wales border entry permit for work, education, medical or health care or providing or receiving care to a vulnerable person. Border zone residents who are Victorian residents must not travel to any part of New South Wales outside of the border zone and must not enter New South Wales if they have travelled in Victoria outside the border zone within the previous 14 days.
  - New South Wales border zone residents must self-isolate if they have either travelled within Victoria outside the border zone, or have entered Victoria other than for work, education, medical or health care, or receiving or providing care.
  - People living in the border regions who are providing a critical service in the border region can apply for a border entry permit to cross into New South Wales for: movement of freight on a commercial basis; movement of persons on a commercial basis; maintenance and repair of critical infrastructure; medical, hospital, dental or veterinary care; commonwealth defence and security services; mining, agriculture, construction, energy or manufacturing; and cleaning and disinfection in a workplace or other non-residential premises to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on a commercial basis that is not locally available.
- From 1 August 2020, a limit of 20 people applies to gym and recreation classes such as yoga, tai chi and Pilates. Community sporting activities that involve more than 20 participants must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan and the maximum number of participants must not exceed 500.
- From noon on 18 August 2020, farmers and agricultural workers outside the New South Wales and Victoria border zone will be able to access a new Highly Specialised Critical Service (Agriculture) Permit if they: provide a highly specialised critical agriculture service; are moving and working anywhere within 100km of the New South Wales/Victorian border (on the New South Wales side); comply with strict conditions if staying overnight; and adhere to other safety requirements. Exemption for workers needing to move beyond the 100km limit will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



- [Announced on 1 September 2020](#), that, from 4 September, a single region will be reinstated that extends to around 50km on either side of the New South Wales and Victorian border. This replaced the border zone. A new border region resident permit was introduced for residents in the border region to cross the New South Wales and Victorian border: to get necessary goods or services; for care or other compassionate reasons; to attend work or education (where it is not possible to do from home); or to permanently relocate to New South Wales.
- [On 17 September 2020, announced](#) that from 1 October major sporting events at selected Sydney stadiums can increase crowds from 24 per cent to 50 per cent capacity, up to a maximum of 40 000 spectators, with some restrictions.
- [On 24 September 2020, announced](#) that up to 20 people in official wedding parties may take to the dance floor (previously only the wedding couple were permitted); face-to-face learning to recommence in term 4 for Community Languages Schools programs; interschool activities to recommence from 26 September; formals and graduations permitted from 12 November; excursions and camps to resume; musical ensemble to resume (subject to 1.5 metre distance rule); and from 26 September more than one parent may attend community sporting activities (subject to physical distancing of 1.5 metres for attendees not from the same household).
- [On 25 September 2020, announced](#) that from 28 September, theatres, cinemas and concert halls able to sell seated tickets at 50 per cent capacity to a maximum of 1000 tickets and corporate events and function centres can host up to 300 people. Venues are subject to the 1 person per 4 square metre rule and must have COVID Safety Plans in place. Further from 25 September, organisations employing agriculture industry workers may be eligible to register workers for an agriculture worker COVID-19 border entry permit. The permit is available for all workers employed in eligible agriculture industry activities.
- From 16 October 2020, people entering from New Zealand (who have not been in a New Zealand COVID-19 hotspot in the past 14 days) do not need to enter mandatory quarantine; outdoor music rehearsals and performances can have up to 500 people in a public place; hospitality venues that use electronic systems for registering contact details of patrons may apply a 1 person per 2 square metre rule for outdoor areas (subject to maximum capacity limits); and corporate events, weddings, funerals and religious services that use electronics system for registering patron details can have up to 300 people for corporate events, 150 people for weddings and 100 people for funeral and religious services (venues can also include restaurants).
- As [announced on 19 October 2020](#), from 23 October gatherings in outdoor public spaces and group bookings at restaurants will be increased to 30 people. From 1 December, the number of people who can attend a wedding will be increased to 300 people, subject to the density rules of 1 person per 4 square metres indoors and 2 square metres outdoors.
- As [announced on 4 November 2020](#), the border to Victoria reopened on 23 November.
- As at 26 November 2020, anyone who has been in an area of concern in South Australia in the past 14 days may only enter if they are a New South Wales resident (other than to transit through). New South Wales residents who have been in these areas must get tested and self-isolate immediately for 14 days.
- Further to the announcements on 19 October 2020, from 1 December up to 50 people can visit a residence or gather in an outdoor public space; small hospitality venues (up to 20 square metres) can apply a 2 square metre rule indoors, and up to 300 people can attend a funeral (subject to distancing and venue capacity conditions).
- As [announced on 2 December 2020](#), from 7 December maximum venue caps removed subject to a rule of 1 person per 2 square metres for hospitality bookings, retail venues, places of worship, weddings, funerals and corporate events (with 25 people permitted before density limits apply); gyms and nightclubs remain subject to 1 person per 4 square metres, with 50 people allowed in gym classes or on a dancefloor at nightclubs; stadiums and theatres to have 100 per cent seated capacity outdoors (subject to 1 person per 2 square metres for unstructured seating areas) and 75 per cent for indoors; up to 100 people allowed for outdoor gatherings in public spaces; up to 5000 people allowed for

outdoor events that are fenced, ticketed and seated, and up to 3000 people allowed for organised outdoor events such as community sport and outdoor protests (both subject to 1 person per 2 square metres).

- From 19 December to 23 December 2020, a stay-at-home order was imposed for any residents of Sydney's Northern Beaches area. People in these areas must not participate in a public gathering of more than 2 people (not applicable to members of the same household) and were required to stay home unless: shopping for food or other goods and services; for medical care or compassionate needs; exercising; for work or education (where it is not possible to work or learn from home); accessing childcare; providing care or assistance to a vulnerable person or to provide emergency assistance; attending a wedding (if before 20 December); attending a funeral (if no more than 100 people); moving residence; donating blood; fulfilling legal obligations; accessing social or employment services; domestic violence services or mental health services; avoiding injury, illness or to escape harm; attending to an emergency or for compassionate reasons; or fulfilling shared custody obligations.
  - These residents were allowed to attend essential gatherings, including courts or tribunals; office buildings, farms, factories, warehouses, mines, construction sites, commercial fishing operations and commercial vessels; schools, universities, early education and childcare facilities; hotel, motel and other accommodation facilities.
  - Pubs, registered clubs, food and drink premises were restricted to take away. Places that closed included: entertainment facilities; amusement centres; micro-breweries; indoor recreation facilities (such as pools and gyms); places of worship (except permitted weddings or funerals); spas, nail salons, beauty salons, tanning salons, tattoo parlours, and massage parlours; auction houses; betting agencies and gaming lounges; markets (except food markets); galleries, museums and libraries; caravan parks and camping grounds (except for permanent residents); community facilities; outdoor gym equipment, playgrounds or skateparks; and in-person auctions or open inspections.
  - Employees could work from home or temporary accommodation, if they are living or staying in the Northern Beaches and it is reasonably practical for the employees to do so.
- [Announced on 20 December 2020](#), from 21 December to 23 December, restrictions were placed on residents of Greater Sydney, Central Coast and Wollongong, including: the number of visitors allowed in a home limited to 10 people; a maximum of 10 people permitted in a holiday home or short-term rental (unless everyone is from the same household); venue capacity density limits tightened to 1 person per 4 square metres indoors; a maximum capacity of 300 people (subject to the 1 person per 4 square metre density limit) for hospitality venues and places of worship; singing indoors with a maximum of 5 performers (provided there are 1.5 metres distance between them and there are 5 metres between performers and the audience); and dance floors only permitted for weddings.
- [Announced on 23 December 2020](#), that from 24 December to 26 December, residents in the Northern Beaches Peninsula zone were able to leave home to visit the homes of others who live within the zone, and to have up to 5 visitors to a home. People could not enter or leave the zone unless for an approved reason. People residing in the remainder of the Northern Beaches (the southern zone) were able to leave home to visit others who live in this zone and allowed to have up to 10 visitors in homes (which may include people from outside this zone). These residents were unable to leave this zone unless for an approved reason.
- From 3 January 2021, new rules and restrictions for Greater Sydney, Central Coast and Wollongong included: mandatory wearing of face masks in certain indoor premises for anyone aged over 12 years; weddings, funerals and memorial services limited to 100 attendees subject to density limits of 1 person per 4 square metres for indoor areas and 1 person per 2 square metres for outdoor areas; gym classes capped at 30 people; nightclubs closed; performances and rehearsals only held outdoors, with a maximum of 500 people (subject to 1 person per 2 square metres); protests limited to 500 attendees; controlled outdoor events capped at 500 people to an assigned seating area or 2000 people with assigned seating (subject to density limits); small venues in Greater Sydney subject to density limits (density limits outside of Greater Sydney will not apply until the venue has over

25 patrons); and places of worship and religious services may have a maximum of 100 people indoors (subject to density limits) and outdoor services subject to outdoor density limit.

- From 3 January 2021, residents in regional and rural NSW can: have up to 50 visitors from any number of households (with no daily limit); have up to 100 people gather outside in public (rule does not apply to community sporting activities, outdoor performances and rehearsals, protests or demonstrations, weddings or funerals, and controlled outdoor events). Controlled outdoor events are capped at the greater of 1 person per 2 square metres or 3000 people (with assigned seating areas) or 5000 people (with specific assigned seating), and must not exceed 5 hours duration; weddings, funerals and religious services subject to 1 person per 2 square metres; hospitality venues, function centres, trade shows, and exhibitions subject to 1 person per 2 square metres (with up to 25 patrons allowed in a venue before the density limit applies); nightclubs subject to 1 person per 4 square metres; entertainment facilities (such as theatres and cinemas) must be ticketed, with assigned seating up to 100 per cent capacity for outdoor areas and 75 per cent for indoor areas (or alternatively 1 person per 2 square metres); indoor gyms subject to 1 person per 4 square metres and a maximum of 50 people per class; community sports permitted (including training sessions) for up to the lesser of 3000 people or 1 person per 2 square metres; and up to 50 people may stay in a holiday home or rental (with no density limit).
- From 8 January 2021, [stay-at-home rules](#) apply for people who are currently in New South Wales and have been in an [affected area in Queensland](#) at any time on or after 2 January 2021. These people must immediately travel to and stay at their place of residence or temporary accommodation until 11 January 2021, and may only leave to: shop for food or other goods and services; travel for work or education (where this cannot be done from home); exercise; get medical or supplies or fulfil caring responsibilities; access childcare; provide care or assistance to vulnerable people; attend a funeral of no more than 100 people; move to a new residence or between different places of residence; undertake legal obligation; access social, employment, mental health or domestic violence services; attend an emergency or for compassionate reasons; or to participate in outdoor recreation activities.
- From 10 January 2021, restrictions in the northern area of the Northern Beaches were eased to align with those for the Greater Sydney area.
- [From 29 January 2021](#), across the Greater Sydney area up to 30 visitors from any number of households may visit another household (including children); up to 50 people can gather outside in a public place; a maximum of 300 people can attend a wedding or funeral (subject to density limits); and up to 25 people are allowed at hospitality venues before a limit of 1 person per 4 square metres applies.
- [From 12 February 2021](#), the Greater Sydney region, including Wollongong, Central Coast and Blue Mountains, moved to having 1 person per 2 square metres at all venues (except for gyms); and weddings and funerals subject to a cap of 300 persons.
- From 26 February 2021, for Greater Sydney, Central Coast and Wollongong, the number of people allowed to visit a home or gather outside in a public place increased to 50; a maximum of 300 people may attend a wedding or funeral (subject to density limits), indoor hospitality venues generally restricted to 1 person per 2 square metres (with small venues allowed up to 25 people before the 1 person per 2 square metre rule applies); capacity at cinemas increased to 100 per cent of fixed seating; the maximum number of people that can attend a controlled outdoor event is subject to 1 person per 2 square metres, but can include up to 500 people when people are assigned to a seating area, and up to 2000 people when people are assigned a specific seat.
- [Announced on 24 March 2021](#), that from 29 March 2021: no limit on guests at weddings and funerals; no cap on visitors in the home (a COVID-19 Safety plan and electronic recording of visitor details required for gatherings of more than 100 people); 200 people allowed for personal outdoor public gatherings; all venues to be limited by 1 person per 2 square metres for more than 25 people; 100 per cent seating capacity at entertainment venues, including stadiums and theatres; and wearing of masks no longer mandatory in any setting.

- From 5pm on 31 March 2021, specific rules came into effect for the Tweed Shire, Ballina Shire and City of Lismore Local Government areas, including: up to 30 visitors to homes, holiday homes or short-term rental properties; entry to non-residential properties (such as cafes, restaurants, shops and bars) permitted subject to a rule of 1 person per 4 square metres indoors and 1 person per 2 square metres outdoors (people must also be seated when consuming alcohol and no singing or dancing permitted); music festivals cannot take place; and face masks are mandatory when working, on public transport or in rideshare services.
- Travelers entering New South Wales from Queensland after 5pm on 29 March 2021 who have spent time in the previous 14 days in Brisbane City Council, Logan City, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Ipswich City or Redland City must complete a NSW entry declaration form within 24 hours of entering New South Wales. Returning residents of New South Wales who have been in a Category A place of high concern, must comply with the public health requirements of Queensland and follow New South Wales Health's Interstate Traveller Guidelines; whilst for those who have been in a Category B place of high concern, they must immediately travel to their place of residence or another suitable place, and self-isolate until receiving a negative COVID-19 test.
- Travelers entering New South Wales from Western Australia on or after 12:01am on 24 April 2021, must complete a declaration form. Travelers who have been in a place of high concern (close or casual contact venue) in Western Australia at specified times must follow the public health advice for testing and self-isolation.
- [From midday on 6 May 2021](#), restrictions were introduced for the Greater Sydney region (including Wollongong, Central Coast and Blue Mountains) until 10 May 2021. The restrictions included: a 20 person limit on visitors to households; mandatory use of masks on public transport and in all indoor venues; drinking while standing up at indoor venues not permitted; singing by audiences at indoor shows or by congregants at indoor places of worship not permitted; and dancing not permitted at indoor hospitality venues or nightclubs.
- [From 6am on 12 May 2021](#), Greater Melbourne was identified as an affected area with places of high concern.
  - For non-New South Wales residents, anyone entering New South Wales who had been in an affected area in the previous 14 days must complete a travel declaration before entering. Anyone who had been in an area of concern in the past 14 days must, in addition, immediately travel to their place of residence and stay there for 14 days unless they have a reasonable excuse to leave (such as to get food or attend school). People who are considered close contacts may not enter New South Wales, and casual contacts may enter New South Wales if they have taken a COVID-19 test and received a negative result.
  - New South Wales residents returning to the state who have been in an affected area in the past 14 days must complete a travel declaration within 24 hours before entering. Anyone who has been to an area of concern in the past 14 days must also travel immediately to their place of residence and stay there for 14 days unless they have a reasonable excuse to leave. Close contact who had been in a place of high concern in the past 14 days must self-isolate at home or another suitable place for 14 days since visiting the place of high concern. Casual contacts who had been in a place of high concern in the past 14 days immediately get tested for COVID-19 upon entering New South Wales and self-isolate until they receive a negative result.
- [From 27 May 2021](#), a COVID-19 [concerns notice](#) was put in place for travel from Victoria. The notice affects anyone entering New South Wales on or after 13 May 2021 who has been in Victoria in the past 14 days or anyone entering New South Wales who had been in Victoria on or after 4pm 27 May 2021. Under the notice, anyone who is not a resident of New South Wales and who has been in a place of high concern (close contact) must not enter New South Wales and anyone who is not a resident of New South Wales who has been in a place of high concern (casual contact) must not enter New South Wales unless they have been tested for COVID-19 after being at the place of high concern and received a negative test result. Further, they must immediately travel to their place of residence, comply

with the Interstate Travel Guidelines and self-isolate until 14 days after being at the place of high concern.

- [From 11 June 2021](#), travellers who had been in Victoria in the past 14 days had to complete an entry declaration form. Anyone who had been in a close contact or casual contact venue must: not enter New South Wales unless they are a New South Wales or ACT resident transiting to the ACT; follow the New South Wales Interstate Traveller Guidelines for people who have been in a place of high concern; immediately travel to their place of residence or another suitable place; get tested and self-isolate until they have received a negative COVID-19 test result; and continue to follow stay-at-home rules even after receiving a negative test result.
- [From 22 June 2021](#), announced that face masks must be worn in certain public indoor spaces (including retail and theatres) and when using public transport, taxis or rideshare services for Greater Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour.
- [From 4pm on 23 June 2021](#), announced changes to restriction levels for Greater Sydney, the Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour including: a limit of 5 visitors to households; masks must be worn in all indoor non-residential settings (including workplaces) and at organised outdoor events; no drinking allowed while standing at indoor venues; no singing by audiences at indoor shows or places of worship; no dancing allowed at indoor hospitality venues (some exemptions for bridal parties at weddings); dance and gym classes limited to 20 people (with masks); the density rule of 1 person per 4 square metres reintroduced for all settings; outdoor seated events limited to 50 per cent capacity; public transport capacity limits; and those living or working in the City of Sydney, Waverley, Randwick, Canada Bay, Inner West, Bayside, and Woollahra local government areas unable to travel outside metropolitan Sydney for non-essential reasons.
- [From 26 June 2021](#) until midnight on 2 July 2021, residents of, or people whose usual place of work is in, the City of Sydney, Waverley, Randwick and Woollahra must follow stay-at-home orders, with only 4 reasons to leave the home, including: shopping for food or essential goods and services; medical care or compassionate needs; exercise outdoors in groups of 10 or fewer; and essential work or education that cannot be done from home.
- [From 6pm on 26 June 2021](#) these restrictions were extended until 11:59pm 9 July 2021. Additionally, community sports were not permitted; from 28 June weddings were no longer permitted; and funerals were limited to 1 person per 4 square metres with a cap of 100 people.
  - Furthermore, restrictions were placed on all other parts of New South Wales including: people who have been in the Greater Sydney region (including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong) on or after 21 June should follow the stay-at-home orders for a period of 14 days after they left Greater Sydney; visitors to households limited to 5 guests (including children); masks compulsory in all indoor non-residential settings, including workplaces, and at organised outdoor events; drinking while standing at indoor venues not allowed; singing by audiences and choirs at indoor venues or by congregants at indoor places of worship not allowed; dancing not allowed at indoor hospitality venues or nightclubs however, dance and gym classes limited to 20 per class (masks must be worn); the 1 person per 4 squares metre rule re-introduced for all indoor and outdoor settings, including weddings and funerals; and outdoor seated, ticketed events limited to 50 per cent capacity.
- Travelers entering New South Wales from the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland from 30 June 2021 must complete a NSW entry declaration form.

## References

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<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/what-you-can-do-nsw>
- New South Wales Government, updated 1 July 2021:  
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/interstate-hotspots>

## Victoria

- On 11 May 2020, announced amended restrictions which came into effect on 12 May: gatherings outdoors in groups of up to 10 people; gatherings indoors at home with up to 5 visitors; leave the house for exercise for health or recreational activities in groups of up to 10 people (subject to existing physical distancing requirements); attend weddings with up to 10 guests (excluding the celebrant and the couple); attend funerals with up to 20 people for an indoor ceremony and up to 30 people for an outside ceremony (in addition to the minimum people required to conduct the funeral); attend religious gatherings and ceremonies with a maximum of 10 people (plus those required to perform the ceremony).

- From 25 May 2020, public playgrounds, outdoor communal gym equipment and skateparks were opened (subject to existing group limits),
- From 1 June 2020, private gatherings of up to 20 people per house are allowed (including members of the household); public gatherings (indoor and outdoor) of 20 people allowed; weddings can have up to 20 people (plus the celebrant and couple); the number of people at indoor and outdoor funerals increased to 50 (plus people reasonably required to conduct the funeral); private worship or small religious ceremonies of up to 20 people (plus people reasonably required for the economy); auction houses, real estate auctions and open house inspections can have up to 20 people (plus people reasonably required to facilitate); restaurants, cafes and pubs can have 20 patrons (alcohol served with meals only); overnight stays in private residences allowed; camping and tourist accommodation (if no shared use of facilities); beauty therapy, tanning, waxing, nail salons, spas, tattoo parlours, massage parlours open (with up to 20 patrons); community sports and recreation facilities open with no more than 20 people (plus those needed to run the space); indoor and outdoor pools open with maximum 20 patrons and 3 people per lane in each pool; galleries, museums, national institutions, historic sites, outdoor amusement parks, drive-in-cinemas, zoos and arcades open with up to 20 patrons per space; and non-contact outdoor sporting activities with 20 people (plus the instructor).
- Restrictions were initially planned to be further eased from 22 June 2020. However, on 20 June, following a spike in cases in Victoria (including community transmission), restrictions were adjusted to: public gatherings limited to 10 people; the number of visitors to a home limited to 5 people; private worship or small religious ceremonies limited to 20 people plus those reasonably required for the ceremony; auction houses, real estate auctions, open houses inspections and community facilities remain limited at 20 (plus those reasonably required to facilitate the activity); 20 patrons allowed per space for restaurants, cafes, pubs and clubs (with a maximum group size and no requirement to purchase a meal with your drink); cultural and entertainment venues still allowed 20 patrons, plus indoor cinemas, movie theatres, concert venues, theatres, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums; libraries; community centres and halls; indoor play centres and toy libraries; ski season can begin (including accommodation); indoor sports centres and physical recreation venues, including gyms, to open and allowed up to 20 people per single undivided indoor space and up to 10 people per groups/activity at any one time; full-contact training and competition (indoors and outdoors) for people 18 years old and under; non-contact competition (indoors and outdoors) for people over 18 years old; changing room and showers can open for sporting and recreational facilities (including swimming pools); the limit of 3 per lane in swimming pools will no longer apply; and shared facilities at camping and tourist accommodation can open, with increasing screening and safeguards in place.
- It was initially planned that from 20 July 2020, electronic gaming areas at pubs, clubs and the casino will be reopened; all sports training and competition will resume for those aged 18 years or under and non-contact sports competition could begin across all age groups; indoor sports centres; local contact sports for over 18s to resume training from 13 July and full competition from 20 July (including the reopening of community facilities and changerooms). However, from 2 July, a number of Victorian postcodes returned to stage 3 (Stay at Home) restrictions, with further postcodes added from 5 July. It was also announced that, from 9 July, all of Metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire would return to Stay at Home restrictions for 6 weeks. Under stage 3 restrictions there are only 4 reasons to leave home: shopping for food and supplies; medical care and caregiving; exercise and recreation; and study and work (if it cannot be done from home). Businesses across these regions will also return to Stage 3 restrictions: restaurants and cafes will return to takeaway and delivery services only; beauty and personal services will need to close; entertainment and cultural venues will need to close; and community sport will stop.
- On 19 July 2020 it was announced that from 23 July people living in metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell shire must wear a face covering when they leave their home.
- On 30 July 2020, announced that from 31 July, people living in the local government areas of Greater Geelong, the Surf Coast, Moorabool, Golden Plains, Colac-Otway and Borough of Queenscliffe will no longer be able to have visitors at home or visit other people's homes. From 3 August, face coverings to be mandatory for all of Victoria.

- From 6pm 2 August 2020, Victoria entered into a state of disaster and Melbourne moved to stage 4 restrictions to last until 13 September. A curfew will operate from 8pm to 5am, where the only reason to leave home during these hours are for work, medical care and caregiving, and safety reasons. Outside of curfew hours, there are 4 reasons to leave home; exercise will be limited to 1 hour a day and to a size of 2 people (regardless of being in the same household); shopping for food and necessary supplies will be limited to 1 person per households per day. Exercise and shopping for essentials must be done within a 5km radius of home. People may leave their homes for care and health care or work. The 5km limit does not apply to care or caregiving, or work. Exceptions to the 4 reasons to leave home are for shared parenting arrangements, escaping family violence or in the case of an emergency. Mitchell shire will remain at stage 3 restrictions and the rest of regional Victoria will also move to stage 3 restrictions from 6 August. All schools will move to remote learning.
- On 3 August 2020, further details restrictions on businesses and workplaces were announced, commencing 6 August. Certain retail services (plus everyone involved in the frontline health response) will continue to operate—supermarkets, grocery stores, bottle shops, pharmacies, petrol stations, banks, news agencies and post offices. Other retail stores, some manufacturing and administration industries will have to cease onsite operation for 6 weeks. Retail stores not specifically allowed to operate are permitted to operate on a contactless ‘click and collect’ and delivery services (with strict safety protocols in place). Hardware stores will remain open onsite for tradespeople only. The meat industry will operate at two-thirds capacity (applies across the state); warehousing and distribution centres in Melbourne limited to no more than two-thirds of the normal workforce allowed on site at any one time; and the construction sector will have no more than 25 per cent of the normal workforce for major construction sites and a maximum of 5 people on site for small-scale constructions. These workplaces will have additional safety requirements, including extra personal protective equipment, staggered shifts and breaks, health declarations and more support for sick workers to stay at home. From 6 August, employees working in permitted industries who cannot work from home will be required to have a new ‘Worker Permit’ when travelling to and from work. Employers will be required to issue signed permits to their employees to allow them to attend a workplace. All open businesses and services had until 11:59pm 5 August to enact a COVIDSafe plan.
- On 5 August 2020, announced that people working in permitted industries will maintain access to kinder and childcare under stage 4 restrictions. If someone in a household is able to care for children at home then they must continue to do so. From 6 August, only children of permitted workers and vulnerable children will be able to access childcare and kinder (for the purposes of accessing childcare a permitted worker also includes someone working from home).
  - Permitted workers (both those working onsite and those working from home) will need to confirm there is no one else in their household able to supervise their child in order to access childcare or kinder.
- A full list of permitted workplaces by industry that can operate during the stage 4 restrictions can be found here:  
[www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/business-industry-stage-4-restrictions-covid-19](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/business-industry-stage-4-restrictions-covid-19)
- [On 6 September 2020, announced](#) a roadmap for reopening, with separate roadmaps for metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. Each roadmap has 4 steps towards reaching a ‘COVID normal’, progressing through each step will largely be triggered by the later of planned dates and when the number of new cases reaches established thresholds.
- For metropolitan Melbourne:
  - **First Step** from 14 September 2020: curfew reduced to 9pm to 5am; public gatherings increased to 2 people or a household can meet outdoors for up to 2 hours; a ‘single social bubble’ that allows 1 nominated visitor for people living alone or single parents where all children are under 18 years of age; professional respite care allowed for people with complex needs; exercise outdoors up to 2 hours per day total and a maximum of 2 sessions; and playgrounds open.



- From the later of 28 September 2020 and when average daily cases in metropolitan Melbourne over the previous 14 days are between 30–50 cases or lower and subject to public health advice, the **Second Step** will allow: up to 5 people from a maximum of 2 households to meet outdoors for social interaction (infants under 12 months old not included in the cap); childcare and early educators re-open; schools to have staged return to onsite learning for Prep to Grade 2, VCE/VCAL and specialist schools in Term 4; outdoor personal training allowed with up to 2 people per trainer; outdoor pools reopen; and places of worship remain closed but outdoor gatherings (not ceremonies) of up to 5 people plus 1 faith leader, proximate to a place of worship are allowed.
- From the later of 26 October 2020 and when average daily cases over the previous 14 days is less than 5 new cases (state-wide average) with less than 5 cases with an unknown source, the **Third Step** will: remove the curfew; remove all restrictions on reasons to leave home or distance from home; increase public gatherings to up to 10 people outdoors; allow a 'household bubble' with up to 5 visitors from another nominated household at a time (infants under 12 months of age not included in the cap); potential staged return to onsite learning for Grade 3 to Grade 10 based on public health advice; hospitality to operate with predominately outdoor seating and a group limit of 10 (subject to density limits); retail to re-open; hairdressing open with safety measures (other beauty/personal care services closed); real estate allowed private inspections by appointment only and auctions allowed outside subject to gathering limits; no person limit for shopping; outdoor contact and non-contact sport for those 18 years or younger, outdoor non-contact sport only for adults with gathering and density limits, outdoor skateparks open, outdoor fitness for up to 10 people; up to 10 people (including the couple, 2 witnesses and a celebrant) for weddings; up to 20 people for funerals (not including infants under 12 months of age or people required to conduct the funeral); outdoor religious gatherings of up to 10 people plus a faith leader, facilities open for private worship for households or social bubbles; intrastate travel allowed across areas in the Third Step (not to areas with higher restrictions); outdoor venues and events allowed subject to pre-approved plans; and accommodation open with caps per the social bubble.
- From the later of 23 November 2020 and when there have been no new cases for 14 days (state wide), the **Last Step** will consist of: public gatherings of up to 50 people to outdoors; up to 20 visitors at a time to the home; potential staged return onsite learning for Grade 3 to Grade 10 based on public health advice (if has not occurred in the Third Step) return to onsite learning for all adult education; for hospitality, group limits of 20 people (and seated service) with a cap of 50 per venue, outdoor dining subject to density limits; all retail to open; real estate to operate (with safety measures and record-keeping); no restrictions on exercise, facilities to open subject to safety measures and organised contact sports resume for all ages (limitations for spectators); weddings allowed up to 50 people (including the couple, 2 witnesses and celebrant) with a limit of 20 people in a private residence; funerals allowed up to 50 people (not include infants under 12 months of age or people required to conduct the funeral), with a limit of 20 people in a private residence; public worship (not including private ceremonies) can resume in both outdoor and indoor settings subject to density quotient; intrastate travel allowed; indoor and outdoor venues open with density quotient and patron caps; staged return to events with seated spectators; large events treated on an individual basis; accommodation open.
- When there are no new cases for 28 days (state-wide), no active cases (state-wide) and no outbreaks of concern in other states or territories, **COVID Normal** will consist of: no restriction on public gatherings; no restriction on visitors to homes; onsite learning for schools; phased return to onsite work for workers who have been working from home; no restrictions on hospitality but record-keeping of patrons to continue; no restrictions on community sports or spectators; no limits for weddings, funerals or religious ceremonies (organisers required to keep records of attendees); state border controls activated in case of outbreaks; and entertainment venues open with safety measures and record-keeping.
- The First Step does not apply to regional Victoria. The remaining steps are similar to that of metropolitan Melbourne except for the timeframes and the following:
  - From 14 September 2020, the **Second Step** involves: schools to have staged return to onsite learning for all students in Term 4; outdoor exercise and recreation allowed with no

time or frequency limits; outdoor playgrounds and pools to open; intrastate travel not allowed unless for a permitted purpose.

- Move to the **Third Step** when there are less than 5 new cases based on regional average over last 14 days and no cases with unknown source (regional total last 14 days): no restrictions on reasons to leave home or distance to travel; intrastate travel allowed across Third Step area.
- From the later of 23 November 2020 and when there are no new cases for 14 days (state-wide), the **Last Step** allows intrastate travel.
- Will move from the last step to **COVID Normal** when there are no new cases for 28 days (state-wide), no active cases (state-wide) and no outbreaks of concern in other states or territories. Restrictions as per metropolitan Melbourne.
- [On 15 September 2020, announced](#) that regional Victoria had reached a 14-day average of 3.6 cases with no mystery cases and moved to the Third Step from 17 September.
- [On 27 September 2020, announced](#) that from 28 September metropolitan Melbourne will move to the **Second Step** towards reopening. It was also confirmed that based on public health advice the restrictions would be eased further in addition to those initially outlined in the roadmap to recovery:
  - Curfew removed; private inspections to resume for real estate agents; weddings allowed up to 5 people; the workforce limits for some industries expanded (supermarkets and food distribution to return to full capacity and abattoirs, seafood and meat processing plants to increase capacity), manufacturing to return to 90 per cent workforce capacity; sole traders doing outside gardening and landscape work allowed; retail pet grooming allowed; apprentices and university students in their final year of study able to attend onsite for learning and assessment where necessary; and from 12 October, all primary school students will return to onsite learning.
- Further, future progression through the Third and Last steps will no longer be defined by dates in the calendar, but instead trigger points to be solely based on case number targets.
- [On 18 October 2020, announced](#) the easing of some restrictions from 19 October under an amended Second Step for metropolitan Melbourne and an amended Third Step for regional Victoria.
  - For metropolitan Melbourne, there remains only 4 reasons to leave home, however, the travel limit has been extended to 25km of a person's residence or workplace for obtaining necessary goods or services and exercise or social interaction; public gatherings up to 10 people from a maximum of 2 households can meet outdoors; hairdressers can open; for real estate, private inspections and auctions outdoors with up to 10 people allowed; outdoor sport and recreation facilities to open (with restrictions); indoor swimming pools open for one-to-one hydrotherapy sessions; a phased transition from remote to onsite learning for VCE/VCAL and specialist schools; and groups of up to 5 workers for certain low risk, outdoor work.
  - Subject to public health assessment, move to the Third Step from 2 November 2020. This includes the following changes to the previous Third Step announced earlier: a household can have up to 2 visitors once per day (plus dependents); schools return to onsite learning; food and drink facilities to open for seated indoor and outdoor seated service with group limits of 10 (and density limits), an indoor cap of 20 patrons (10 per indoor space) and an outdoor cap of 50 patrons per venue; outdoor religious gatherings to have up to 20 people plus a faith leader, facilities open for private worship for households; accommodation open with caps per visit to the home gathering limit or single household; retail to open (subject to limits); and beauty and personal care services to open.
  - For regional Victoria: up to 2 people can visit a household once per day; group limits of 10 for hospitality with density limits and an indoor cap of 40 patrons and an outdoor cap of 70 patrons; indoor pools open (including swimming classes) for those aged 18 years or younger, subject to density limits, and one-to-one hydrotherapy sessions allowed; outdoor religious gatherings (including ceremonies) proximate to places of worship allowed for up to 20 people plus a faith leader and facilities open for private worship for households plus

a faith leader. From 1 November, outdoor religious gatherings and ceremonies allowed proximate to a place of worship with up to 50 people, plus 1 faith leader.

- [On 26 October 2020, announced](#) that metropolitan Melbourne will move to the Third Step of reopening from 28 October which bring forward changes announced on 18 October that were scheduled to operate from 2 November. They include: no restrictions on reasons to leave home; up to 2 people from the same household can visit or be visited by another household once a day; outdoor public gatherings of up to 10 people from any number of households allowed; all schools open for onsite learning; indoor (up to 20 patrons with a limit of 10 people per space) and outdoor (up to 50 patrons and group limit of 10 people) seating service for hospitality; retail to reopen; beauty and personal services open where face covering can be worn; libraries and community venues open for outdoor events; some outdoor entertainment venues can host visitors; outdoor contact sport permitted for those under 18 years and non-contact sport to resume for adults; workplaces will no longer need to be on a permitted work list to open and the ability to work will change to “if you can work from home you must work from home”; weddings permitted for up to 10 people and funerals up to 20 people; exercise outdoors in groups of up to 10 (plus a trainer); indoor religious ceremonies with up to 10 people plus a faith leader; workforce capacity limits in industries such as manufacturing and construction removed; tours in outdoor spaces permitted for up to 10 people; live music permitted outdoors; food courts reopen (subject to caps per table, venue and indoor and outdoor density limits); residential and commercial real estate activities permitted including inspections with up to 10 people from 2 households; and outdoor swimming pools open subject to patron limit of 50 or density limits;
  - Additionally, from 9 November 2020: no limit on the distance people can travel from their home; for hospitality an overall venue cap of 40 patrons indoors and 70 patrons for outdoor venues; 10 people limit for private real estate inspections with no limit on the number of households; indoor non-contact physical recreation (including classes) permitted with venue limits of 20 people and outdoor contact and non-contact sport allowed for those under 18 years; indoor fitness allowed (including classes) with up to 10 people in a space and 20 in a venue (subject to density limits); indoor pools open to the public subject to density limits and maximum 20 patrons per venue; up to 50 people for outdoor funerals; religious ceremonies with up to 50 people outdoors and 20 people indoors (maximum of 10 per group); intrastate travel allowed; electronic gaming allowed subject to patron and time limits; and accommodation open with restrictions on group bookings.
- For regional Victoria, announced changes to restrictions under the Third Step that came into effect from 28 October 2020. These include: food courts open (subject to specific density limits); indoor physical recreation and non-contact sports for those 18 years and under (with certain caps); indoor fitness and fitness classes with up to 10 people in a space and 20 people in a venue (subject to density limits); indoor pools open with a maximum of 20 people (subject to density limits); funerals allowed with up to 50 people outdoors; up to 50 people may attend an outdoor religious gathering and up to 20 people for indoor gatherings (maximum 10 per group); and live music permitted in outdoor hospitality venues (with distance requirements for performers).
- [On 8 November 2020, announced](#) the further easing of restrictions statewide from 9 November. Other than those listed above, they include: households able to have up to 2 different adult visitors per day; for adults, indoor physical recreation with density limits and a patron cap of 10 per space and 20 per venue; indoor skateparks, playcentres and trampoline centres open to people aged 18 years and under with a maximum of 20 patrons (subject to density limits); libraries open with up to 20 people indoors and 10 people per space (subject to density limits); community venues open for all purposes with a maximum of 20 people indoors, 10 people per space and density limits; food and drink facilities open for seated service subject to a maximum of 40 patrons for indoor venues and density limits and a maximum of 70 patrons per outdoor venue (subject to density limits); indoor entertainment venues including cinemas, concert halls, galleries and museums open for a maximum of 20 people per space with density limits; electronic gaming allowed with up to 25 per cent of indoor hospitality limit of 40 patrons or 10 patrons per venue per electronic gaming room; indoor tourism spaces open subject to limits; and workforce caps removed for abattoirs and meat, seafood and poultry processing.

- From 23 November 2020: up to 10 visitors at a time allowed to visit a household; up to 50 people to gather outdoors from any number of households; contact or non-contact indoor physical recreation and community sport allowed for up to 100 people, with a group limit of 20 people and density limits; large sporting venues able to open with a patron cap of 25 per cent of capacity and density limits; contact or non-contact outdoor sport and recreation with a patron cap of 500 and groups sizes of 50 people and density limits; indoor pools capped at 50 people and no cap for outdoor pools (both subject to density limits); indoor skateparks for up to 50 people, with density limits; playcentres and trampoline centres allowed with a cap of 50 patrons subject to density limits; libraries, community venues and indoor religious gatherings with group limits of 20 people and patron cap of 100 people (subject to density limits); outdoor religious gatherings and ceremonies allowed for groups of 50 people and total venue cap of 500 (with density limits); weddings and funerals allowed with up to 100 people (with density limits); indoor hospitality venues with a cap of 100 patrons per venue, 20 persons per group (subject to density limits); outdoor hospitality with up to 200 patrons per venue (subject to density limits) and total venue capacity of 300 people; indoor food courts limited to the lesser of 50 per cent of seating capacity or 1 person per 8 square metres; outdoor food courts limited to 50 patrons per area, subject to a density limits, to a maximum of 500 people; indoor entertainment venues open for a maximum of 100 people per space (subject to density limits); outdoor entertainment and leisure spaces open for up to 50 per cent of seated capacity to a maximum of 500 people (subject to density limits); electronic gaming with a group limit of 20 people and venue cap of 100 (subject to density limits); real estate auctions allowed indoors subject to density limits, up to a maximum of 20 people and up to 50 people outdoors from any number of households; accommodation open subject to private gathering cap of 10 people from any number of households; outdoor tourism spaces subject to density limits and indoor tourism to have the lesser of 100 people or 25 per cent of capacity.
- [On 22 November 2020, announced](#) from 23 November that (other than those listed above): up to 15 visitors allowed to visit a household (together or separately); higher education and training to return to campus; hospitality venues less than 200 square metres subject to density quotient of 1 person per 2 square metres and venues 200 square metres or larger subject to density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metres (no group limits), up to 150 patrons indoors and 300 patrons per outdoor venue; indoor religious gatherings of up to 150 people indoors and 300 outdoors (with density limits); weddings and funerals with a cap of 150 people; indoor community facilities to have a cap of 150 patrons and outdoors to have a cap of 300 patrons; indoor physical recreation and community sport to have a cap of 150 patrons and group limit of 20; large multipurpose sporting facilities to have a cap of 25 per cent capacity; indoor pools to have a cap of 150 patrons and outdoors to have a cap of 300 patrons; playcentres and trampoline centres allowed with a cap of 150 patrons subject to density limits; indoor entertainment to have a maximum of 150 patron per space; major cultural institutions to have a maximum of 25 per cent capacity subject to density limits; outdoor entertainment to have up to 50 per cent seated capacity up to a maximum of 500 people; non-seated venues subject to density limit; amusement parks to have a cap of up to 25 per cent of venue capacity, indoor venues capped at 150 patrons; electronic gaming to have a cap of 150 patrons; nightclubs to operate seated service; and visitors to accommodation same restrictions as if it were the home of the person who booked the accommodation.
- From 30 November 2020, workplaces currently working from home can have up to 25 per cent of their workforce per site (subject to density limits). Businesses with fewer than 40 staff can have 10 staff on site (subject to density limits).
- [On 6 December 2020, announced](#) from 7 December, that: up to 30 visitors allowed to a home per day from any number of households; up to 100 people permitted to meet outdoors in a public space; venues to have no patron cap, subject to a density limit of 1 person per 2 square metres with electronic record keeping, or 1 person per 4 square metres without; restaurants, cafés and bars able to have standing service, and up to 25 people before the density limit applies; weddings, funerals and religious gatherings subject to the same limits as hospitality (with services in private homes subject to a limit of 30 persons per gathering); no patron cap for indoor physical recreation and community sport (subject to 1 person per

4 square metres; gyms and exercise classes limited to 50 people (when gyms are unstaffed they are subject to 1 person per 8 square metres) and a maximum of 100 patrons for outdoor fitness classes; indoor pools, spas, saunas, steam rooms and springs open with no cap (subject to 1 person per 4 square metres and 1 person per 2 square metres for outdoor pools); seated entertainment venues open with up to 75 per cent of fixed seated capacity and a maximum cap of 1000 patrons (arrangements for large events determined on an individual basis); indoor non-seated venues (such as galleries) open with up to 50 per cent total capacity with a maximum patron cap of 1000 people (subject to density limits); amusement parks open with up to 75 per cent capacity (subject to density limits); and accommodation bookings restricted to the same limits as private gathering; offices able to increase to 50 per cent capacity from 11 January 2021 and up to 20 staff for workplaces with fewer than 40 staff.

- From 7 December 2020, Victoria's borders are open to all states and territories. There is a permit system in place for travelers from South Australia and restrictions in place.
- [Announced on 9 December](#) 2020 that, from 12 December, the South Australia border permit scheme was removed.
- From 21 December 2020, the [Victorian Border Crossing Permit](#) was altered to restrict travel from a number of areas in New South Wales. People who live, have visited, or travelled through Sydney's Northern Beaches in the last 14 days will not be permitted to enter Victoria. From 22 December, non-Victorians who live, have visited, or travelled through Greater Sydney or the Central Coast (red zone) in the last 14 days are not able to enter Victoria. Victorians who have spent time in the Greater Sydney and Central Coast areas had until 11:59pm on 21 December to return to Victoria and must get tested for COVID-19 within 24 hours of entering Victoria, have a border permit, and quarantine at home for 14 days. People who live, have travelled through or visited regional New South Wales (green zone) may enter Victoria with a border permit.
- [On 31 December 2020, announced](#) that the border was closed to all of New South Wales. From 31 December, face masks must be worn when people are indoors and a 15-person limit on visitors to homes per day.
- From 9 January 2021, the border was closed to people who have spent time in the Queensland local government areas of Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Ipswich, Redlands and Logan, unless exempt.
- From 6pm on 11 January 2021, introduced a new [Travel Permit System](#), requiring people travelling from anywhere in Australia to apply for a permit in order to enter Victoria. The permit system is based on a traffic light system with different areas across Australia designated as green, orange or red according to their assessed risk level.
  - Anyone travelling from a designated red zone is not allowed to enter Victoria without an exemption.
  - Anyone travelling from a designated orange zone must apply for a permit to enter the state (you cannot apply for a permit if you have COVID-19 symptoms, nor if you have visited a red zone). Once in Victoria, travellers from an orange zone must get a COVID-19 test within 72 hours and isolate until they get a negative result.
  - Those travelling from a designated green zone must apply for a permit to enter the state (you cannot apply for a permit if you have COVID-19 symptoms, nor if you have visited a red zone).
- As of 11 January 2021, the greater Brisbane area in Queensland and the Greater Sydney Region and Wollongong in New South Wales were designated red zones and the rest of New South Wales was a designated orange zone.
- Announced on 14 January 2021 that, [from 18 January 2021](#), the Victorian Public Service will be able to return to on-site work at 25 per cent capacity at each site and all other office workplaces will be able to increase to 50 per cent capacity. Also, from 18 January 2021, rules around face masks returned to the setting from before Christmas time.

- [From 6pm on 16 January 2021](#), the Greater Brisbane LGAs of Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Redland, Logan, and Ipswich were declared an orange zone.
- [From 6pm on 18 January 2021](#), the Blue Mountains, Wollongong and all Greater Sydney LGAs except for Blacktown City, Burwood, Canada Bay City, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield City, Inner West, Liverpool City, Parramatta City and Strathfield Municipality were declared an orange zone. In addition, New South Wales border towns with Victoria will move to a green zone.
- From 6pm on 22 January 2021, all areas of Queensland were declared a green zone.
- [From 23 January 2021](#), the number of visitors to a home increased from 15 to 30. Greater Brisbane and regional New South Wales, with the exception of Wollongong and Blue Mountains, will change from an orange zone to a green zone.
- [From 6pm on 29 January 2021](#), the Cumberland local government area of Sydney transitioned to an orange zone. The remaining areas (Blacktown City, Burwood, Canada Bay City, Canterbury-Bankstown, Fairfield City, Inner West, Parramatta City, Strathfield, Liverpool, Wollongong and the Blue Mountains) moved to a green zone.
- [From 9pm on 31 January 2021](#), the Perth metropolitan area, the Peel region and the South West region of Western Australia moved from a green zone to a red zone. Anyone who has been in these areas since 25 January will not be allowed to enter Victoria without an exception, exemption or permitted worker permit. People who have arrived between 25 January and 9pm on 31 January are required to isolate and get tested within 72 hours of arriving.
- [From 9pm on 5 February 2021](#), the Perth metropolitan area, the Peel region and the South West region of Western Australia moved from a red zone to an orange zone.
- [Announced on 12 February 2021](#) that, from 13 February, there are only 4 reasons to leave home: shopping for necessary goods and services; care and caregiving; exercise for up to two hours a day (with one other person); and permitted work (must work from home if possible). Residents must stay within 5km of their home. A density quotient of one person per four square metres applies in all premises and spaces accessible to the public, and in shared spaces within closed workplaces. Food and drink businesses, including restaurants and cafés, can only offer takeaway or delivery services. Pubs, bars, nightclubs and hotels are closed unless operating as bottle shops, takeaway service or accommodation for permitted reasons. Non-essential retail outlets can only open for in-store pick up of pre-purchased products (e.g. contactless click and collect), or to offer home delivery services.
- From 18 February 2021, [most of the restrictions were removed](#). [Changes](#) to the those prior to the lockdown include: up to 20 people can gather outdoors from any number of households (infants under 12 months not included); up to 5 visitors can visit a home (infants under 12 months not included) and visitors may be from any number of households; and a cap of 50 per cent for indoor venues up to a maximum of 300 people (such as entertainment venues, cinemas and galleries).
- [From 26 February 2021](#), up to 100 people can gather in public from any number of households; up to 30 visitors from any number of households can visit a home in a day; on-site office work capped at 75 per cent for both the public and private sectors; seated entertainment venues (indoors and outdoors) may open at 75 per cent capacity with a maximum of 1000 people; and indoor non-seated venues may open at 50 per cent capacity with a maximum of 1000 people. Density limits of 1 person per 2 square metres remain for pubs, restaurants, cafes, beauty services, retail businesses, funerals and weddings.
- [Announced on 23 March 2021](#), that from 6pm 26 March: masks will no longer be required in retail settings; up to 100 people allowed in people's homes per day; up to 200 people allowed at outdoor gatherings in public places; density limits for casinos, karaoke venues and nightclubs increased from 1 person per 4 square metres to 1 person per 2 square metres; capacity for indoor non-seated entertainment venues increased from 50 to 75 per cent (still subject to 1000 person limit); size limits removed for outdoor and indoor physical recreation and fitness classes; density limits for unstaffed gyms increased to 1 person per 4 square metres; the 75 per cent cap on private and public offices removed (workplaces still

subject to the 1 person per 2 square metres density limit); and AFL crowds increased to 75 per cent capacity from round 2 of the season.

- From 6pm on 29 March 2021, Greater Brisbane (City of Brisbane, City of Ipswich, Logan City, Moreton Bay Region and Redlands City) was designated a red zone and the Gladstone Region in Queensland and Byron Shire in New South Wales were designated orange zones. From 12 April, these regions were designated green zones.
- From 9 April 2021, the density limit of 1 person per 2 square metres only applies in spaces that are accessible to the general public but no longer applies in offices not accessible by the general public; seated areas at indoor and outdoor entertainment, cultural and sporting venues (such as theatres, cinemas, music halls and galleries) can use 100 per cent of their seated capacity up to a maximum of 1000 patrons per space, however, the density quotient still applies at these venues in non-seated spaces e.g. bathrooms and lobbies.
- [From 24 April 2021](#), metropolitan Perth and the Peel region were designated as red zones. Only Victorian residents travelling from the red zones are allowed to return to Victoria and they must apply for a permit and quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.
- [On 7 May 2021](#), it was announced that restrictions on businesses would further ease from 28 May 2021. The remaining restrictions will include small and medium-sized venues allowed up to 200 people without density limits, provided COVID marshals are on site, these rules only apply to spaces that are at least 400 square metres; and all venues and businesses required to keep electronic records and must use the Victorian Government QR Code Service.
- [From 10 May 2021](#), the Perth Metropolitan area and the Peel region were designated as green zones. A permit is still required to enter Victoria but there are no restrictions for domestic travelers unless they have been to a designated exposure site.
- [From 6pm 25 May 2021](#), a number of restrictions were implemented in Greater Melbourne including a limit of 5 visitors per day for private gatherings in the home; a 30-person limit for public gatherings; and mandatory use of face masks indoors.
- [From 11:59pm on 27 May](#), Victoria moved to circuit-breaker restrictions (initially for 7 days), with only five reasons to leave the home, for: food and supplies; authorised work; care and caregiving; exercise for up to 2 hours (with 1 other person); and receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. Travel was restricted to a 5km radius from the home unless: to access necessary good and services unavailable within the 5km radius; to visit an intimate partner; to visit a person in a 'single bubble'; for authorised work and permitted education; or for care or compassionate reasons. Shopping is limited to 1 person per day per home; mandatory use of face masks (indoors and outdoors); private and public gatherings not permitted; schools closed (except for children of authorised workers and in vulnerable situations); cafes and restaurants may only offer takeaway services; gyms, hairdressers, community facilities and entertainment venues closed; non-essential retail may open only for click-and-collect services; and hotels and accommodation may only open for guests already onsite and for permitted purposes such as authorised workers. Funerals permitted with no more than 10 people and weddings not permitted.
- [On 2 June 2021, announced](#) the extension of circuit breaker restrictions for a further 7 days, with the travel radius increased to 10km for metropolitan Melbourne from 3 June.
- [On 3 June 2021, announced](#) the easing of restrictions for regional Victoria from 4 June, including: removal of reasons to leave homes (with stipulated [authorised work and permitted study](#)); no limit on the distance people may travel from their homes; up to 10 people could gather outside; food and hospitality venues open for take away or for seated service only (for up to 50 people and subject to a density limit of 1 person per 4 square metres); retail open; personal services can resume where masks can remain on); religious gatherings and ceremonies allowed with up to 50 people, weddings with up to 10 people and funerals with up to 50 people; junior outdoor community sport to resume and adults able to resume training and recreation outdoors; outdoor entertainment allowed with a cap of the lower of 50 people or 50 per cent of a venues capacity.

- [Announced on 9 June 2021](#) that, from 11 June restrictions would ease for metropolitan Melbourne, including: no restrictions on reasons to leave home; the travel radius expanded to 25km; outdoor gatherings allowed with up to 10 people; retail to open (subject to a 1 person per 4 square metres density rule); hairdressing, beauty and personal services can resume where masks can be kept on (subject to the density rule); weddings allowed with up to 10 people; funerals and religious gatherings with up to 50 people; community sport to resume (training only); outdoor swimming pools and spas open with a maximum 100 people; entertainment venues and community facilities open (with density limits); creative studios open with a cap of 50 people and group cap of 10 people (subject to the density rule); community facilities open with a cap of 50 people and a group cap of 10 people (subject to the density rule); indoor fixed seating entertainment open up to 25 per cent of capacity up to a cap of 50 people and a group cap of 10 people (subject to the density rule); outdoor fixed seating entertainment open up to 50 per cent of capacity up to a cap of 100 people (subject to the density rule); outdoor non-seated entertainment venues open subject to the density rule and a group cap of 10 people; drive-in-cinemas open to a maximum of 100 people (stay in vehicles and subject to the density rule); retail betting venues open with a cap of 50 people (subject to the density rule); auctions houses open with a cap of 50 people (subject to the density rule); food and drink facilities and food courts (hospitality) open for seated service only with a cap of 100 people per venue, 50 people indoors, and a group cap of 10 people (subject to the density rule); accommodation open with bookings only permitted for single households; house auctions permitted with a cap of 50 people outdoors and house inspections permitted with a cap of 10 people (subject to the density rule); outdoor tourism open with a cap of 50 people and a group cap of 10 people (subject to the density rule); school, early learning centres, kinder, and family day care open; and for office work, 25 per cent return or up to 10 people if total workplace is 40 people or less).
- Changes for regional Victoria from 9 June 2021, included: 2 visitors and their dependants able to visit homes once per day; public gatherings limited to 20 people; for office work, 50 per cent return or up to 20 people if total workplace is 40 or less; religious gatherings permitted with a 150 people cap per venue (including no more than 75 people indoors and subject to the 1 person per 4 square metre density rule); up to 20 people allowed for weddings; indoor physical recreation and sport, indoor trampolining, play centres and skateparks open with a cap of 150 people, including a maximum of 50 people indoors and group sizes of 10 people indoors and 20 people outdoors (subject to the density rule); community sport open for all ages (training and competition); creative studios open with a cap of 150 people per venue (including a maximum 75 people indoors, group size cap of 10 (subject to the density rule); indoor and outdoor fixed seating entertainment open up to 50 per cent of seated capacity up to 75 people per venue indoors and 150 outdoors (subject to group cap of 10 people indoors and the density rule for indoor and outdoor venues); indoor non-seated entertainment venues open with a cap of 75 people and subject to the density rule; non-seated outdoor venues open with a cap of 20 people and subject to the density rule; arcades, escape rooms and bingo centers open with a cap of 50 people and subject to the density rule; drive-in cinemas open with a cap of 150 people (stay in vehicles) with no more than 75 people indoors in shared spaces and subject to density rule; amusement parks open with a cap of 100 people (no more than 50 indoors) and the density rule applies; retail betting venues open with a cap of 150 people (including no more than 75 indoors and subject to the density rule); electronic gaming venues open with a cap of 50 people within the overall hospitality cap and density rule applies; retail open subject to the density rule (auctions house with a cap of 150 people per venue and no more than 75 indoors); hairdressing, beauty, and personal care services open subject to density rule (masks can be removed for services); hospitality open for seated service only with a cap of 150 people per venue and no more than 75 people indoors, group sizes capped at 10 people and subject the density rule; accommodation open and bookings allowed for single households plus 2 adults (and their dependents); tour transport cap of 10 people per vehicle; and casinos remain closed.
- [Announced on 16 June 2021](#) that from 18 June 2021 restrictions eased for metropolitan Melbourne, including: people able to travel to regional Victoria; public gatherings of up to 20 people; offices can increase to 50 per cent capacity; religious gatherings and ceremonies allowed with a maximum of 150 people per venue (indoors and outdoors) and no more than



75 people indoors plus the number of people required for the service (subject to a density limit of 1 person per 4 square metres); weddings allowed with up to 20 people; funerals allowed with up to 75 people; community sport resumes for all ages, including training and competition; contact and non-contact sport outdoors resumed with the minimum amount of people needed to play the game; indoor physical recreation resumes with group sizes of up to 10 people per session indoors and no more than 50 patrons per indoor venue, a maximum capacity of 150 per venue (indoors and outdoors) and a density limit of 1 person per 4 square metres; shops open with a density limit of 1 person per 4 square metres; beauty and personal care services open; restaurants and cafes (under 100 square metres) can open with up to 25 people before density limits apply, a density limit of 1 person per 4 square metres with a maximum of 150 people (indoors and outdoors) and no more than 75 indoors, and only seated service is permitted when dining in; community facilities are subject to a density limit of 1 person per 4 square metres and up to 150 per venue (indoors and outdoors) including up to 75 indoors; bars, karaokes, and nightclubs may open for seated services with a density limit of 1 person per 4 square metres (no more than 50 indoors); indoor seated venues may have up to 50 per cent capacity and up to 75 people per venue with a density limit of 1 person per 4 square metres; and outdoor seated venues may have up to 50 per cent seated capacity and up to 150 people per venue with a density limit of 1 person per 4 square metres for outdoor non-seated areas.

- [From 1am on 23 June 2021](#), the City of Sydney, Waverley, Woollahra, Bayside, Canada Bay, Inner West and Randwick local government areas in New South Wales were classified as red zones.
- [From 25 June 2021](#), restrictions were further eased in both metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria, including a limit of 15 visitors to the home per day; gatherings of up to 50 people; offices can have up to 75 per cent capacity or 30 people, whichever is greater; religious gatherings and ceremonies allowed with a maximum of 300 people per venue (indoors and outdoors) with density limits; weddings of up to 300 people with density limits (dancefloors not permitted); funerals of up to 300 people; indoor physical recreation with a maximum capacity of 300 people per indoor space and 1000 people per outdoor space, density limits apply and group sizes limited to 50 people per session; outdoor exercise for a group of up to 50 people; restaurants and cafes can have up to 300 people for seated service with density limits; community facilities including libraries may open with density limits and cap of 300 people per venue (indoors and outdoors); bars, karaoke facilities and nightclubs open with seated service only, density limits apply and venue cap of 300 people (dancefloors not permitted); entertainment venues such as cinemas can have 75 per cent of seated capacity and up to 300 people per indoor space, density limits apply to indoor non-seated areas and a cap of 300 people per indoor space; outdoor seated spaces at entertainment venues can have 75 per cent seated capacity and up to 1000 people per outdoor space, density limits apply to outdoor non-seated areas.
- From 1am on 25 June 2021, Greater Sydney including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Shellharbour and Wollongong became red zones.
- From 1am on 27 June 2021, all of regional New South Wales (not including communities in the border bubble) and the Australian Capital Territory became orange zones.
- From 8pm on 27 June 2021, the Greater Darwin area became a red zone.
- From 1am on 28 June 2021, the Perth metropolitan region, Peel region and Greater Brisbane became orange zones.
- From 1am on 30 June 2021, the Perth metropolitan region, Peel region and various local government areas in South East Queensland and Townsville (including Magnetic Island and Palm Island) were declared as red zones.

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## Queensland

- From 2 May 2020, as well as established essential reasons, people can leave their home for recreation purposes within 50km of their home including going for a drive, picnics, visit a national park, go fishing, boating or jet-skiing. This can be done with people who you normally live with or one person you do not live with, or more than one person if you need assistance from more than one carer. From 10 May, people can have up to 5 visitors from the same household or 2 visitors from different households.
  - On 8 May 2020, announced further plans to ease restrictions. **Stage 1**, from 16 May, includes gatherings in homes (maximum 5 visitors allowed from separate households); gatherings up to 10 people for outdoor, non-contact activity; personal training; pools (indoor and outdoor); public spaces and lagoons; parks, playground equipment, skate parks and outdoor games; libraries, weddings; attending national or state parks; places of worship and religious ceremonies; funerals (maximum 20 indoors and 30 outdoors); and recreational travel within 150km of your region for day trips or 500km within the outback; retail shopping; dining in restaurants, cafes, pubs and registered clubs (maximum 10 people or 20 for locals in the outback and no bars or gaming in the outback), open homes and auctions; and beauty therapy and nail salons.
  - **Stage 2** (initially from 12 June 2020 and brought forward to 1 June 2020): 20 people for gatherings indoors and outdoors (including homes), plus indoor gyms, health clubs, yoga studios, personal training, non-contact indoor and outdoor community sports, pools, parks, playground equipment, skate parks, outdoor gyms, hiking and camping in national parks, museums, art galleries, historic sites, weddings and places of worship; retail shopping, cafes and restaurants etc as per stage 1 – for maximum of 20 people (50 people for outback), plus indoor cinemas, outdoor amusement parks, zoos, arcades, tourism experiences, concert venues, theatres, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums and spas,

open homes and auctions, beauty therapy, nail salons, tanning, tattoo parlours and spas; a maximum of 50 people for funerals, recreational travel, camping and accommodation including caravan parks and unlimited travel and overnight stays within Queensland (except biosecurity areas or restricted areas).

- Announced on 15 June 2020, from 16 June funerals may be attended by up to 100 people; unlimited travel and overnight stays for all of Queensland (including school holidays); up to 20 patrons per room or predefined area (indoors or outdoors) for dining in or seated drinks in restaurants, pubs, registered or licensed clubs, RSL clubs, hotel and casinos (no gaming).
- Announced on 21 June 2020, from 27 June Queensland stadiums can have spectators up to 25 per cent of their capacity, with a maximum of 10 000 and with seating plans of segmented zones.
- **Stage 3** (from 3 July 2020): a maximum of 100 people permitted for private gatherings, weddings and funerals; a maximum number of people at museums, art galleries, libraries and historic sites determined by the 1 person per 4 square metre rule; resumption of sport, recreation and fitness activities including competition and physical contact on field of play; indoor sports facilities can open subject to the 1 person per 4 square metre rule; outdoor sports facilities open with physical distancing (off the field of play); all businesses can reopen with a maximum number of customers determined by the 1 person per 4 square metre rule (venues below 200 square metres can have 1 person per 2 square metres, up to a maximum 50 people); saunas and bathhouses, casinos, gaming and gambling venues, nightclubs, and food courts; public health rules will remain including physical distancing, 4 square metres per person when indoors, hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, frequent environment cleaning and disinfection and must have a COVID safe plan; the lesser of up to 25 000 spectators or 50 per cent capacity for Major Sports Facilities; concert venues, theatres and auditoriums open with up to 50 per cent capacity or 1 person per 4 square metre (whichever is greater).
- From 10 July 2020, any person travelling from New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory may enter Queensland subject to completing and signing a border declaration and undertaking to present for a COVID-19 test if they develop symptoms. Any person that has been in a declared COVID-19 hotspot during the past 14 days, including Victoria, must not enter Queensland (some exceptions apply). On 29 July, it was announced that from 1 August, people who have been in 34 local government area hotspots across greater Sydney in the past 14 days will not be able to enter Queensland. Persons entering the state to perform essential activities and Queensland residents are exempt but must complete 14 days quarantine upon arrival. [On 5 August, it was announced](#) that the hotspot areas were extended to all of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, except for essential workers and for residents of a specific Tweed Shire border zone, to apply from 8 August.
- From 1am on 20 August 2020, entrance to Queensland is possible by road, rail or air from a hotspot without an exemption for essential health care if it cannot be provided in the hotspot. Border zone residents can cross the border for any purpose.
- People must complete a Queensland Border Declaration Pass before entering Queensland, and this will include agreeing to get tested for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms within 14 days of arrival. Those entering will need to quarantine within 14 days if they: have been in a [COVID-19 hotspot](#); have or had COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms; or, are a Queensland or New South Wales border zone resident who travelled outside the borders zone in New South Wales.
- People who have been in a COVID-19 hotspot within the last 14 days will be turned away from entering Queensland, except people needed in Queensland for essential activities. Those who have been in a hotspot in the last days will only be allowed to enter if they: usually reside or are moving to Queensland; are a border zone resident; need to comply with an order to attend a Court or Tribunal or give an effect to orders of a Court or Tribunal; have to fulfil an arrangement or obligation relating to shared parenting or child contact; have to assist with a law enforcement investigation; need to complete an [essential activity](#); are a student at a higher education institution or boarding school and

entering Queensland for study (including parents or guardians accompanying students who are minors); or are entering to receive essential health care, or to provide support to a person receiving essential health care.

- From 8am on 22 August 2020, extra restrictions on activities were imposed, including: limitations on gatherings in specified [Local Government Areas](#) in greater Brisbane to a maximum of 10 people in homes and public spaces; restriction of visitors to residential aged care and disability accommodation facilities; and restricting visitors in public and private hospitals. For the rest of the state, gatherings in homes and public spaces were reduced to a maximum of 30 people.
- As at 24 August 2020, the only people allowed to enter Queensland by road are truck drivers; workers related to the transport of freight and logistics; people performing essential activities; and border zone residents.
- From 3pm on 23 September 2020: the [Queensland Freight Protocol](#) came into effect; people allowed to enter Queensland in order to fulfil informal shared parenting arrangements; New South Wales border zone residents able to travel anywhere in Queensland for informal shared parenting arrangements without quarantining (and Queensland resident can travel to the New South Wales border zone for the same purpose and re-enter Queensland without quarantining); and introduced a new 'H' category border declaration pass for people entering Queensland for day health appointments.
- From 1am on 25 September 2020: the Australian Capital Territory no longer considered a COVID-19 hotspot, travelers from the Australian Capital Territory will not need to quarantine upon arrival as long as they have not been in a [COVID-19 hotspot](#) in the past 14 days; no Local Government areas listed as [Queensland COVID-19 restricted areas](#), meaning that the whole of the state can have a maximum of 30 people in homes (including those who live in the household) and a maximum of 30 people may gather in public.
- From 1am on 1 October 2020, **Stage 4** includes: extending the New South Wales border zone; removing the Queensland border zone; Queensland residents will be able to travel anywhere in the New South Wales border zone for any purpose; and New South Wales border zone residents will be able to travel anywhere in Queensland for any purpose. Outdoor density requirements relaxed for businesses with a COVID Safe Plan to 1 person per 2 square metres; outdoor event capacity increased from 500 to 1000 (with a COVID Safe Events Checklist); open air stadiums and amphitheatres to increase capacity from 50 per cent to 75 per cent (with a COVID Safe Plan); and from 2 October standing eating and drinking permitted at indoor and outdoor venues with a COVID Safe Plan.
- From 4pm on 16 October 2020, people may gather in groups of up to 40 people in their homes and public spaces.
- As of 19 October 2020, anyone can enter Queensland unless they have been in a [COVID-19 hotspot](#) in the last 14 days.
- From 1am on 3 November 2020, **Stage 5** allows visitors and returned travellers from New South Wales to enter Queensland with a valid Queensland Border Declaration Pass without having to complete mandatory quarantine (excluding people who have been in the 32 Sydney Local Government Areas identified as hotspots in the last 14 days). Visitors and returned travellers from Victoria are able to enter with a valid Queensland Border Declaration pass and must undertake mandatory 14-day quarantine.
- From 17 November 2020, specific parts of South Australia were declared [COVID-19 hotspots](#) and anyone who had been in any of these hotspots in the last 14 days will not be allowed to enter Queensland (unless they have an exception).
- From 4pm 17 November 2020: gatherings in homes and public spaces increases from 40 to 50 people; indoor premises (e.g. restaurants, cafes, pubs, museums, places of worship) density limits increased from 1 person per 4 square metres to 1 person per 2 square metres; up to 200 people can attend weddings and funerals; capacity for seated, ticketed indoor events increases from 50 per cent to 100 per cent; capacity for outdoor events to increase from 1000 to 1500; and capacity for open air stadiums increases from 75 per cent to 100 per cent.

- From 1am on 1 December 2020 moved to Stage 6 of the roadmap: cap on gatherings in public outdoor spaces and areas increased to 100 people and up to 50 people can gather at a private property. There are no [COVID-19 hotspots](#) in New South Wales or Victoria meaning residents from these states may enter Queensland even if they have been in greater Sydney or Victoria in the past 14 days. Parts of South Australia continue to be COVID-19 hotspots. Only people who have been in a COVID-19 hotspot will be required to complete a Queensland Border Declaration pass and complete 14-day mandatory quarantine.
- Anyone who has been in the Northern Beaches region of Sydney who arrives in Queensland before 1am on 19 December 2020 must get tested and quarantine in their home or accommodation for 14 days from the day they left that region. Anyone arriving in Queensland after 1am on 19 December who has been in the Northern Beaches region must quarantine at their own expense for 14 days upon entering Queensland.
- Anyone entering Queensland before 1am on 21 December 2020 who has been in the Greater Sydney region must get tested and quarantine in their home or accommodation until they get a negative COVID-19 test result. From 1am on 21 December, anyone who has been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the last 14 days or since the hotspot was declared (whichever is shorter) are unable to enter Queensland (including all of Greater Sydney). Non-Queensland residents with an exemption will be able to enter Queensland and must go into hotel quarantine at their own expense for 14 days and get tested. Queensland residents who have been in Greater Sydney and entered the state after 1am on 22 December must go into hotel quarantine for 14 days at their own expense and get tested. Anyone who has been in New South Wales at any time since 1am on 11 December must complete a Queensland Border Declaration Pass before entering Queensland.
- From 6pm on 8 January 2021 until 11 January 2021, residents from local government areas in the Greater Brisbane region must stay home except for: shopping for essential items for themselves or a vulnerable person; attending work (if it cannot reasonably be done from home); exercising (with members of your household or 1 other person); or for health care. Cafes, pubs and restaurants will be open for take away service only. Face masks must be worn at all times when outside of home within Greater Brisbane. Queensland residents who have been in a declared hotspot in the last 14 days must apply for a Queensland Border Declaration pass, can only enter Queensland by air and must quarantine in government arranged accommodation.
- From 6pm on 11 January 2021, restrictions for the Greater Brisbane region were eased with people permitted to be outside of their homes for any purpose, subject to the following restrictions: a maximum of 20 people in homes and public places; a maximum 100 attendees at weddings and funerals; businesses and venues open, subject to 1 person per 4 square metres indoors and 1 person per 2 square metres outdoors; businesses with less than 200 square metres of floor space can have 1 person per 2 square metres (up to 50 people at a time); 50 per cent capacity for outdoor stadiums and amphitheatres; the greater of 50 per cent capacity or 1 person per 4 square metres for indoor concert venues and theatres; a maximum of 500 people for indoor events (with a COVID Safe Event Checklist), 500 to 10 000 people (must comply with COVID Safe Event Plan approved by local public health units), 10 000 people or more (with COVID Safe Event Plan approved by Chief Health Officer); outdoor events with less than 1000 people (with COVID Safe Event Checklist), 1000 to 10 000 people (with COVID Safe Event Plan approved by local public health unit), 10 000 people or more (with COVID Safe Event Plan approved by Chief Health Officer), and outdoor stadiums and amphitheatres allowed up to 50 per cent capacity with a COVID Safe Plan.
- [Announced on 21 January 2021](#) that, from 1am on 22 January, Greater Brisbane is subject to the same restrictions as the rest of Queensland: 50 people can gather in homes and 100 people in public spaces; indoor premises can have 1 person per 2 square metres; weddings and funerals can have up to 200 people; indoor events can have up to 500 people and outdoor events can have up to 1500 people (with a COVID Safe Event Checklist); ticketed seated venues can have 100 per cent capacity.
- [From 1am on 1 February 2021](#), all of New South Wales reopened to Queensland.

- [From 6pm on 31 January 2021](#), Perth and some surrounding areas were declared a hotspot and anyone who has been in metropolitan Perth, Peel or the South West regions of Western Australia who arrived in Queensland from 7.55pm AEST will be required to go into 14 days mandatory hotel quarantine. Anyone already in Queensland that has been in metropolitan Perth, Peel or the South West regions of Western Australia since 1am AEST 25 January 2021 should get tested and isolate until they receive a negative result.
- From 13 February 2021, 36 local government areas of Greater Melbourne were declared a COVID-19 hotspot and anyone who had been in Greater Melbourne in the previous 14 days or since 7 February 2021 (whichever is shorter) must quarantine in government arranged accommodation at their own expense. Anyone who has been in any part of Victoria in the last 14 days will be required to complete a Queensland Border Declaration Pass to enter Queensland.
- From 15 February 2021, 34 local government areas and 2 unincorporated areas in Western Australia were removed as hotspots (no hotspots remain in Western Australia).
- [From 27 February 2021](#), it was declared that no local government areas remain as COVID-19 hotspots. However, people who have been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days cannot enter Queensland (exceptions apply).
- From 6pm 20 March 2021, Queensland's borders were reopened to New Zealand, which was reinstated as 'safe travel zone country'.
- [From 5pm 29 March](#), 2021, the Greater Brisbane region entered a 3-day lockdown and restrictions were increased across Queensland, People in the Greater Brisbane region were required to stay at home except for obtaining essential goods or services; healthcare; exercise; attending essential work or childcare; and assisting vulnerable persons. Masks were mandatory in indoor spaces (exceptions apply); non-essential businesses were not allowed to operate; the school term ended early (except for the children of essential workers and vulnerable children); restaurants and cafes were only allowed to provide takeaway or delivery services; funerals were limited to 20 people and weddings limited to 10 people. For the rest of Queensland, restrictions included a limit on gatherings to 30 people; only seated patrons allowed for food and beverage establishments; and masks were mandatory in indoor spaces.
- [From 12pm 1 April, 2021](#), the Greater Brisbane region lockdown ended, however, certain restrictions remain across Queensland, including: the mandatory wearing of masks indoors; businesses must adhere to the rule of 1 person per 2 square metres; restaurants, bars, cafes and nightclubs able to open for indoor eating and drinking whilst seated and outdoor eating and drinking whilst standing; gatherings restricted to 30 people in the home; up to 500 people can gather outside in public spaces; outdoor events with over 500 people may proceed with a COVID Safe plan; and church services allowed 100 per cent occupancy with ticketed and allocated seating or adhere to the rule of 1 person per 2 square metre.
- [From 15 April, 2021](#), restrictions were further eased, including face masks mandatory only in airports, on planes and in high-risk areas such as hospital and aged care facilities; visitors may return to hospitals, aged care facilities, disability accommodation and prisons; gatherings in private residences may increase to 100 people; no restrictions on the amount of people that can gather in public spaces; retail food services, entertainment venues and high-risk businesses may open for standing when eating and drinking, both indoors and outdoors; all restrictions on outdoor businesses are removed, with the exception of dance and music festivals; and dancing allowed with a limit of 1 person per 2 square metres, indoors and outdoors.
- [From 24 April 2021](#), anyone entering Queensland who had been in the Perth or Peel regions of Western Australia from 17 April 2021 was required to enter 14-day hotel quarantine. Non-Queensland residents were required to apply for a permit to enter. Anyone who had been in the Perth or Peel regions since 17 April 2021 and was in Queensland before 11.59pm on 23 April 2021 was required to attain a COVID-19 test as soon as possible and remain at home or their arranged accommodation until they receive a negative test. From 12pm on 27 April 2021, the Perth and Peel regions no longer declared COVID-19 hotspots.

- [From 1 May 2021](#), restrictions were further eased, such as no density limits for businesses that operate only outdoors. Remaining restrictions include: all hospitality businesses must use the Check In Qld App; restricted indoor businesses must abide by the 1 person per 2 square metres density rule or 100 per cent capacity with ticketed and allocated seating (whichever is greater).
- From 1am on 26 May 2021, anyone who had been in the specified exposure sites in Victoria must quarantine upon arrival in government arranged accommodation. Anyone who was already in Queensland must quarantine in their home or at suitable accommodation until 14 days have passed since they were at the exposure site. Anyone who had been in the City of Whittlesea local government area on or since 11 May 2021 must go into hotel quarantine.
- [From 1am on 28 May 2021](#), anyone who had been in Victoria in the last 14 days or since the start date identified for specific hotspots (whichever is shorter) was not permitted to enter Queensland (exemptions apply for Queensland residents and other groups). Exempt people allowed to enter must quarantine for 14 days at government arranged accommodation. Anyone who had been in Victoria in the last 14 days must apply for a Queensland Border Declaration Pass three business days before entering Queensland.
- From 1am on 11 June 2021, the local government areas in Victoria that are not in Greater Melbourne were removed as hotspots.
- [From 24 on June 2021](#), several local governments areas in New South Wales were declared hotspots.
- [From 25 on June 2021](#), there were no declared hotspots in Victoria.
- [From 1am on 26 June 2021](#), the local government areas of Waverley, Woollahra, Randwick and the City of Sydney had their COVID-19 hotspot start date amended to 11 June 2021. From 10am on 27 June 2021 the rest of the local government areas that make up Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour in New South Wales had their COVID-19 hotspot start date amended to 21 June 2021.
- [From 6am on 28 June 2021](#), restrictions were imposed in Queensland, including a cap of 100 people for private gatherings where contact information is not collected upon entry; all indoor settings must apply the 1 person per 2 square metres rule (100 per cent capacity is allowed for ticketed and allocated seating); and indoor wedding and funeral ceremonies are limited to 200 people or 1 person per 2 square metres (whichever is greater) (100 per cent capacity is allowed for ticketed and allocated seating).
- [From 1am on 29 June 2021](#), restrictions in South East Queensland included mandatory use of masks indoors where social distances cannot be observed; patrons must be seated when eating and drinking at cafes and restaurants; a cap of 30 persons for private gatherings; all indoor settings limited to 1 person per 4 square metres (100 per cent capacity is allowed for ticketed and allocated seating venues); businesses with floor spaces less than 200 square meters can have 1 person per 2 square metres, up to 50 people at a time; weddings have a cap of 100 people with the density rule of 1 person per 4 square metres (only 20 people dancing at any one time); funerals have a cap of 100 people with density limits.
- [From 6pm on 29 June 2021](#) until 6pm 2 July 2021, areas in South East Queensland, Townsville (including Magnetic Island) and Palm Island entered a lockdown, with restrictions limiting people to only 4 reasons to leave the home (essential shopping, including health care and receiving the COVID-19 vaccine; exercise outdoors; essential work or childcare; and, assist vulnerable people); a limit of 2 visitors to the home per day; wedding ceremonies have a limit of 10 people, including the celebrant and two witnesses; funerals have a limit of 20 people; specified businesses and activities (such as retail food services and entertainment facilities) must close during the lockdown period; and mandatory use of masks outdoors (exceptions apply).
- [From 1am on 30 June 2021](#), the Perth Metropolitan Region, Peel Region, Darwin, Belyuen, Litchfield, Palmerston and Wagait were declared hotspots.
- [From 1am on 1 July 2021](#), Alice Springs was declared a hotspot.



- [From 6pm on 2 July 2021](#), restrictions were eased for a number of local government areas except for the City of Brisbane and Moreton Bay where restrictions were extended until 6pm on 3 July 2021.

## References

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## South Australia

- On 3 May 2020, the easing of restrictions included reopening public parks and playgrounds and resumption of cross-border kidney transplants.
- From 11 May 2020 (with some restrictions further eased on 22 May), **stage 1** (subject to 1 person per 4 square metres and 10 people maximum) allows: regional travel, Uni and TAFE face-to-face tutorials; outdoor dining for restaurants and cafes (maximum of 20 people – 10 inside and 10 outside); community, youth and RSL halls; auctions and inspections; local government libraries; sporting training (outdoor only); funerals (20 indoor / 30 outdoor maximum); worship, weddings and ceremonies; pools (20 swimmers per pool limit and 1 swimmer per lane); and campgrounds and caravan parks.
- From 1 June 2020 (brought forward from 8 June), **stage 2** (subject to 1 person per 4 square metres and maximum 20 people per room, area or group), up to 80 people allowed for: cinemas and theatres; seated dining (including alcohol if seated at a table, with or without food); galleries and museums; beauty, nails, tattoo, massage (no-therapeutic), driving instruction lessons, gyms and indoor fitness; funerals (50 person maximum); non-contact outdoor sport (competition); and non-contact indoor sport (training and competition) and indoor recreation activities. From 25 June, contact outdoor sport competition and contact indoor sport (training).
- From 19 June 2020, **Step 2 Plus** allowed public gatherings up to a maximum of 300 people at a venue (with any separate room or area having a maximum of 75 people); dance and fitness classes in larger rooms can have up to 20 people (subject to a density requirement of 1 person per 7 square metres) and a maximum of 10 people for smaller room subject to 1 person per 4 square metres.
- From 29 June 2020, **Step 3** is a simplified principle-based approach (except for some high-risk activities) and will require social distancing requirements being reduced to 1 person per 2 square metres, with no maximum for outside activities. Most activities/businesses will be permitted including those already permitted as well as food courts (on-site consumption now allowed), nightclubs and music festivals, gaming rooms/facilities in pubs and clubs, casinos, contact indoor sport (competition), spas, saunas and bathing, standing hospitality and indoor play centres. Amusement arcades and amusement parks.
- As at 20 July 2020, Victorian residents, other than essential travellers, are not permitted to travel to South Australia (essential travelers living in cross border communities can enter South Australia but cannot travel further than 50km into South Australia. Travellers from the

Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales, other than essential travellers, will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and submit for COVID-19 testing on the first day of entry and on the 12th day of arrival. Travellers from the Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia are able to enter South Australia without restriction.

- From 29 July 2020, South Australians were no longer be able to return to South Australia from Victoria (aside from essential travellers); a cap of 100 people for funerals (including wakes) and weddings; a cap of 50 for gatherings in private homes; and to be considered for cross border community travel to and from Victoria, people must reside within 40km of the border (previously 50km).
- On 3 August 2020, it was announced that from 5 August gatherings at homes will be limited to 10 people and food and drink service must be seated at all cafes, restaurants and licensed venues.
- From 14 August 2020, up to 10 visitors are allowed at residential premises (in addition to those who live there but capped at a total of 20 people. Gatherings at a private place (other than at a private residence) are restricted to 100 people or less (indoor or outdoor) and the 1 person per 2 square metres density requirement applies. From 21 August, businesses and activities across a number of sectors must have a COVID Marshal. These include: hospitality; gyms and fitness centres, indoor and outdoor sports clubs; public swimming pools; social and community clubs; religious or faith-based ceremonies; supermarkets and hardware stores; distribution centres; and businesses or activities that are required to have a COVID Management Plan.
- From 21 August 2020, cross-border community members at the South Australian/Victorian border with an approved travel status do not need to apply for approval to enter South Australia if they are agricultural/primary industry workers with a property close the border (40km), or are undertaking year 11 or 12 high school education at a secondary school (and those providing transport to and from school). Travellers from Victoria, other than approved categories of Essential Travellers are not permitted to travel to South Australia.
- Cross-border community residents from New South Wales can enter within 50km for Essential Travel activities, and no quarantine is required. They must self-quarantine for 14 days if they have travelled more than 50km into New South Wales. If entering from New South Wales, people must not travel further than 50km over the border into South Australia. Travellers from the Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia are able to enter South Australia without restriction. Travellers from the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales, who are not essential travellers, will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days and submit for COVID-19 testing on their 1st and 12th day of arrival.
- From 28 August 2020, residential gatherings will be able to have up to 50 people, and the 40km buffer zone for cross border communities in Victoria and South Australia was reinstated.
- From 5 September 2020, the maximum number of people able to attend a wedding increased to 150 people, and consumption of food and alcohol can resume for people seated at a bar.
- On 15 September 2020, released an updated [Emergency Management \(Cross Border Travel \(COVID-19\) Direction](#), listing the Australian Capital Territory as 'low community-transmission zone' meaning travellers from there will be able to enter South Australia without restriction and no longer be required to self-quarantine for 14 days from 16 September.
- From 24 September 2020 people travelling from New South Wales no longer need to self-quarantine. Testing is mandatory for anyone 16 years or over. Entry via Victoria is prohibited except for essential travellers or persons escaping domestic violence or providing support to a family member who is experiencing domestic violence.
- As at 19 October 2020, members of the South Australia/Victoria cross border community are permitted to enter South Australia if they reside within 70km of the border (for essential purposes only).

- From 24 October 2020, students returning after studying in Victoria, Victorians relocating to South Australia permanently, Victorians relocating to South Australia for work purposes and Victorians passing through South Australia to travel to a third destination will be allowed to enter the state. Cross-border community members can travel within 70km of the Victorian-South Australian border without needing a reason to do so.
- From 4 November 2020, people living within 70km of the Victorian border will not need to be tested for COVID-19 within the last 7 days in order to enter the state.
- From 1 December 2020, travellers from Victoria will not be required to undertake 14 days of quarantine upon arrival.
- From 17 November 2020 new restrictions were put in place, including: a density limit of 1 person per 4 square metres for places and gatherings; a cap of 10 people at private residences; gatherings in public capped at 50 people; funerals capped at 50 people; weddings capped at 150 people; church services capped at 100 people; gatherings at licensed venues capped at 50 people (with no standing consumption of food or alcohol); hospitality venues capped at 100 people per venue (with no standing consumption) and a maximum booking size of 10 people per group; gyms, recreation centres, indoor play centres, amusement parks and arcades closed; indoor or outdoor community sports fixtures and trainings (excluding elite, professional or intra-school sports) and swimming (other than for fitness or rehabilitation) must not occur.
- From 19 November 2020, further restrictions were introduced for 6 days limiting the reasons to leave home. These included: for work (for essential workers); one person per household, once per day to obtain essential goods or services; urgent health and safety purposes; vehicle mechanical services; an essential health service; undergoing a COVID-19 test. People may also leave home to: access child care, education services (for children of essential workers or vulnerable children); adhere to shared parenting arrangements; provide care and support to people with health issues or vulnerabilities; escape harm or risk of harm (such as family violence).
- From 22 November 2020, eased restrictions, including: removing the limit on reasons to leave home; all gatherings subject to a density limit of 1 person per 4 square metres; gatherings at private residences capped at 10 people; private gatherings other than at a residence (including funerals) capped at 50 people; weddings capped at 150 people; church services capped at 100 people; and hospitality venues capped at 100 people, indoor or outdoor (with no standing consumption) and group bookings capped at 10 people. Recreation centres; indoor play centres; amusement parks and arcades remain closed; community or club sports remained restricted (elite, professional or intra-school sport are permitted); and swimming (other than for fitness or rehabilitation) remained restricted.
- From 4 December 2020, a rule of 1 person per 2 square metres came into effect for hospitality venues. Only seated consumption allowed indoors, with standing consumption allowed outdoors.
- From 14 December 2020, the total number of people at a place must not exceed 1 person per 2 square metres. Private functions are also subject to a limit of 200 people (including weddings and funerals). Up to 50 people may attend a gathering at a private residence.
- People travelling from the Northern Beaches region of Sydney between 11 December and 21 December 2020 were required to self-quarantine in suitable accommodation for 14 days from the last day they were in that region, get a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of arrival, on day 5 and on day 12. People arriving on or after 22 December who have been in the Northern Beaches local government area of Sydney since 11 December will not be permitted to enter the state.
  - As of 22 December 2020, people who have visited High Community-Transmission Zones of: the Greater Sydney Region (excluding the Northern Beaches local government area) since 11 December; the Central Coast local government area of New South Wales since 20 December; or the City of Wollongong local government area of New South Wales since 20 December, must self-quarantine for 14 days in suitable accommodation (commencing on the last day they were in a High Community-Transmission Zone) and get tested within 24 hours of arrival, on day 5, and on day 12.

- Travellers who arrived in South Australia from other locations in New South Wales on or after 17 December 2020 must get tested within 24 hours, on day 5, and on day 12 (unless they have symptoms in which case, they must self-isolate).
- From 1 January 2021, anyone who has been in New South Wales in the preceding 14 days will not be able to enter South Australia, unless exempt. South Australian residents returning from New South Wales must undertake 14 days quarantine at a place determined by an authorised officer. Cross border community members living in New South Wales (within 100 kilometres of the New South Wales/South Australia border), can travel anywhere within South Australia as long as they have been within the 100 kilometre zone for the past 14 days and not travelled elsewhere in New South Wales. Cross border community members living in South Australia or Victoria can travel up to 100 kilometres into New South Wales.
- From 9 January 2021, anyone travelling from the Greater Brisbane area (consisting of Brisbane, Logan, Moreton Bay and Red Lands local government areas) will be required to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days upon arrival in South Australia and take a COVID-19 test on days 1, 5 and 12 of the self-quarantine period. Essential travellers, people escaping domestic violence, and people who usually reside in South Australia are exempt.
- [From midnight on 13 January 2021](#), people travelling from regional New South Wales will be allowed to enter South Australia but will require a COVID-19 test on day 1, day 5 and day 12.
- [From 14 January 2021](#), people were not permitted to travel to South Australia from the Greater Sydney Region, Central Coast and Wollongong City Council.
- From 15 January 2021, quarantine restrictions were eased for people who have been in the Greater Brisbane Area.
- [From 22 January 2021](#), up to 200 people are permitted at gatherings in residential premises, providing there is an approved 'Residential gatherings' COVID Safe Plan, QR Code and COVID Marshal. These requirements do not need to be met for gathering of 50 people or less in a private residence. The rule of 1 person per 2 square metres applies to all gatherings
- From 31 January 2021, travel was permitted from Greater Sydney, Wollongong and the Central Coast. Travellers must immediately self-quarantine and remain in that place until a negative COVID-19 test result is received. They must also submit a COVID-19 test within 24 hours after their arrival, on the 5th day after their arrival and on the 12th day after their arrival in South Australia.
- From 10.15pm on 31 January 2021, people who have already entered South Australia having been in Western Australia at any time since 26 January 2021 must immediately self-quarantine for 14 days at a suitable place and get a COVID-19 test immediately and on days 5 and 12.
- [From 2pm on 2 February 2021](#), the Perth, Peel and South West regions were considered prohibited zones. People may travel to South Australia from all areas of Western Australia outside of these prohibited zones.
- [From 11 February 2021](#), people who have been in Greater Melbourne on or after 4 February are not permitted to enter South Australia unless they are essential travellers, escaping domestic violence, returning South Australian residents or relocating to South Australia.
- From 13 February 2021, Victoria became a prohibited location with exceptions only for Essential Travellers and exempt arrivals who are required to self-quarantine at a suitable place for 14 days upon arrival and submit to COVID-19 testing on day 1, 5 and 12. People are permitted to travel from Victoria including regional (other than Greater Melbourne) providing they have not been in Greater Melbourne on or after 12.01 am on 4 February 2021.
- From 26 February 2021, travel to South Australia from Victoria was permitted, with travellers from Greater Melbourne subject to quarantine if they have been in a high-risk area. Also from 26 February 2021, standing consumption of drinks permitted at licensed venues,

events and nightclubs permitted to have up to 1000 people in attendance (with a COVID Management Plan approved by SA Health), and entertainment venues such as cinemas and theatres can have up to 75 per cent capacity (with patrons wearing masks indoors).

- As at 25 March 2021, travellers coming from low community transmission zones (New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory) can freely travel to South Australia. Travellers who have been in a number of Queensland COVID-19 public exposure sites on 11 March 2021 and one New South Wales exposure site on 13 March 2021 must immediately self-quarantine and advise South Australia Health of their location. From 20 March 2021, travellers from New Zealand may enter South Australia without the need to quarantine or submit to COVID-19 testing, provided they have not been in areas outside of the low community transmission zones in the 14 days prior to their arrival in Australia.
- From 31 March 2021: the density limit will move from 1 person to 2 square metres, to 3 people per 4 square metres, and capacity for cinemas, live theatres, performance venues and places of worship with fixed seating increased from 75 per cent to 100 percent (if attendees are wearing masks).
- [From 27 April 2021](#), travellers who arrived from the Western Australia Restricted Zone comprising the Perth Region and Peel Region from 17 April 2021, were subject to level 3 requirements, including: a mandatory COVID-19 test within 24 hours of arrival, and on days 5 and 13; mandatory quarantine until a negative test result received; must not enter or remain in a high risk setting for a period of 14 days after arrival; and must not attend any event without an approved COVID Management Plan or at which more than 1000 people are present for a period of 14 days after arrival. These restrictions were removed from 30 April 2021.
- [From 7 May 2021](#), all people who had already arrived in South Australia that were present in the New South Wales restricted zones were subject to Level 5 requirements, which include a COVID-19 test on days 1, 5 and 13; quarantine as directed; use a mask in public for the following 14 days. Additionally, all people (including essential travellers and South Australian residents) who have been at a specified COVID-19 New South Wales case location are subject to Level 6 restrictions and are not permitted to enter South Australia.
- From 12 May 2021, all people who had already arrived in South Australia that were present at a Tier 1 or 2 Public Exposure Site at the specified time and date by the Victorian Government are subject to Level 5 requirements, which include: a COVID-19 test on days 1, 5 and 13; quarantine as directed; use a mask in public for the following 14 days. Additionally, all people (including essential travellers and South Australian residents) who have been at a specified COVID-19 New South Wales case location are subject to Level 6 restrictions and are not permitted to enter South Australia.
- From 6pm on 26 May 2021, any person who had been in Greater Melbourne at any time in the 14 days prior to their intended arrival (but not before 20 May 2021) is not permitted to enter South Australia (exemptions apply for South Australian residents and other categories). Anyone arriving in South Australia after 6pm on 26 May 2021 who had been in the City of Greater Bendigo in the previous 14 days (but not before 22 May 2021) was subject to Level 3 restrictions (self-quarantine until negative COVID-19 test; test on days 1, 5, and 13; and no entry to high risk settings or COVID Management Plan events for 14 days after arrival).
- [From 7:45pm on 28 May 2021](#), people arriving from Victoria were not permitted to enter South Australia. Essential travellers and permitted arrivals allowed but subject to Level 4 restrictions (self-quarantine for 14 days; tests on days 1, 5 and 13; and mandatory use of masks in public). Cross-border community members (ordinary residents in the area within 70km of the border) are without restrictions if they have not been outside this area in the last 14 days prior—if they are not able to meet this requirement they are subject to Level 4 restrictions.
- [From 8:26pm 27 June 2021](#), any person travelling from the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland is prohibited from entering South Australia (exceptions apply). People travelling from Victoria who have been

at a Tier 1 or 2 exposure site are subject to Level 6 restrictions and may not enter South Australia.

- [From 30 June 2021](#), restrictions were introduced for some areas of South Australia including: home gatherings capped at 10 people per residential premise in metropolitan Adelaide and up to 50 people in other areas of South Australia with a COVID-Safe Plan or COVID Marshal; the total number of people at a place must not exceed 1 person per 2 square metres; mandatory use of masks in high-risk settings and for indoor venues when between 50 and 75 per cent of the seated capacity is occupied; weddings and funerals have a cap of 150 people (except at a licenced premise where the 1 person per 2 square metres rule applies); all businesses that conduct a defined public activity must have a COVID-Safe Plan; and dancing is not permitted at licenced venues.

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**Western Australia**

- From 27 April 2020, **Phase 1** allows indoor and outdoor non-work gatherings of up to 10 people; outdoor personal training without shared equipment; recreation activities in compliance with travel restrictions and the 10-person rule (such as private picnics in the park, fishing, boating, hiking and camping); home opens and display villages open (in compliance with 10-person rule and appropriate record keeping and hygiene practices occur).
- From 18 May 2020, **Phase 2** allows indoor and outdoor non-work gatherings of up to 20 people; weddings and funerals up to 20 people inside or 30 people outside; cafes and restaurants with meal service, including within pubs, bars, clubs, hotels and casino of up to 20 patrons; regional travel restrictions relaxed; non-contact community sports of up to 20 people; outdoor or indoor fitness classes with minimal shared equipment (20 people maximum); public pools (1 outdoor and 1 indoor) permitted to open (20 people maximum); places of worship; community facilities and libraries allowed to reopen (20 people maximum); businesses looking to reopen will need to complete and official COVID Safety Plan.
- From 6 June 2020, **Phase 3** allows non-work indoor and outdoor gatherings of up to 100 people per single undivided space, up to 300 people in total per venue over multiple spaces; weddings and funerals of up to 100 people; food and licensed premises may operate with only seated service, food courts can reopen with seated service; all beauty services can resume; saunas, spa and massage may reopen; gyms, health clubs and indoor sport centres can offer normal range of activities; contact sport and training; playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gym equipment permitted to be used; zoos, cinemas, galleries, museums and concert venues permitted to open (with limits of 100 people indoors and 300 people total per venue); travel permitted throughout the state (excluding access into remote Aboriginal communities).
- From 27 June 2020, **Phase 4** allows: all existing gathering limits and the 100/300 rule removed; gathering limits only determined by the reduced 1 person per 2 square metre rule (the 2 square metre rule will only include staff at venues that hold more than 500 patrons); removal of seated service requirements at food businesses and licensed premises; no requirement to maintain a patron register at food businesses and licensed premises; alcohol can be served as part of unseated service arrangements; all events permitted except for large scale multi-stage music festivals; unseated performances permitted at venues such as concert halls, live music venues, bars, pubs and nightclubs; gyms operating unstaffed (but regular cleaning must be maintained); the casino gaming floor reopening under agreed temporary restrictions; and for major sport and entertainment venues, a 50 per cent capacity rule will apply.
- Depending on infection rates locally, **Phase 5** was initially planned to be introduced on 18 July 2020, however, it has been delayed several times with the latest tentative start date being 24 October 2020. It was [announced on 19 October 2020](#), that from 24 October, Phase 4 will be modified and extended to allow exemptions to the 2 square metre rule at selected venues that primarily hold seated events. These venues (such as theatres and cinemas) will be permitted to reach up to 60 per cent of their usual maximum capacity for seated and ticketed performances. Phase 5 is expected to result in the removal of the remaining restrictions (except for Western Australia's hard border and access to remote Aboriginal communities).
- Phase 6 timing and details will be announced in time and may include removal of WA's hard border and travel restrictions for remote Aboriginal communities. When an indicative date for the removal of borders is set, it will be contingent on locally required infection rates in the eastern states.
- As at 22 July 2020, travellers are not able to enter Western Australia unless exempt (as outlined in the [Quarantine \(Closing the Border\) Directions](#)). Exempt travellers who have been in or transited through Victoria or New South Wales must quarantine for 14 days at a quarantine centre (for Victoria) or self-quarantine (for New South Wales). Arrivals from Victoria or New South Wales will also be required to submit to a mandatory COVID-19 test.



From 31 July, exempt travellers entering Western Australia from Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australia Capital Territory must self-quarantine (will be directed to quarantine in a hotel quarantine for 14 days following arrival if a suitable premises for self-quarantine is not available).

- From 18 September 2020, a public or private event involving more than 500 patrons that requires local government authority approval will also need an approved COVID Event Plan.
- From 5 October 2020, exempt travellers entering Western Australia from Victoria will be able to self-quarantine (where possible) for 14 days at suitable premises. Exempt travellers entering Western Australia from New South Wales will move to the same entry conditions as other states (excluding Victoria).
- From 15 October 2020, Western Australian growers are able to access the Seasonal Worker Program and Pacific Labour Scheme for workers in agriculture and horticulture.
- From 31 October 2020, Victorians seeking to enter the state will face the same entry conditions as other states and territories.
- [On 15 November 2020, announced](#) that anyone arriving from South Australia via Perth Airport or road will be directed to self-quarantine for 14 days in suitable premises.
- [On 16 November 2020, announced](#) that travel from South Australia will not be permitted, unless travellers meet strict exemption criteria.
- [On 1 December 2020, announced](#) that places of worship can operate with 1 person per 2 square metres or at 60 per cent capacity if this is a larger number.
- [On 7 December 2020, announced](#) that, from 8 December, travel from Victoria and New South Wales is permitted with conditions, including completing a [G2G pass](#) declaration stating they do not have COVID-19 symptoms and what jurisdictions they have been in over the last 14 days. From 11 December, South Australia will be reclassified as 'low risk' and travellers from there to be permitted to enter subject to taking a COVID-19 test (if deemed necessary by a health clinician); self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premises; and present for a COVID-19 test on their 11<sup>th</sup> day in the state.
- Phases 5 and 6 of the [COVID-19 WA roadmap](#) were replaced with a Controlled interstate border system, with differing conditions of quarantine for arrivals from 'very low risk', 'low risk' and 'medium risk' states and territories. The last step is to be advised, but will include considering border control changes based on expert health advice and taking account of infection rates in the rest of Australia, and may involve removal of the 1 person per 2 square metre rule.
- From 18 December 2020, New South Wales was classified as a 'low risk' state, and arrivals from New South Wales were required to self-quarantine for 14 days in suitable premises and be tested for COVID-19 on day 11. [On 19 December 2020, announced](#) that, from 20 December, New South Wales was classified as a 'medium risk' state and people arriving from New South Wales, or who have been in New South Wales since 11 December, will not be permitted to enter the state (unless exempt).
- As of 22 December 2020, planned to classify South Australia as a 'very low risk' state (subject to no further outbreaks) at 12:01am on 25 December. People travelling from South Australia will be able to enter the state depending on where they have come from and who they have had contact with in the 14 days prior to travel. People travelling from South Australia will also be required to complete a G2G declaration.
- From 1 January 2021, Victoria joined New South Wales as being 'medium risk' and travel from Victoria is no longer permitted unless exempt.
- Announced on 8 January 2021, that from 9 January 2021, a hard border with Queensland will be implemented and only exempt travellers will be able to enter the state. Anyone who has arrived from Queensland since 2 January or was in Queensland from 2 January and has since arrived in Western Australia, will need to: self-quarantine in suitable premises until they have spent 14 days in Western Australia; present for a COVID-19 test by 12 January; take a COVID-19 test if any symptoms develop during quarantine; and present for a test on day 11 after arrival in Western Australia.

- From 18 January 2021, [Victoria moved to 'low risk'](#). Travel from Victoria was permitted subject to conditions including: self-quarantine for 14 days in a suitable premise; present for a COVID-19 test on day 11, complete a G2G pass.
- From 25 January 2021, [New South Wales and Queensland moved to 'low risk'](#).
- [Announced on 29 January 2021](#) that Queensland will move to the 'very low risk' category from 1 February 2021 and Victoria will move to this category on 5 February 2021.
- From 6pm on 31 January 2021 until 6pm on 5 February 2021, the Perth metropolitan area and the Peel and South West regions were in lockdown. Residents must stay at home unless they are an essential worker; shop for essentials; accessing medical or health care; provide care and support to a relative or other person who has particular needs; other compassionate requirements; exercise within 5km of home for 1 hour per day with a maximum of 4 other members of the same household (up to 2 adults). No weddings permitted and funerals to have up to 10 people.
  - Restaurants, cafes, pubs, bars and hotels can provide takeaway service only. Venues to be closed include: gyms, indoor sporting venues, playgrounds, outdoor recreational facilities, cinemas, entertainment venues, casinos, beauty therapy services, large religious gatherings and places of worship, libraries and cultural institutions.
- [From 6pm on 5 February 2021](#), Perth and Peel entered a post-lockdown transition period that included: all businesses and venues open except for the casino and nightclubs; 1 person per 4 square metres to apply for hospitality, entertainment, public and fitness venues up to a maximum of 150 (excluding staff); 150-person capacity for events (weddings, funerals and community sport); seated service for hospitality venues; 20-person limit for private indoor and outdoor gatherings. The South West region returned to pre-lockdown conditions.
- [From 14 February 2021](#), the restrictions in Perth and Peel ended and all of Western Australia returned to pre-lockdown conditions (prior to 6pm on 31 January 2021).
  - From 6pm on 12 February, Victoria become a 'medium risk' until at least 15 February 2021.
  - Also announced that from 16 February 2021, New South Wales will move from 'low risk' to 'very low risk' pending no further outbreaks.
- From 15 February 2021, travellers from Victoria will not be permitted to enter Western Australia without an exemption (until at least 20 February).
- [From 20 February 2021](#), Victoria will move to 'low risk' pending no further outbreaks.
- [From 15 March 2021](#), Victoria moved from 'low risk' to 'very low risk'; capacity restrictions on certain venues increased, with both seated outdoor and indoor venues permitted to increase their capacities to 75 per cent or 1 person per 2 square metres, whichever is greater.
- [From 22 March 2021](#), anyone arriving in Western Australia who has visited affected locations in Queensland since 10 March and New South Wales since 13 March should immediately get tested for COVID-19 and quarantine.
- [On 9 April 2021, announced](#) that pending no further outbreaks, from 19 April 2021, Queensland and New Zealand will transition to 'very low risk' jurisdictions, meaning people will be able to enter Western Australia without having to quarantine (subject to strict conditions).
- [From 24 April 2021](#), the Perth metropolitan area and Peel region entered a 3-day lockdown. Measures included: mandatory use of face masks in public; a stay-at-home order (except for exempt activity); restrictions on entry into the Perth metropolitan area and Peel region; restaurants, cafes, pubs and bars only to provide takeaway services; casinos, nightclubs, entertainment venues and public venues to close; community sport to be prohibited; events and functions not permitted (with the exception of weddings and funerals with a limit of 100 patrons); no visitors allowed to the home unless caring for a vulnerable person or an emergency situation; no visitors allowed to hospitals or residential aged care and disability

facilities (exemptions apply); travel to certain remote Aboriginal communities prohibited; and, cancellation of all public Anzac Day services.

- [From 27 April 2021](#), the Perth metropolitan area and Peel region entered a post-lockdown transition until 1 May 2021. The transition measures included a 20-person limit in all homes and private indoor and outdoor gatherings; 4 square metre capacity rule and 20-patron limit for cafes, restaurants, pubs and bars, for seated food and drink service only; 4 square metre capacity rule and 20-patron limit for beauty salons, hairdressers, barbers, recreation centres, outdoor playgrounds, museums, swimming pools, places of worship, and entertainment venues; no visitors to aged care and disability facilities and hospitals (exemptions apply); weddings and funerals may proceed with a 100-person limit with an exemption and COVID-Event plan; professional and community sports may proceed but without crowds; elective surgery may proceed for only category 1 and urgent category 2 operations; and fitness clubs, gyms, casinos and nightclubs to remain closed.
- [Announced on 2 May 2021](#), restrictions for Perth and the Peel region were eased until 8 May 2021 including: a maximum of 30 people permitted for private gatherings in the home; up to 500 people for private gathering in public areas; events with over 500 people subject to a 1 person per 2 square metre density rule up to a maximum of 10 000 people and required to have an approved COVID Event Plan; seated hospitality venues, including restaurants, cafes, food courts and bars that provide seated service only can open at 75 per cent capacity or apply the 1 person per 2 square metre rule, whichever is greater; 1 person per 2 square metre density rule applies to all other unseated hospitality venues, except nightclubs as well as gyms, fitness centres, dance studios, beauty salons and hairdressers, community centres, libraries, museums, galleries and recreation centres; certain indoor and outdoor entertainment venues with fixed seating (theatres, cinemas, concert halls, comedy lounges and performing arts centres) can operate at 100 per cent capacity; places of worship can operate at 100 per cent capacity; and nightclubs, stadiums and the casino gaming floor closed until at least 12.01am, Saturday 8 May.
- [From 8 May 2021](#), restrictions were further eased in Perth and the Peel region, however, certain restrictions remain, including at stadiums or events with more than 1000 people, and in all other circumstances where special mask requirements were previously in place; a maximum of 100 people permitted for private gatherings in the home (indoor and outdoor); private gatherings in public areas may have up to 500 people; events with over 500 people are subject to the 1 person per 2 square metre density rule up to a maximum of 10 000 people and are required to have an approved COVID Event Plan; weddings and funeral may have up to 200 guests, and the 2 square metre rule applies; certain seated indoor and outdoor venues with ticketed fixed seating and are permitted to operate at 100 per cent of the fixed seat capacity; certain hospitality venues that only provide seated service are permitted to operate at 75 per cent of their seated capacity; certain indoor and outdoor venues with fixed seating are permitted to operate at 75 per cent of their fixed seating capacity; all other venues that do not fall under a previous category are subject to the 1 person per 2 square metre density rule; and it is mandatory for most businesses and venues to maintain a contact registry, with people visiting their premises using the Western Australian Government's SafeWA app to check-in.
- [From 15 May 2021](#), the Perth and Peel regions returned to pre-lockdown rules while some restrictions remained for the rest of Western Australia. Certain indoor and outdoor venues with ticketed fixed seating may operate at 100 per cent capacity; places of worship can have 100 per cent capacity; specified hospitality venues only providing seated service may operate at 75 per cent capacity; mixed venues where seating and standing is permitted must continue to apply the rule of 1 person per 2 square metres, unless the seated space is separated from the standing or mixed area, whilst the rule continues to apply for all non-mixed venues and events with over 500 people (up to a maximum of 10 000 people).
- [From 6pm on 25 May 2021](#), anyone who has visited the relevant exposure sites in Victoria at the specified time in the last 14 days must get tested and self-isolate for 14 days from their date of exposure. This applies to both Tier 1 and Tier 2 exposure sites. For arrivals after 15 May, they must be tested for COVID-19 if symptoms develop. For arrivals from 6pm on 25 May, they must be tested for COVID-19 and self-quarantine until receiving a negative

result; use a mask when in transit; and may not use public transport until a negative test is returned.

- [From 27 May 2021](#), Victoria is considered a ‘medium risk’ jurisdiction and people from Victoria are not permitted to enter Western Australia without an exemption; for travellers with an exemption, self-quarantine at a suitable premise for 14 days is required upon arrival.
- On 9 June 2021, it was announced that COVID-19 exposure sites had been identified in Queensland and that travellers from Queensland into Western Australia who have been in these sites during the relevant times must get tested and self-quarantine for 14 days from their date of exposure.
- [From 11am on 23 June 2021](#), New South Wales became a ‘medium risk’ state and travel from New South Wales to Western Australia was no longer permitted without an exemption. Arrivals from the Australian Capital Territory who had been in New South Wales in the past 14 days and after 11 June were also subject to ‘medium risk’ requirements.
- [From 12pm on 27 June 2021](#), restrictions were introduced in the Perth Metropolitan and Peel Regions, including mandatory use of masks indoors, on public transport, and outdoors where social distancing is not possible; a limit of 30 people to the home; events that cannot be restricted to 150 people to be cancelled; businesses and venues including in hospitality, beauty and hairdressing, public venues, fitness venues, casinos, nightclubs, and places of worship, must adhere to a limit of 150 people and the density limit of 1 person per 2 square metres; and weddings and funerals are limited to 150 people.
- [From 6pm on 27 June 2021](#), Queensland, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory were considered “low risk” states.
- [From 29 June 2021 until 3 July 2021](#), Perth and Peel entered a 4-day lockdown with reasons to leave home limited to: work, where not possible to work from home; shopping for essentials within 5km of the home; attend medical or health care needs; exercise with up to 2 adults from the same household for 1 hour per day and within a 5km radius from the home; receive a COVID-19 vaccine; and due to an emergency. Further, non-essential travel from Perth and Peel to other Western Australian regions is not permitted. Weddings permitted with 5 people for compassionate reasons and 10 people permitted for funerals; business and venues must close other than [essential providers](#); non-essential retail business allowed to operate with click-and-collect and delivery only and hospitality venues for takeaway service only. Furthermore, [from 3pm on 29 June 2021](#), Queensland moved to a ‘medium risk’ state and travel from Queensland is no longer permitted unless an exemption applies. Entry was also restricted for anyone who has been in Queensland since 20 June 2021 and has not subsequently been in a ‘very low risk’ state or territory for 14 days.

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## Tasmania

- From 11 May 2020, funerals increase from 10 to 20 attendees; aged care visits are allowed one visit per week and no more than two visitors; national parks and reserves open to resident for exercise within 30km of their home; and TasTAFE campuses and training facilities open for invited small groups of students only attending practical learning and assessment sessions.
- From 18 May 2020, **stage 1** will allow indoor and outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people (except visitors to households, which is capped at 5 people) including real estate, small religious gatherings and weddings (funerals can have 30 people if outdoor); restaurants and cafes in all settings open and able to seat 10 people at a time (seated table service only with physical distancing); border controls remain – domestic travelling Tasmanian residents excepted and may quarantine in their principle residence; community and local government facilities and libraries allowed to open for up to 10 people; park exercise equipment and playgrounds, pools, boot camps, skate parks and sports training open for up to 10 people; parks can be used for activities not related to exercise (such as picnics); vulnerable and ill people are encouraged to stay home and protect their health and working from home is encouraged where possible. From 25 May 2020, aged care visits allowed with two visitors once a day and from 13 June racing resumes (subject to a review and risk-assessment by Public Health).
- From 5 June 2020, **stage 2** involves gatherings increasing to 20 people at a time for non-work gatherings indoor or outdoor; visitor numbers to households of 10 people (indoor and outdoor) in addition to residents of the household; funerals up to 50 people (indoors or outdoors); weddings with up to 40 attendees (indoors or outdoors); religious ceremonies of 40 attendees (indoors or outdoors); restaurant and café gatherings of up to 40 people; pubs, clubs and bars able to serve drinks only (without food ordered) to seated patrons of up to 40 people; cinemas of up to 40 people; theatres and concert venues (40 audience plus 20 performers); zoos and wildlife parks (40 people); museums, galleries and historic sites (80 people); unlimited accommodation (except for rented holiday houses/short-stay accommodation (limited to 20 guests); camping and caravan parks open; open homes and auctions can resume with 20 people; border controls to remain; gyms and boot camps up to 20 people; day spas open; park exercise equipment and playgrounds open for up to 20 people; outdoor community sport with up to 20 athletes/personnel (as guided by AIS framework level B for rebooting sport); indoor sport and recreation, including pools with up to 20 people; community and local government facilities, betting shopfronts, health clubs, fitness and wellness centres, yoga and barre, dance studios, cheerleading, gymnastics, outdoor amusement parks, arcades and play centres, function centres all allowed 20 people; national parks and reserves (including campgrounds) opened and no limit on how far people may travel within Tasmania for trips or for exercising; lifting of restrictions on launching recreational boats (and permitted to stay in one's boat overnight) beauty and personal care services will not have gathering restrictions but the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies; and vulnerable people encouraged to stay home and protect their health.
- As announced on 12 June 2020 that, from 17 June, outdoor and indoor gatherings can have up to 80 people (where venue capacity and spacing allows; 20 people are able to visit a home; the easing of restrictions under stage 3 initially announced as taking effect from 13 July brought forward to 26 June, and subject to public health advice and state of play regarding the virus in other jurisdictions.
- From 12 noon on 26 June 2020, **stage 3** maintains limits of 20 people at any one time for gatherings in households or shacks (not including residents of the household); the number of people permitted at business/activities (other than households) determined by the density of the area (with a maximum density limit of 1 person per 2 square metres), up to a maximum of 250 people for undivided space in an indoor premises and 500 people in an undivided space outdoors. These limits will not apply to: airports and premises used for public or commercial transport; disability or aged care facilities; prisons, correctional facilities, youth justice centres; courts or tribunals; parliament; supermarkets, grocery stores, retail stores or markets; shopping centres, office buildings, factories mining sites or construction sites; schools, universities, education institutions, childcare facilities, child and family centres; premises that deliver services and support to disadvantaged community members; indoor and outdoor spaces where people are transiting through; or emergency services. Business allowed to reopen include: indoor amusement parks, play centres,

arcades; saunas, spa baths, flotation tanks and bath houses; garage sales, car boot sales, second-hand goods sales; strip clubs; casinos and gaming venues; zoos; stadiums; markets and food vans at markets; food courts (now include dine-in); and night clubs. Patrons must be seated in premises where alcohol is sold (meaning activities that are not seated like pool and dancing are not permitted). Sports, exercise and recreation are permitted (subject to relevant gathering limits) including full contact training; full competition sport (contact and non-contact); and use of change rooms and other shared facilities. Local Government recreational spaces and facilities to be re-opened by local councils as soon as possible.

- As at 17 August 2020, border restrictions are in place, requiring all non-essential travelers arriving in Tasmania to enter quarantine for 14 days. Non-Tasmanian residents (who are not classified as essential travelers) who have spent time in high-risk areas as an 'Affected Region' or 'Affected Premises' in the 14 days prior to arrive will not be permitted to enter Tasmania.
- From 20 August 2020, all non-essential travellers must have prior approval from the State Controller to enter Tasmania. If approval is granted, non-essential travellers are required to undertake 14 days of quarantine in government-designated accommodation. Tasmanian residents who are not classified as essential travellers are required to quarantine for 14 days at their primary residence. Most essential travellers who have spent time in a high-risk location also require pre-approval from the State Controller to enter the state, and must undertake a clinical assessment including a COVID-19 test on arrival. Essential travellers approved to enter the state and who pass the clinical assessment are not required to quarantine in a government approved facility. Essential travellers who have not spent time in affected regions or premises in the 14 days prior to arrival are not required to quarantine but must undertake health screening on arrival and comply with [conditions for essential travellers](#).
- [Announced on 18 September 2020](#), that from 25 September, the capacity for outdoor events increased to a maximum of 1000 people, subject to maximum density limits of 2 square metres of space per person. For mixed use venues with multiple spaces, the gathering limit applies separately to each single undivided space.
- Also announced that, from 21 September 2020, eligible agricultural (seasonal) workers from non-affected regions will be permitted to enter Tasmania to assist with planting, production and the harvest seasons.
- From 26 October 2020, border restrictions to be eased for people traveling from [low-risk areas](#), Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory, and the Northern Territory, who will no longer need to quarantine on arrival. From 6 November, New South Wales will be classified as a low-risk area.
- [Announced on 23 October 2020](#), the commencement of a 3-level framework for large-scale COVID safe events.
  - **Level 1** requires a COVID Safe plan and allows: free moving outdoor events with up to 1000 people; free moving indoor events with up to 250 people; seated indoor events with up to 50 per cent capacity (to a maximum 500 people); seated outdoor events with up to 50 per cent capacity (to a maximum 2000 people); and up to 2000 people for events with multiple separate areas or across multiple sites.
  - **Level 2** requires an application to be approved by State Growth and Communities Tasmania and allows: free moving indoor events to have up to 500 people; free moving outdoor events can have up to 2000 people; seated indoor events up to 50 per cent capacity (to a maximum of 1000 people); seated outdoor events up to 50 per cent capacity (to a maximum of 5000 people); and events with multiple separate areas, or across multiple sites to have up to 5000 people.
  - **Level 3** requires an application approved by Public Health and allows: free moving indoor events to have up to 1000 people; free moving outdoor events to have up to 5000 people; seated indoor events to have up to 50 per cent capacity (up to a maximum 2000 people); seated outdoor events up to 50 per cent capacity (to a maximum 10 000) people; and events with multiple seated areas on one site or across multiple sites can have up to 10 000 people in total.

- From 7 November 2020, Tasmanian agricultural businesses who are approved employers under the Australian Government's [Pacific Labour Scheme](#) and Seasonal Worker Programme can apply to recruit workers from some overseas locations.
- From 13 November 2020, household gathering restrictions capped at 40 people (in addition to people who live at the premises), patrons permitted to drink alcohol standing up outdoors, and Victoria classified as a [medium risk area](#) (travellers able to undertake 14 days of quarantine at home or an approved suitable premise).
- From 16 November 2020, South Australia was classified as a [medium-risk area](#).
- From 3 December 2020, changes included: South Australia classified a [low-risk area](#); up to 250 people permitted to stand and drink outdoors in licensed premises, and subject to a limit of 1 person per 2 square metres.
- From 18 December 2020, the Northern Beaches local government area of Sydney was declared a high-risk area and travellers who have been in that area in the last 14 days, or in certain listed high-risk premises in Greater Sydney during specified time periods, are not permitted to enter unless they are approved as an [Essential Worker](#). The Greater Sydney region was declared a medium-risk area and any travellers who have spent time there in the last 14 days before arriving in Tasmania must quarantine in suitable premises, or in government-designated accommodation.
- As at 22 December 2020, up to 250 people permitted at businesses or for activities (other than households) to be determined by the density of the area—up to a maximum of 250 people for an undivided space indoors and up to 1000 people in an undivided space outdoors, or based on a density limit of 1 person per 2 square metres (whichever is least). Indoor theatres and cinemas are permitted to have up to 75 per cent of their usual seated capacity (subject to gathering limits).
- From 1 January 2021, outdoor spectator sporting events can increase from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of seated capacity.
- From 8 January 2021, anyone already in Tasmania who has spent time in the [Greater Brisbane high-risk area](#) since 2 January must self-isolate. Travellers who have spent time in certain medium-risk areas in New South Wales and Victoria in the past 14 days before arriving in Tasmania must quarantine at either suitable accommodation or government-designated accommodation at their own expense.
- From 10 January 2021, the Sydney Northern Beaches local government area was changed from high-risk to medium-risk in line with the rest of Greater Sydney, and travellers who have spent time in any medium-risk area must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. Further, the Greater Brisbane area was classified as a [high-risk area](#) and anyone travelling from these areas is unable to enter Tasmania unless they are an approved [Essential Traveller](#).
- On 18 January 2021, the Greater Brisbane area was classified as medium risk. Restrictions were lifted on all Victorian hotspots.
- From 22 January 2021, the Greater Brisbane local government areas of Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Ipswich, Redlands and Logan moved from medium to low risk. In addition, 24 local government areas of Greater Sydney moved to low risk, with 10 remaining as medium risk.
- Announced on 29 January 2021 that, [from 31 January 2021](#), restrictions on the remaining 10 local government areas in New South Wales were lifted and all of that state was classified as low risk.
- On 31 January 2021, the Perth Metropolitan, Peel and South West areas of Western Australia were declared as high-risk regions.
- [From 6pm on 5 February 2021](#), restrictions on people arriving from Western Australia were eased with no requirement to quarantine. [Larger venues can apply](#) to increase the number of patrons up to 75 per cent of the fixed seating capacity with attendees and staff to wear facemasks if this exceeds 250 people and the density exceeds 1 person per 2 square metres.



- On 12 February 2021, [Victoria was declared a high-risk](#) location from 13 February 2021. Travellers who have spent time in Victoria in the 14 days prior to their travel to Tasmania will not be permitted to enter Tasmania unless approved as an Essential Traveller.
- Victoria returned to a low-risk region from 20 February 2021.
- From 25 February 2021, Auckland, New Zealand was designated a high-risk region. No one may travel from Auckland to Tasmania (including via mainland Australia), unless approved as an Essential Traveller.
- From 13 March 2021, anyone who had visited declared close contact locations in Queensland was unable to enter Tasmania.
- From 14 March 2021, anyone who had visited declared close contact locations in New South Wales was unable to enter Tasmania.
- From 23 March 2021, gatherings at churches, places of worship and funeral homes allowed the fewer of up to 250 people or 75 per cent capacity.
- From 29 March 2021, the LGAs of Brisbane, Logan, Moreton Bay, Ipswich and Redlands in Queensland were declared high-risk locations and anyone who had spent time in them within the past 14 days was not permitted to enter Tasmania (unless exempted as an Essential Traveller). Anyone already in Tasmania who had been in the Greater Brisbane area on or since 20 March 2021 was advised to self-isolate and get tested within 72 hours. Anyone who had visited any premises declared as high-risk premises in Greater Brisbane or South-East Queensland was required
- [From 12 April 2021](#), New South Wales and Queensland were deemed low-risk areas, allowing people to travel from these areas to Tasmania without quarantine.
- [From 23 April 2021](#), the Perth Metropolitan Region and Peel Region were declared as High-Risk Areas. Anyone who travelled to Tasmania from Western Australia from 17 April and was at an identified exposure site at the specified time must immediately enter self-isolation and contact the Public Health Hotline. No travellers who have been in the Perth Metropolitan Region and Peel Region are permitted to enter Tasmania (exemptions apply). Any person who does enter with an exemption must complete 14 days quarantine upon arrival. These restrictions were lifted from 5pm on 28 April 2021, with identified premises in Western Australia remaining as designated high-risk premises until 14 days after they last posed a risk, and people who have attended these premises unable to enter Tasmania. Further premises were added on 30 April and 4 May.
- [From 6 May 2021](#), number of premises in New South Wales were declared as High-Risk Premises. Any person who had been at one of these specified premises at the dates and times specified by the New South Wales Government could not enter Tasmania.
- [From 11 May 2021](#), a number of premises in Victoria were declared as High-Risk Premises. Any person who had been at one of these specified premises at the dates and times specified by the Victorian Government could not enter Tasmania.
- [From 25 May 2021](#), the list of premises in Victoria declared as High-Risk Premises was updated. People who have spent time in the listed premises at the relevant times were not permitted to enter Tasmania.
- [From 27 May 2021](#), Victoria was declared a high-risk area. Anyone who had been in Victoria in the previous 14 days was not permitted to enter Tasmania (exemptions apply). Anyone currently in Tasmania who has been in Victoria in the previous 14 days is required to monitor their symptoms and get a COVID-19 test if they develop symptoms.
- From 11 June 2021, regional Victoria was downgraded to low-risk. Travellers who had only been in regional Victoria in the 14 days before arriving in Tasmania do not have to quarantine. The restriction on travellers from metropolitan Melbourne was [lifted](#) on 22 June 2021 (except for those who had been in specified high-risk premises).
- [On 23 June 2021](#), the local government areas of the City of Sydney, Randwick, Inner West, Woollahra, Waverley, Canada Bay, and Bayside were deemed high-risk areas. Anyone who

has been in these high-risk areas on or since 11 June 2021 will not be allowed to enter Tasmania unless approved by the Deputy State Controller.

- [From 4pm on 26 June 2021](#), Greater Sydney, the Central Coast, the Blue Mountains and Wollongong were declared high risk areas.
- [From 5pm on 27 June 2021](#), certain local government areas in Darwin were considered high risk. Anyone who has spent time in these areas on or since 18 June 2021 is not permitted to enter Tasmania.
- From 10am on 29 June 2021, the Perth and Peel regions were declared as high risk, with anyone who has been in these regions on or since 22 June not permitted to enter. [From 6pm on 29 June 2021](#), 13 local government areas in Queensland were declared as high risk, with anyone who has been in these areas since 19 June not permitted to enter Tasmania.
- [From 3pm on 30 June 2021](#), Alice Springs was declared as a high-risk area and anyone who has been there on or since 25 June is not permitted to enter Tasmania.

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## Australian Capital Territory

- On 1 May 2020, announced that restrictions would be eased from 2 May. These included allowing families to visit each other, with 2 adults plus children able to visit family members outside of people they live with, travel restrictions eased so that residents can travel outside of the ACT to visit family and friends in small groups and maintain physical distancing.
- From 8 May 2020, **stage 1: step 1.1** allowed all indoor and outdoor gatherings, including in homes, to have a maximum of 10 people (including children); weddings can have 10 guests (excluding the person/s conducting the ceremony); indoor funerals can have 20 guests and outdoor services can have 30 guests (both excluding the person/s conducting the ceremony); religious ceremonies and places of worship can have up to 10 people attend (excluding the person/s conducting the service); outdoor bootcamps and other personal fitness training (non-contact) can be held with a maximum of 10 people (excluding the trainer) – there is no sharing of equipment; and real estate open houses and auctions can occur with a maximum of 10 people, excluding staff.
- From 16 May 2020, **stage 1: step 1.2** allowed up to 10 people to gather in restaurants and cafes; playgrounds and outdoor fitness stations; parks, dog parks, skate parks and outdoor barbecues; nature reserves and national parks; non-contact, outdoor community and social sport; pools; libraries; community centres, facilities or youth centres; auction houses; hairdressers and barbers to seek and record customer details; and people should work from home where possible.
- From 30 May 2020, **stage 2: step 2.1** allows a maximum of 20 people in homes (including residents of the household) and for gatherings of more than 20 people made up exclusively of people from the same 2 households, beauty therapy, tanning or waxing services, nail salons, spa and massage parlours, tattoo and body modification parlours; gyms, health clubs, fitness or wellness centres – small group supervised sessions and no unsupervised free weight training or use of other gym equipment; yoga, barre, Pilates and spin facilities; galleries, museums, national institutions and historic places; outdoor amusement/attractions such as zoos; choirs, bands and orchestras; caravan parks and campgrounds; parks and nature parks (excluding Namadgi National Park) indoor sporting centres; low contact indoor and outdoor sport including activities (one parent per minor); restaurants, cafes and other licensed venues; weddings; places of worship and religious ceremonies; boot camps and personal training; pools' community centres, facilities or youth centres; and funerals (50 people indoors and outdoors); universities and vocational training providers to increase face-to-face learning where possible.
- On 12 June 2020, announced that from 12 noon 19 June, Step 2.2 would allow all outdoor and indoor gatherings up to a maximum of 100 people with the 1 person per 4 square metre rule; cafes, restaurants, bars and other licenced venues to seat up to 100 people per enclosed space (excluding staff) and will be able to serve alcohol without a meal to seated patrons; cinemas, movie theatres, indoor amusement centres, arcades, concert venues, outdoor/indoor play centres and betting agencies allowed to reopen; gyms, health clubs and fitness centres will have greater flexibility to reopen free weight rooms and conduct circuit training; and a return to full-contact training for all sports.
- From 12 noon, 17 July 2020 a return to full-contact competition for sport, dance and martial arts.
- Initially planned for 10 July 2020, movement to Stage 3 will instead be based on the outcome of check points for easing restrictions. A check point conducted on 22 July assessed that the public health risk required continuing the pause of movement to stage 3, with the next checkpoint to occur on 6 August. On 6 August, following a public health risk assessment (check point) moved to Step 3.1, with changes taking effect from 10 August. Stage 3.1 allows for 1 person per 4 square metres of usable space applies to a maximum 100 people in each indoor and outdoor space. No limit on household visits Reopening of: casinos and gaming in clubs; food courts (dine-in); steamed-based services (such as

saunas); strip clubs, brothels and escort agencies; and 24 hour gyms (with a maximum 25 people when unstaffed). Bars, pubs and clubs are able to continue to serve alcohol to seated patrons with no limit on the size of group bookings. Community sport can have a maximum of 100 spectators for each indoor or outdoor space (where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule can be observed. All venues must develop and follow a [COVID Safety Plan](#).

- Following a public health risk assessment (check point) on 20 August 2020, the decision was made to remain at Step 3.1 of Canberra's Recovery Plan with some minor amendments made on 2 September, including that: venues, facilities and businesses can have up to the lesser of 100 patrons in each indoor and outdoor space, or 1 person per 4 square metres per usable space; the cap of 100 spectators for each indoor or outdoor space for community sport excludes staff and participants (including sporting activities taking place at a swimming pool); and usable space defined under the Public Health Direction as the space that people can freely move around in, not including stages and similar areas, restrooms, changerooms and similar areas, areas occupied by fixtures, fittings and displays, and staff only areas and areas closed off or not being used. Following the 3 September checkpoint, it was decided to remain at Step 3.1.
- As at 16 September 2020, anyone from [COVID-affected areas](#) is strongly discouraged from travelling to the Australian Capital Territory. People who have been in Victoria, the Greater Sydney Area (excluding transit through Sydney airport) and [COVID-affected areas of Queensland](#) are advised not to visit or work in high-risk settings such as aged care facilities, hospitals and correctional facilities, for a period of 14 days after leaving the Greater Sydney Area. Anyone travelling into the Australian Capital Territory from Victoria will be denied entry unless they are granted an exemption. Australian Capital Territory residents will be able to return home, however, they must quarantine for 14 days after leaving Victoria and notify ACT Health of their intention to return. Entry to the Australian Capital Territory from Victoria is only possible by air through Canberra airport.
- Following a checkpoint on 17 September 2020, smaller sized venues, facilities and businesses are able to return to their pre-COVID-19 capacity from 18 September, subject to a maximum of 25 people across the whole venue (including staff). Venues may exceed the 25-person cap if they are able to follow the 1 person per 4 square metre space rules (up to a maximum of 100 people per each indoor and outdoor space. Future consideration (timing to be confirmed) given to: professional events to be ticketed and spectators to be seated; sporting and entertainment venues with tiered patron seating can have up to 25 per cent of seating capacity; likely removal of 100 person cap from all indoor and outdoor gatherings; consideration of the removal of the 25 person cap when gyms are not staffed; and highest-risk activities and settings including mass gatherings (e.g. festivals), larger conferences and conventions; and nightclubs.
- Moved to Step 3.2 from 9am on 9 October 2020 following a checkpoint on 1 October. Under Step 3.2: all gatherings allowed a maximum of 200 people (where 1 person per 4 square metres can be maintained in indoor spaces and 1 person per 2 square metres for outdoor spaces); hospitality venues with a total usable space between 101 and 200 square metres can have a capacity of the higher of 50 people across the whole venue (excluding staff) or capacity calculated following the per square metre rules for indoor and outdoor spaces; large indoor seated venues and enclosed outdoor venues with permanent tiered seating and grandstands can have ticketed events of no more than 50 per cent capacity up to a limit of 1000 people (must have a COVID Safe Plan for each specific event); cinemas and movie theatres allowed 50 per cent capacity up to a limit of 200 people. GIO Stadium and Manuka Oval can have no more than 50 per cent capacity. The next check point is 6 November.
- Following a Public Health Risk Assessment (check point) on 6 November 2020, the following changes came into effect from 9am on 13 November, including: no limit on household visitors; all gatherings can be a maximum of 500 people (subject to density limits); cinemas and movie theatres can sell up to 50 per cent capacity, to a maximum of 500 people; and sport and fitness activities permitted, including gyms and community sports, subject to group limits. Three venue capacity limits apply (subject to density restrictions being met):

- 25 people (excluding staff) across venues with a total usable space of 100 square metres or less;
- For hospitality: 50 people (excluding staff) across venues with total usable space of between 101 and 200 square metres; and
- 1 person per 4 square metres of usable space in each indoor space (excluding staff), 1 person per 2 square metres of usable space in each outdoor space (excluding staff), a maximum of 500 people for each space.
- From 23 November 2020, Victorians are able to freely travel to and from the ACT.
- From 9am 2 December 2020, moved to Stage 4 which included: a density limit of 1 person per 2 square metres; gathering cap of 500 people; businesses allowed up to 25 people across a venue, or 1 person per 2 square metres of usable indoor and outdoor spaces (with use of the [Check In CBR app](#)) or 1 person per 4 square metres per indoor space and 1 person per 2 square metres outside space without the Check In CBR app; alcohol consumption must be seated in indoor spaces; cinemas and movie theatres can have up to 65 per cent capacity (up to 500 people if using the Check In CBR app); large indoor and enclosed outdoor venues with permanent tiered seating/grandstands allowed up to 65 per cent capacity (up to a maximum 1500 people) for seated and ticketed events; GIO and Manuka Oval up to 65 per cent seated capacity; and return to working on site where it suits employers and employees. From 12 December nightclubs were allowed to reopen. The next checkpoint for easing restrictions is planned for 12 February 2021.
- As of 8 December 2020, anyone travelling to the ACT who has been in South Australia in the last 14 days must complete an online declaration stipulating that they have not visited a place in South Australia that has been declared by the South Australian Government as a COVID-19 Health Alert, where the individual is required to enter a period of quarantine/isolation, and that they have not had contact with a person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- From 9 December 2020, travellers from South Australia were no longer required to complete an online declaration prior to entering the ACT.
- From 21 December 2020, anyone travelling to the ACT who has been in a COVID-19 affected area of Greater Sydney, Central Coast and Wollongong must quarantine for 14 days from when they left the affected area. Anyone travelling to the ACT who has been in the Northern Beaches local government area from 11 December must quarantine for 14 days from when they left the area.
- From 2 January 2021, all non-ACT residents who have been to a [COVID-19 affected area](#) of New South Wales cannot enter the ACT without a valid exemption. Victoria residents can travel to the ACT as long as they have not been in a [COVID-19 affected area](#).
- From 8 January 2021, anyone who had been in [COVID-19 affected areas of Greater Brisbane](#) on or after 2 January 2021 must fill out a declaration form and quarantine for 14 days from when they were last in Greater Brisbane.
- From 2pm on 11 January 2021, Greater Brisbane was no longer considered a COVID-19 affected area, meaning those coming from Queensland can travel to the ACT without declaring their travel or requiring quarantine.
- From 3 pm on 12 January 2021, Central Coast and Wollongong were no longer considered to be COVID-19 affected areas and the COVID-19 affected areas of Greater Sydney were reduced to [11 specific local government areas](#).
- [On 19 January 2021](#), the Northern Beaches region of Greater Sydney was removed as a COVID-19 affected area.
- From 3pm on 29 January 2021, all local government areas in New South Wales were removed as COVID-19 affected areas.
- [From 2pm on 1 February 2021](#), the Perth metropolitan area, Peel and South West regions of Western Australia were declared as COVID-19 affected areas, with travel restricted from these areas.

- [From 6pm on 5 February 2021](#), all local government areas in Western Australia were no longer considered COVID-19 affected areas.
- [From 13 February 2021](#), travel was restricted from Victoria. This was [removed from 18 February 2021](#). As of 6 March 2021, cinemas and movie theatres may have up to 75 per cent capacity, provided their COVID Safety Plan has been endorsed by ACT Health; large indoor performance venues can have events up to 75 per cent capacity; GIO Stadium and Manuka Oval can have 100 per cent capacity for fixed seating; enclosed outdoor venues with permanent tiered seating and grandstands can have 100 per cent for fixed seating. Additionally, density for any unfixed seating areas should be calculated using the one person per 2 square metres rule, up to 1000 people; and patrons can now stand while eating and drinking in indoor and outdoor areas.
- [From 30 March 2021](#), people in the ACT who had been in close contact exposure sites are required to contact ACT Health, quarantine for 14 days and get tested for COVID-19, and people who had been in casual contact exposure sites are required to get tested and self-isolate until they receive a negative result. From 1 April 2021, Greater Brisbane was no longer considered a COVID-19 affected area but wider Queensland and New South Wales remain COVID-19 places of concern.
- From 9am on 14 April 2021, cinemas, movie theatres and theatre-style venues (with forward facing, fixed and tiered seating) can have 100 per cent capacity of each individual cinema or movie theatre (excluding any staff on premises) subject to having an endorsed COVID Safety Plan.
- [From 27 April 2021](#), anyone entering the ACT who had spent time in the Perth or Peel regions since 17 April 2021 must complete an online declaration form. Anyone entering the ACT who has been to a casual contact exposure site in Western Australia and has not since had a negative test result prior to entering, must complete an online declaration form, get tested and isolate until a negative test result is received. ACT residents who are entering the ACT and who have been to a close contact exposure site must quarantine for 14 days; and non-ACT residents who have been to a close contact exposure site must not enter the ACT unless they obtain an exemption prior to arrival.
- [From 2 May 2021](#), anyone entering or already in the ACT who has been in the Perth or Peel regions in the last 14 days must complete an online declaration form within 24 hours prior to entering the ACT or by 6pm on 3 May 2021 if they are already in the ACT. Anyone who has been to a public exposure site in those regions since 27 April, or a close contact exposure site before 27 April, must immediately quarantine for 14 days and get a COVID-19 test. Anyone who attended a casual contact exposure site prior to 27 April and has not yet had a negative test result must immediately get a test and self-isolate until they receive a negative result.
- From 5 May 2021, anyone who has been at a close contact exposure site in Melbourne had to immediately quarantine for 14 days since attending the venue; call ACT Health; and get tested for COVID-19. Non-residents of the Australian Capital Territory who have been at a close contact exposure sites in Melbourne could not enter the Australian Capital Territory without an exemption.
- [From 25 May 2021](#), non-ACT residents who had been at an updated list of specified exposure sites in Victoria at the relevant times were not permitted to enter the ACT (unless exempt).
- [From 11:59pm on 27 May 2021](#), a stay-at-home order was put in place for anyone entering the ACT from Victoria until at least 3 June 2021. Non-ACT residents continued to not be permitted to enter the ACT unless they have an exemption. This order was subsequently extended until 11:59pm on 10 June 2021.
- As at 10 June 2021, issued advice on COVID-19 exposure locations in New South Wales and Queensland between 1 June to 9 June 2021.
  - Anyone currently in the ACT who had visited a close contact exposure site in New South Wales or Queensland at specified dates and times must follow prescribed directions. For ACT residents this included: calling ACT health; completing an online declaration form

within 24 hours from the commencement of the Areas of Concern notice; immediately quarantine for 14 days since they were last at the exposure site; and get tested for COVID-19. ACT residents not currently in the ACT who wish to return to the ACT, must seek an exemption from the jurisdiction they are in. Non-ACT residents who have been to a close contact exposure site must not enter the ACT, unless exempt.

- All travelers either already in the ACT or entering the ACT who have been at listed casual contact exposure sites in New South Wales or Queensland at specified dates and times must: complete a self-declaration form within 24 hours of becoming aware that they had been to an exposure site; call ACT health to find out about getting tested for COVID-19; isolate at their place of residence or other suitable accommodation until informed of a negative test result; and continue to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for at least 14 days since last at the exposure site and get tested if they have any symptoms (and stay home until receive a negative test result). [These stay-at-home requirements were later extended](#), with anyone who has left Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Blue Mountains or Shellharbour regions on or after 21 June 2021 required to stay at home until 10 July 2021 or until 14 days have passed since they were last in these areas.
- From 27 June 2021, face masks were required in certain public settings, including on public transport, taxi and ride share services, indoor retail, entertainment and licensed premises, indoor places of worship, when working at hospitality venues, and when dropping off or picking up children from childcare.
- [From 4pm on 27 June 2021](#), non-Australian Capital Territory residents who have been in the Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield regions from 1pm on 27 June 2021 are not permitted to enter the Australian Capital Territory. Anyone who has left Darwin, Palmerston or Litchfield in the Northern Territory on or after 4pm on 27 June 2021 is required to stay at home until 1:30pm on 29 June 2021.
- [From 28 June 2021](#), non-Australian Capital Territory residents who have been in the Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong, and Shellharbour regions of New South Wales on or after 21 June 2021 are not permitted to enter the Australian Capital Territory (unless exempt).
- [From 12pm on 29 June 2021](#), non-Australian Capital Territory residents who have been in Perth and Peel are not permitted to enter the Australian Capital Territory without an exemption.
- [From 6pm on 29 June 2021](#) until 11:59pm on 2 July 2021, anyone who has spent time in South East Queensland, Townsville, Magnetic Island and Palm Island between 19 June 2021 and 6pm on 29 June 2021 will need to complete an online declaration form.

## References

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<https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/act-status-and-response/what-you-can-do>
- ACT Government, Travel advice, updated 1 July 2021:  
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- ACT Government, updated 1 July 2021:  
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### Northern Territory

- **Stage 1** (from 1 May 2020): people can exercise outdoors with other people such as yoga and bootcamp; participate in non-contact, non-collision outdoor sports such, as athletics, golf, tennis, swimming, shooting, archery, badminton, geocaching, paddling and lawn bowls; gather with people in outdoor areas, including markets, weddings and funerals; conduct and attend outdoor religious gatherings; visit parks and reserves including campgrounds that are accessible without needing to enter a restricted rear biosecurity zone; swim in lagoons at the waterfront, rivers and natural pools outside the biosecurity zones; fishing, boating, sailing with other people; attend a public swimming pool, water park or recreational lake for swimming or water sports; use a skate park, outdoor public playground or outdoor gym equipment; conduct or attend a real estate open house inspection or a real estate auction; have visitors to your home; shop at your leisure.
- **Stage 2** (from 15 May 2020): activities must be undertaken in less than 2 hours, and include serve and consume food or beverages in a shopping centre food court; operate and attend restaurants and cafes; operate and attend a bard, sports or RSL club (alcohol allowed with the consumption of food), gaming activities excluded; take part in organised training activities for sporting clubs and teams; operate or attend an indoor market; operate or attend a beauty therapy salon for non-facial services; operate or attend a yoga, Pilates, Zumba, barre, or dance studio; operate or attend physical training activities indoors; operate and attend a gymnasium; visit a public library, toy library or indoor playground; operate and attend a place used for religious worship; attend an art gallery, museum, public memorial, public historic site, zoo or wildlife facility.
- **Stage 3** (from 5 June 2020): operate all license gaming activities; resume officiating, participating and supporting the playing of team sports; attend cinemas, theatres, concert halls, music halls, dance halls, nightclubs or other entertainment venues in approved configuration; attend an amusement venue; attend a bar without food being consumed; operate and access all previously restricted services at beauty therapy and cosmetic services; operate and access all previously restricted services at tattoo, body art and piercing facilities; attend an amusement park, community centre, recreation centre or play centre; attend an arena, stadium, sporting facility including community and sporting competitions with spectators in approved seating configuration (if above 500 people the event will require a separately approved COVID-19 Safety plan; all businesses, facilities and services previously restricted can resume ensuring adherence to key principles. Major events will be approved on a case by case basis.
- As at 23 July 2020, anyone arriving in the Northern Territory must complete a Border Entry form and provide evidence of their application upon arrival. Those intending to travel from a [declared COVID-19 hotspot](#) must undertake 14 days mandatory supervised quarantine at their own expense, unless eligible for an [exemption](#).
- [On 5 October 2020, announced](#) that from 2 November most of regional Victoria will no longer be a COVID-19 hot spot for the purposes of travel to the Northern Territory and



people travelling from regional Victoria will no longer need to undertake mandatory supervised quarantine upon arrival.

- [On 8 October 2020, announced](#) that people arriving in the Northern Territory from Greater Sydney will no longer have to undertake mandatory supervised quarantine upon arrival.
- On 18 and 20 December 2020, various New South Wales local government areas were [declared COVID-19 hotspots](#). Travellers from those areas and people who have spent time in those areas in the last 14 days must undertake 14 days [mandatory supervised quarantine](#).
- From 8 January 2021, the Greater Brisbane Areas (Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Moreton Bay and Redland) were declared COVID-19 hotspots. They were revoked as active hotspots on 11 January 2021.
- From 11am on 12 January 2021, revoked Greater Metropolitan Sydney as a hotspot, and declared a number of [local government areas across Sydney's western suburbs](#) as hotspots.
- From 7.30pm on 31 January 2021, the Perth Metropolitan, Peel and South West regions of Western Australia were declared a hotspot. This was revoked at 7.30pm on 5 February 2021.
- From 10am on 1 February 2021, the remaining local government areas of Sydney were no longer considered a hotspot.
- From 3.30pm on 4 February 2021, several areas of Melbourne were declared a hotspot. These were no longer declared a hotspot at 3.30pm on 8 February 2021.
- Additional Melbourne suburbs were declared hotspots on 8 February and 10 February 2021. These were no longer declared a hotspot from 6pm on 17 February 2021.
- From 11 March 2021, any person who had been in high-risk sites in Queensland and New South Wales must get a COVID-19 test within 72 hours and self-quarantine until they return a negative test result.
- From 29 March 2021, the local government areas of the City of Brisbane, City of Ipswich, Logan City, Moreton Bay Region, Redland City and the Toowoomba Region (in Queensland), and from the 30 March 2021 the Byron Shire Council (in New South Wales) were declared COVID-19 hotspots. These were declared no longer to be hotspots from 1 April 2021.
- [From 23 April 2021](#), Metropolitan Perth and the Peel Region were declared COVID-19 hotspots for the purposes of travel to the Northern Territory from 24 April 2021. Anyone who had arrived in the Northern Territory between 17 April and 12:01am on 24 April 2021 and visited any of the exposure sites on the specified dates and times must self-quarantine, book a COVID-19 test, and remain in quarantine until a negative test is received. Furthermore, anyone travelling to the Northern Territory from a COVID-19 hotspot from 24 April must undertake 14 days of mandatory, supervised quarantine.
- [From 27 April 2021](#), Metropolitan Perth and the Peel Region were removed from the list of COVID-19 hotspots.
- [From 25 May 2021](#), imposed restrictions on entry into the Northern Territory for anyone travelling from Victoria based on the exposure site a person had spent time in. For Tier 1 (A) exposure sites, people must enter supervised quarantine at their first port of entry; for Tier 1 (B), people must get tested immediately and undertake 14 days of quarantine in their home or at a suitable alternative; for Tier 2, arriving people must get tested immediately, self-isolate and remain in isolation until a negative test is returned; and for Tier 3, people must monitor their symptoms and only take prescribed action if symptoms appear.
- [From 26 May 2021](#), Greater Melbourne and Bendigo were declared COVID-19 hotspots. Anyone entering the Northern Territory from a COVID-19 hotspot must undertake 14 days mandatory supervised quarantine. Anyone who had already arrived in the Northern Territory and had been in a COVID-19 hotspot between 12 and 27 May 2021 must immediately self-

isolate, get a COVID-19 test and remain in isolation until a negative test is returned. Anyone currently in the Northern Territory who has visited a Tier 1 Exposure Site in Victoria and is undertaking quarantine must remain in quarantine (unless to get tested) until 12:00pm on the 14th day after they were at the exposure site, regardless of returning a negative COVID-19 test or not. Anyone who arrived in the Northern Territory between 12 May 2021 and 12.00am on 27 May 2021 who has been to a public exposure site listed by the Victorian Department of Health must check the Victorian Department of Health website at least once per day to ensure they are complying with NT quarantine and testing directions.

- [Announced on 2 June 2021](#), that from 12pm on 3 June 2021, Victoria was declared a hot spot. Anyone travelling to the Northern Territory from Victoria had to undertake 14 days of mandatory, supervised quarantine; anyone who currently in the Northern Territory who has visited a Tier 1 Exposure Site in Victoria and is undertaking quarantine must remain in quarantine (unless to get tested) until 12:00pm of the 14th day after they were at the exposure site, regardless of returning a negative COVID-19 test or not; anyone who arrived in the Northern Territory from Victoria between 12 May 2021 and 12.00am on 27 May 2021 must check the Victorian Department of Health website at least once per day; arrivals must ensure they are complying with Northern Territory quarantine and testing directions if a place they have been to becomes a public exposure site; and anyone who is symptomatic, regardless as to whether or not they have been in a declared COVID-19 hotspot, must isolate, seek a test, and remain in self-quarantine until a negative test is returned.
- [From 6pm 8 June 2021](#), regional Victoria was revoked as a hotspot.
- [On 9 June 2021](#), any person who arrived in the Northern Territory since 5 June 2021 or subsequently arrives and has been to a Queensland COVID-19 public exposure site at specified dates and times must, if defined as a 'close contact', immediately get tested and go into 14 days quarantine at their home or suitable place (regardless of whether they return a negative COVID-19 test). People defined as 'casual contacts', must isolate, get a COVID-19 test, and remain in self-quarantine until a negative test is returned.
- [From 1pm on 27 June 2021](#), the Darwin, Palmerston and certain rural regions entered a 48-hour lockdown, with restrictions including: mandatory use of masks at all times and only 5 reasons to leave the house: to receive health care or attend medical appointments (including receiving the COVID-19 vaccine); essential shopping; to exercise for 1 hour day within 5km of the home (only with other household members or 1 other person); essential work; and in case of an emergency. All businesses, retail outlets, hospitality venues, gyms, pools, and community centres will be closed (cafes and restaurants may provide takeaway and delivery services only). The lockdown was later extended for a further 72 hours until 1pm on 2 July 2021.
- [From 29 June 2021](#), a number of areas in Western Australia, New South Wales and Queensland were added to the Northern Territory's list of declared hotspots.
- [From 1pm on 30 June 2021](#), Alice Springs entered a 3-day lockdown, with restrictions including mandatory use of masks at all times and only five reasons to leave the house: to receive health care or attend medical appointments (including receiving the COVID-19 vaccine); essential shopping; to exercise for 1 hour day within 5km of the home (only with other household members or 1 other person); essential work; and, in case of an emergency. All businesses, retail outlets, hospitality venues, gyms, pools, and community centres will be closed (cafes and restaurants may provide takeaway and delivery services only).
- [Announced on 2 July 2021](#), that the lockdown for the Greater Darwin area and Alice Springs ended at 1pm that day. Some restrictions remain in place until 1pm on 9 July 2021, including: face masks to be worn when people are unable to physically distance; a limit of 10 visitors to the home at a time; restaurants, cafes, and pubs open for seated service only. Places of worship, schools, vacation care and childcare centres were allowed to open.

## References

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## Support for businesses

Assistance for businesses from the Commonwealth Government was first [announced on 12 March 2020](#) that included:

- increases to the instant asset write-off and accelerating depreciation deductions;
- payments of between \$2000 and \$25,000 for small to medium-sized businesses making less than \$50 million in turnover;
- assistance for small business (employing fewer than 20 people) employing trainees and apprentices by supporting 50 per cent of apprentice/trainee wages for 9 months from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020, up to a cap of \$7000 per quarter. This was later expanded to include medium-sized business (employing fewer than 200 people) from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021.

A **second package** from the Commonwealth Government was [announced on 22 March 2020](#) that included the following:

- a boost to cashflow of up to \$100 000 to eligible small and medium-sized businesses, and not-for-profits (NFPs) that employ people, with a minimum payment of \$20,000, to keep business operating, pay rent, electricity and other bill and retain staff. This measure is

estimated to benefit around 690,000 businesses employing around 7.8 million people, and around 30,000 NFPs (including charities).

- Employers will receive a payment equal to 100 per cent of their salary and wages withheld (up from 50 per cent), with the maximum payment being increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000, with the minimum payment being increased from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Additional payments to be introduced during the July–October 2020 period;

#### [Fact sheet – Cash flow assistance for businesses](#)

- increasing the instant asset write-off threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expanding access to include businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million) until 30 June 2020;

#### [Fact Sheet – Delivering support for business investment](#)

- temporary increase in the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and the time companies have to respond to statutory demands they receive;

#### [Fact sheet – Providing temporary relief for financially distressed businesses](#)

- the introduction of a 15-month investment incentive that will accelerate depreciation deductions for businesses with turnover of less than \$500 million. These businesses will be able to deduct 50 per cent of the cost of an eligible asset on installation, with existing depreciation rules applying to the balance of the asset's cost;

#### [Fact Sheet – Delivering support for business investment](#)

- following the initial support to businesses employing trainees and apprentices, where a small business is not able to retain an apprentice, the subsidy will be available to a new employer that employs that apprentice. Employers will be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$21,000 per eligible apprentice or trainee;

#### [Fact sheet – Cash flow assistance for businesses](#)

- support of \$1 billion to regions most significantly affected by the Coronavirus outbreak. These funds will be available to assist during the outbreak and the recovery. In addition, assistance has been provided to the airline industry by providing relief from a number of taxes and Government charges estimated to total up to \$715 million;

#### [Fact sheet – Assistance for severely affected regions and sectors](#)

- a guarantee of 50 per cent to SME lenders to support new short-term unsecured loans to SMEs.

#### [Fact sheet – Supporting the flow of credit](#)

- The Commonwealth Government introduced the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy, available for businesses of any size (including Group Training Organisations) who engage an Australian apprentice or trainee between 5 October 2020 and 30 September 2021. Employers must not be receiving any other form of Australian Government wage subsidy and apprentices or trainees must be undertaking a Certificate II or higher qualification and have a training contract formally approved by the state training authority. Eligible employers can receive a wage subsidy of up to 50 per cent of the apprentice or trainee's gross wage up to a cap of \$7000 per quarter for wages paid in the 12-month period from date of commencement or recommencement.

#### [Fact sheet — Boosting Apprenticeships Commencements](#)

[On 11 March 2021](#), the Australian Government announced an additional package to support the tourism and aviation industries, which includes 800 000 subsidised half-price airfares.

## References

<https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses>

<https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus>

On 29 March 2020, the Commonwealth Government also [announced a range of short-term interventions](#) within commercial and residential rental markets that involved a moratorium on evictions of both residential and commercial tenancies for the next 6 months, in cases where tenants are unable to meet their rental commitments due to the impact of coronavirus. The Government also encouraged commercial tenants and landlords to engage in discussions, supporting the survival of businesses and continuation of tenancies, including:

- tenants and landlords are encouraged to agree on rent relief or temporary amendments to the lease;
- the reduction or waiver of rental payment for a defined period for impacted tenants;
- the ability for tenants to terminate leases and/or seek mediation or conciliation on the grounds of financial distress;
- commercial property owners should ensure that any benefits received in respect of their properties should also benefit their tenants in proportion to the economic impact caused by coronavirus;
- landlords and tenants not significantly affected by coronavirus are expected to honor their lease and rental agreements; and
- cost-sharing or deferral of losses between landlords and tenants, with Commonwealth, state and territory governments, local government and financial institutions to consider mechanisms to provide assistance.

On 7 April 2020, the Commonwealth Government further announced that principles agreed on 3 April by the Commonwealth and state and territory governments would be implemented as a [mandatory Code of Conduct \(the Code\)](#) imposing a set of good faith leasing principles for application to commercial tenancies (retail, office and industrial), between landlords and tenants. The Code will be given effect through relevant state and territory legislation or regulation. The Code comes into effect on a date following 3 April 2020, with the specific date to be defined by each jurisdiction. The code will coexist with and complement these specific implemented state and territory laws and regulations.

The Code applies to:

- small and medium sized businesses (annual turnover of up to \$50 million); and
- businesses eligible for the purpose of the Commonwealth Government's [JobKeeper](#) programme.

The Code aims to manage the cashflow and financial risk on a proportional basis, seeking to appropriately balance the interests of commercial tenants and landlords. Key overarching principles include:

- landlords and tenants share a common interest in working together, to ensure business continuity and to facilitate the resumption of normal trading activities following the end of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- landlords and tenants required to discuss relevant issues, to negotiate appropriate temporary lease terms and work towards mutually satisfactory outcomes;
- landlords and tenants will negotiate in good faith;
- landlords and tenants will act in an open, honest and transparent way and provide sufficient and accurate information relevant to negotiations, to achieve outcomes consistent with the Code;
- arrangements agreed upon will take into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tenants, specifically its revenue, expenses and profitability, and be proportionate and appropriate;
- parties will cooperate with each other in their respective dealings with other stakeholders (such as government, financial institutions and utility companies); and
- all premises and cases are different, and leases must be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

The Code also outlines 12 leasing principles, to be applied as soon as possible on a case-by-case basis. They include:

- landlords must not terminate lease because of non-payment of rent during the COVID-19 pandemic period (or reasonable subsequent recovery period).
- tenants must remain committed to terms of their lease (subject to negotiated amendments). Failure to abide by substantive terms of leases will forfeit tenants' protections provided under the code.
- landlords must offer tenants proportionate reductions in rent payable (by way of waivers or deferrals) of up to 100 per cent of the usual amount, based on the reduction in tenant's trade. Waivers must be no less than 50 per cent of total reduction in rent payable. Regard must also be given to the Landlord's financial ability to provide reductions. If negotiated terms require repayment this must be down over an extended period and not commence until the earlier of the lease expiring or the pandemic ending. No fees, interest or other charges should be applied to waived rent and no fees, charges nor punitive interest may be charged on deferrals.
- deferrals must be amortised over the balance of the lease or within 24 months (whichever is greater).
- any reductions in statutory charges received by landlords (e.g. land tax, council rates) or insurance will be passed on to tenants in proportion as under the terms of the lease.
- landlords must not draw on a tenant's security for non-payment of rent.
- tenants should be provided the option to extend their lease for an equivalent period of the rental deferral or waiver.
- a freeze on rent increases for the duration of the pandemic and reasonable recovery period.
- landlords must not apply prohibitions or levy penalties should tenants reduce opening hours or cease trade during the pandemic.

Should landlords and tenants fail to reach an agreement on lease arrangements, the matter should be referred and subjected (by either party) to applicable state or territory commercial leasing dispute resolution processes for binding mediation.

## References

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<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-070420>

On 2 April 2020, the [Early Childhood Education and Care Relief package was announced](#), designed to ensure around 1 million families receive free child care during the COVID-19 pandemic and to support the early childhood education and care sector during the crisis.

From 6 April 2020, the Government will pay 50 per cent of services' fee revenue up to the existing hourly rate cap (based on a point in time at 2 March 2020, before parents started withdrawing children in large numbers due to the pandemic), so long as services:

- remain open unless closed on public health advice or for other health and safety reasons;
- do not charge fees to families (including out of pocket or 'gap' fee);
- prioritise care for children of essential workers, vulnerable and disadvantaged and previously enrolled children;
- continue to record the attendance of children; and
- comply with all other provider obligations including National Quality Framework and other relevant conditions of approval under Family Assistance Law.

The payment will be made directly and automatically to early childhood education and care services on a weekly basis and will be based on the number of children who were in care during the fortnight leading into 2 March (where attending services at the time or not).

- The Government will also make payments of higher amounts in exceptional circumstances, such as where greater funding is required due to an increase in enrolments to meet demand to address the needs of essential workers or vulnerable children.

The new system is initially for a period of 3 months and will be reviewed after 1 month, and an extension considered after 3 months.

The subsidy will be paid in lieu of the usual Child Care Subsidy (CSS) and Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) payments and means testing will not apply to the new payment.

Up to and including 5 April 2020, services can waive the gap fees for families due to the impact of COVID-19, which can be backdated to 23 March 2020. Services should encourage families who have recently ceased their enrolment to re-enrol – enrolment will ensure families maintain CSS eligibility for when the regular child care system is reinstated.

The payments are designed to complement the [JobKeeper](#) payment and providers will also be eligible to receive the JobKeeper for eligible employees.

From 13 July 2020 to 27 September 2020, the sector returned to the CCS. In addition, approved providers received a 25 per cent Transition Payment instead of JobKeeper Payments, which ceased for the sector from 20 July 2020. For the week commencing 13 July 2020, services could receive both JobKeeper and a Transition Payment in respect of that week).

From 28 September 2020 to 31 January 2021, support for the sector moved to the Recovery Package. The package included a payment of 25 per cent of pre-COVID revenue to child care service providers in Victoria; an additional payment of 15 per cent of pre-COVID revenue for Victorian Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) service providers; a child care fee freeze for Victorian families until 31 January 2021; continuation of the Employment Guarantee; and a relaxation of the activity test for Australian families whose activity level has been impacted by COVID-19 (this measure was subsequently extended until 4 April 2021).

[COVID-19 information sheet for child care providers up to 5 April 2020](#)

[COVID-19 information sheet for child care providers from 6 April 2020](#)

Department of Education, Skills and Employment website:

<https://dese-interim.govcms.gov.au/news/coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.dese.gov.au/covid-19/childcare>

<https://www.dese.gov.au/covid-19/childcare/recovery-package-early-childhood-education-and-care-providers>

<https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/child-care-support-continues-aid-covid-recovery>

<https://www.dese.gov.au/download/7738/transition-payment-guidelines/20451/document/pdf>

On 20 July 2020, Commonwealth Treasury announced an extension of the Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme until June 2021. Under the scheme, the Commonwealth Government will guarantee 50 per cent of new unsecured loans to SMEs. The extension of the loan contains a number of alterations: the purposes of available loans will be widened; the maximum loan size will increase from \$250,000 to \$1 million; the maximum loan term will increase from 3 years to 5 years; and lenders will be allowed to offer a repayment holiday period.

Department of Treasury website: <https://ministers.treasury.gov.au/ministers/josh-frydenberg-2018/media-releases/supporting-small-business-adapt-grow-and-create-jobs>

**State governments** have announced adjustments to payroll tax and other measures to assist businesses, including:

- **New South Wales:** waiving payroll tax for businesses with payrolls of up to \$10 million for 6 months, bringing forward the next round of payroll tax cuts by raising the threshold limit to \$1 million in 2020–21, waiving a range of fees and charges for small businesses including bars, cafes, restaurants and tradies, \$250 million to employ additional cleaners of public infrastructure, such as transport, deferral of gaming tax for clubs, pubs and hotels, and lotteries tax for 6 months (conditional on these funds retaining staff), deferral of the parking space levy for 6 months, and deferral of rents for commercial tenants with less than 20 employees for 6 months in all Government-owned properties, allowing eligible small businesses struggling to cope with the COVID–19 shutdown to apply for grants of up to \$10 000 (such as having between 1–19 employees, a turnover of more than \$75 000, having payroll below \$900 000) to use for unavoidable business costs such as utilities, overheads, legal costs and financial advice.
  - Commercial tenants (with turnover of less than \$50 million and eligible for the JobKeeper program) significantly impacted by COVID-19 will have increased protection from evictions; commercial landlords will be offered land tax concession of up to 25 per cent for the 2020 calendar year if they pass savings on to their tenants through a reduction in rent; a further land tax referral for three months will also be offered to landlords who successfully claim the land tax concession; landlords must negotiate rent relief agreements with tenants in financial distress; terminations of leases for non-payment are banned and there is a freeze on rent increases.
  - On 25 September 2020 provided further financial support for tenants and landlords experiencing financial hardship during COVID-19, by extending the [tenancy moratorium](#) for 6 months. This prevents landlords from evicting tenants for loss of rental payments (unless they have attempted to negotiate rent reductions in good faith); allows tenants to apply to the [NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal](#) to end fixed term agreement in certain circumstances; stop landlords or agents listing financially impacted tenants on a database if they cannot pay rent on time; extend the 90-day minimum period of eviction notice landlords must give to tenants; and extended boarding house eviction notice periods.
  - From March 2021, Dine & Discover NSW was rolled out, providing vouchers for New South Wales residents aged 18 years and over to use at participating New South Wales businesses. The vouchers will include 2 \$25 Dine NSW vouchers for use at restaurants, cafes, bars, wineries, pubs and clubs and 2 \$25 Discover NSW vouchers to be used for entertainment and recreation.
  - [On 29 June 2021](#), announced a new grants package, changes to the Dine & Discover program, and payroll tax deferrals to assist businesses and people impacted by increased COVID-19 restrictions. The package included:
    - Small Business COVID-19 Support Grants available to businesses and sole traders with a turnover of more than \$75 000 per annum but below the New South Wales Government 2020–21 payroll tax threshold of \$1 200 000, as at 1 July 2020. Business must also have fewer than 2 full-time equivalent employees.
    - Hospitality and Tourism COVID-19 Support Grants available to tourism or hospitality businesses that have a turnover of more than \$75 000 and an annual Australian wages bill of below \$10 million, as at 1 July 2020.
    - A 1-month extension of Dine & Discover vouchers until 31 August 2021, to allow people more time to use them (vouchers also able to be used for takeaway during the restrictions period).
    - An optional deferral of payroll tax payments due in July 2021 and the deferral of hotel June quarter gaming machine tax, with the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue able to provide for appropriate repayment arrangements on a case-by-case basis.
- **Victoria:** full payroll refunds for the 2019-20 financial year for small and medium businesses with payroll of less than \$3 million, government to pay to all outstanding supplier invoices within 5 business days, liquor licensing fees for 2020 to be waived for affected venues and small businesses.
  - Commencing 29 March 2020 the [COVID-19 Omnibus \(Emergency Measures\) Act 2020](#) introduced a temporary ban on most residential evictions, a pause in rental increases for



six months, and a rental assistance fund set up for renters facing hardship due to COVID-19; tenants and landlords who struggle to strike a deal over rent reductions will be given access to a fast-tracked dispute resolution service; a 25 per cent tax reduction for landlords who provide rent relief to tenants impacted by COVID-19 (any remaining land tax can be deferred until March 2021); evictions for the non-payment of rent and rental increases will be banned for 6 months for commercial tenancies for small and medium-sized businesses who have an annual turnover of under \$50 million per year and have experienced more than a 30 per cent reduction in turnover.

- [On 15 April 2020, announced](#) it would be setting up a fund for renters facing hardship due to COVID-19, providing renters with relief payments of up to \$3000, paid directly to tenant's agent, lessor or landlord to contribute to the tenant's rental payments. To be eligible, renters will need to have registered their revised agreement with Consumer Affairs Victoria or gone through mediation, have less than \$5000 in savings, have household income of less than \$1903 per week, and still be paying at least 30 per cent of their income in rent.
- On 10 July 2020, announced a Business Support Package which included \$5000 cash grants to support businesses during the renewed restrictions available to all areas under Stage 3 restrictions; a fund for the night time economy to support hospitality businesses; mental health support for business owners; funds for regional tourism operators to cover the cost of refunds; a fund for small businesses in Melbourne's CBD faced with a large and sustained shock to their trading environments. Businesses with payrolls up to \$10 million can defer their liabilities for the first half of the 2020/21 financial year.
- On 3 August 2020, announced that businesses in regional Victoria can apply for cash grants of \$5000 and increased the amount to \$10 000 that business in Melbourne and Mitchell Shire can apply for if subject to restrictions for longer.
- [On 20 August 2020, announced](#) the extension of the ban on evictions and rental increases until 31 December (except in specific circumstances), and additional measures that require commercial landlords to provide rent relief in proportion with the fall in turnover experienced by eligible tenants. On the 4 September this was again extended, to 28 March 2021.
- [On 13 September 2020, announced](#) the [Business Resilience Package](#) to help businesses impacted by ongoing restrictions and to prepare for COVID Normal business. The package includes the third round of the Business Support Fund, which provides cash grants of \$10 000 for businesses with an annual payroll less than \$650 000; \$15 000 for businesses with annual payroll between \$650 000 and \$3 million; and \$20 000 for those with annual payroll between \$3 million and \$10 million. To be eligible, businesses must: be receiving the JobKeeper payment; employ people; and have had an annual payroll of less than \$10 million in 2019–20.
  - The package also includes grants of up to \$30 000 (depending on venue capacity and location) for licensed hospitality businesses; grants of up to \$20 000 to help alpine businesses pay service charges to Alpine Resort Management Boards; a voucher program to assist sole traders and small businesses in building their digital capacity; a package to help Victorian exporters get their products to market and establish new trade channels; payroll tax deferrals for the 2020–21 financial year for businesses with payrolls up to \$10 million; bringing forward stamp duty discounts for commercial and industrial property for all of regional Victoria; defer the planned increase to the landfill levy for 6 months; waving of the 25 per cent of the Congestion Levy this year (with the outstanding balance deferred); liquor license fee waivers for 2021; and waving of the Vacant Residential Land Tax for vacancies in 2020.
- On 14 September 2020, [announced the Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package](#), providing funding to councils and businesses to make widespread outdoor dining safe and practical for summer, with the changes to take effect in the Third step of Victoria's roadmap to reopening. The package includes grants of up to \$5000 will go towards helping hospitality businesses with a payroll of less than \$3 million purchase items such as umbrellas, outdoor furniture, screens and other equipment as well as training, advertising and other supports that businesses will need to take care culture outdoors.

Small and medium businesses will be able to apply for grants to pay for equipment, convert spaces like rooftops and courtyards into hospitality zones and remodel internal layouts to allow for the better flow of patrons. The Sole Trader Support Fund will provide grants of up to \$3000 to eligible sole traders working in sectors of the economy that will continue to be affected by restrictions, such as retail, accommodation and food services, creative media, hairdressing, gyms, events, education and training who operate from a commercial premises or location as a tenant in a sector of the economy that is restricted, heavily restricted or not opening under the Second Step of the Roadmap.

- On 16 November 2020, announced the Small Business Digital Adaptation program to support sole traders, micro and small businesses to access digital products, tools and training to help build digital capacity. The program offers eligible businesses a \$1200 rebate for purchases on approved products.
- In December 2020, opened applications for its Regional Travel Voucher Scheme. Under the scheme, eligible Victorians can receive a \$200 voucher to be used for regional Victorian tourism. The eligible travel period is from 12 December 2020 to 22 January 2021.
- On 21 February 2021, announced a \$143 million program for businesses affected by the “coronavirus circuit-breaker action”. The package contains four initiatives: the Business Costs Assistance Program offers grants of \$2000 to eligible business with an annual payroll of up to \$3 million; previous recipients of the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund be offered an additional one-time payment of \$3000 per premise; the Victorian Accommodation Support Program offers eligible accommodation providers a grant of either \$2250 or \$4500 depending on the number of cancellations the business has experienced; and the Regional Travel Voucher Scheme and Melbourne Travel Voucher Scheme was expanded to now span 200,000 vouchers for eligible Victorians.
- [Announced on 30 May 2021](#), a \$250 million Circuit Breaker Business Support Package including: the [Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund 2021](#), consisting of \$3500 grants per premises; the [Business Costs Assistance Program Round Two](#), consisting of \$2500 grants for eligible employing and non-employing businesses in sectors most impacted by the circuit breaker restrictions; and support for operators in the events industry who incurred losses due to the circuit breaker restrictions.
- [Announced on 2 June 2021](#), that the existing Business Costs Assistance Program payments were doubled to \$5000 for eligible business in metropolitan Melbourne and for regional Victorian business unable to open due to ongoing restrictions (such as nightclubs and amusement parks). The Licenses Hospitality Venue Fund grants were also doubled to \$7000 for eligible business in metropolitan Melbourne.
- [Announced on 6 June 2021](#), that Victorians will have access to 80 000 regional travel vouchers valued at \$200 each. [The Regional Tourism Support Package](#) provides accommodation, attraction, and experience providers with grant top-ups of up to \$4500 per business, while alpine businesses will receive up to \$15 000 to assist them provide a COVIDSafe ski season.
- [Announced on 9 June 2021](#), that a further \$2000 top-up payment for the Business Costs Assistance Program will be available to business in metropolitan Melbourne that are closed due to extended restrictions (such as gyms, dance schools, and yoga studios).
- **Queensland:** deferral of payroll tax for 6 months, grants of up to \$7500 (excl. GST) to support new equipment purchases, immediate payroll tax refunds for business and deferrals for eligible businesses until the end of 2020 (all small and medium businesses with payroll up to \$6.5 million will be eligible, as will large businesses affected by COVID-19), relief for businesses renting government premises, a \$500 electricity bill rebate for small and medium businesses consuming less than 100 000 kilowatt hours, and liquor licencing fees waived for businesses affected by shutdowns.
- Subject to legislation passing parliament, commercial and retail property owners will receive a three-month rebate of land tax for 2019–20, followed by a 3-month deferral of land tax for 2020–21 if they agree to provide rent relief for tenants affected by COVID-19

or if due to the downturn they are unable to secure a tenant they will receive land tax relief to meet their financial obligations (such as debt and repayments).

- Announced on 15 August 2020, Market Diversification and Resilience grants of up to \$7500 available for equipment purchases, staff training, marketing and promotion for commercial, charter and aquaculture fisheries business affected by COVID-19. Successful applicants will need to contribute at least 25 per cent of the projects total cost.
- The Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant Program supports small businesses subject to closure or heavily impacted by the pandemic. Eligible businesses that meet a number of criteria related to COVID-19 impacts may receive a grant between \$2000 and \$10,000. The grant may be used for a number of purposes, including advice, operational costs, strategic planning, marketing and communication, digital technology, capital costs, among other purposes.
- **Western Australia:** one-off grants of \$17,000 to small businesses, the \$1 million payroll tax threshold brought forward by 6 months to 1 July 2020, payroll tax waived for 4 months (1 March 2020 to 30 June 2020) for certain small and medium-sized businesses with annual wages less than \$7.5 million, small businesses to receive a one-off \$2500 credit for Synergy and Horizon Power customers (as of 31 March 2020) that consume less than 50 megawatt hours (MWh) per annum as well as charities, waiving a range of licence fees for small and medium-sized businesses in COVID-19 impacted industries for 12 months, liquor licence renewal fees waived for 2020 and refunds provided for businesses that have already paid, benefitting around 5500 businesses, business can apply for late payment penalties to be waived for transfer duty, landholder duty, vehicle licence duty or land tax, no power or water disconnections for small businesses.
  - On 23 April 2020, the [Commercial Tenancies \(COVID-19 Response\) Act 2020](#) established a code of conduct for commercial landlords and tenants and introduced a moratorium on evictions for small commercial tenancies, restrict penalties for tenants who do not trade or reduce trading hours, prohibit charging interest on rent arrears, and introduced a dispute resolution process. Parts 2 and 3 of the Act are deemed to have come into operation from 30 March 2020.
  - The [Residential Tenancies \(COVID-19 Response\) Bill 2020](#) introduced a moratorium on residential evictions for six months (except in limited circumstances), prohibited rent increases during the emergency period, any fixed term tenancy agreements due to expire during the emergency period will continue as periodic agreements, and exempted renters from the obligation to undertake repairs if they are unable to due to COVID-19 related financial hardship or a lawful restriction on movement.
  - Western Australia's [Apprenticeship and Traineeship Reengagement Incentive](#) provides eligible employers with a one-off payment of up to \$6000 when they employ an apprentice or trainee whose training contract was terminated or cancelled by a previous employer on or after 1 March 2020, and who commenced their apprenticeship or traineeship between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.
- **South Australia:** one-off payment to eligible welfare recipients, homeowners and tenants, a payroll tax waiver for up to 6 months for businesses with an annual payroll up to \$4 million (and payroll tax deferral for businesses with an annual payroll of over \$4 million), land and liquor licensing fees for 2020–21 for affected venues and small businesses, grants for businesses and community organisations impacted to support employment and assist with retraining.
  - Commercial and private residential tenants will have protection against evictions and other prescribed actions (termination of lease, seeking damages, enforcing guarantees, requiring payment of interest on unpaid rent) in cases of extreme financial hardship for 6 months from 30 March 2020.
  - Until the end of September 2020, eligible landlords can receive up to a 25 per cent reduction on their 2019–20 land tax liability for those affected by COVID-19 restrictions (provided they pass on the full benefit in land tax relief to impacted tenants).

- Until 28 February 2021, eligible businesses may apply for the second round of the Small Business Grants program. The program includes \$10,000 grants for eligible small businesses that employ staff and are receiving JobKeeper payments and \$3000 grants to eligible businesses that do not employ staff.
- **Tasmania:** waiving of payroll tax for the last four months of 2019–20 for hospitality, tourism and seafood industry businesses, introduction of a youth employment payroll tax rebate scheme for young people from 1 April 2020, additional \$5000 grants for businesses that hire an apprentice or trainee under the *Targeted Apprentice and Trainee Grant for Small Business*. Taxi license fees have been waived for 2020 calendar year. Funding for one-off arts and cultural industry projects such as script development and music recording. Direct funding provided towards critical air freight service for time sensitive freight (such as seafood).
  - From 14 September 2020, the Business Growth Loan Scheme provides concessional loan funding to support businesses to recover, adapt, grow and develop enhanced business models. Eligible business may receive a loan between \$20,000 and \$3 million.
  - The SME Recovery Loan Scheme provides loans up to \$5 million to eligible businesses with the government guaranteeing 80 per cent of the loan amount. The scheme is only open to recipients of JobKeeper payments between 4 January 2021 and 28 March 2021.
  - The *Targeted Apprentice and Trainee Grant for Small Business* ceased on 31 December 2020 and was replaced by the *Apprentice and Trainees Grant for Small Business* which provided employers who are not entitled to claim the Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme with a subsidy of up to \$5000 for each apprentice or trainees they employ as a new worker from 1 January 2021.
- **Australian Capital Territory:** a 12-month waiver on food business registration and on-licence liquor licencing fees from 1 April 2020, a one-off 6 month payroll tax waiver for hospitality (cafes, pubs, hotels, clubs and restaurants), creative arts and entertainment industries from April to September 2020, deferral of 2020-21 payroll tax (interest free to 1 July 2022) for all ACT business with nation-wide wages of up to \$10 million.
  - The implementation of a [six-month moratorium \(from 22 April 2020 to 22 October 2020\)](#) on rental eviction for any tenants under financial duress due to COVID-19. A temporary freeze on rental increases and prevent 'blacklisting' as a result of being unable to pay rent, landlords who reduce tenants rent by at least 25 per cent for up to 6 months will be eligible for a rebate that the Government will match up to 50 per cent of the reduction to a maximum of \$2600 over six month or \$100 per week, parties may also agree to delay or freeze rental payments if a tenant is not earning income.
  - [Continued support was put in place after the moratorium ended](#). From 23 October 2020 to 30 June 2021: a transition period which limits evictions on the basis of rent arrears accrued during the moratorium for COVID-19 impacted households in certain circumstances; the continued ability to negotiate reduced rent; a requirement for the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) to consider making a payment order instead of an eviction order for COVID-19 impacted household; the continued ability for a tenant in a COVID-19 impacted household to terminate their fixed-term tenancy agreement early and without penalty; continued restrictions on a negative listing being made about a person from a COVID-19 impacted household on tenancy databases; and, the continued ability for tenants on pre 6 April 2020 fixed-term tenancies to pay just two weeks rent in advance (all other tenants are already able to do this).
  - Commercial tenancies relief [was extended](#) to 31 January 2021 and payroll tax exemptions are to continue until 30 June 2021.
  - In August 2020, announced the Tourism and Hospitality Support package. The package consisted of two rounds, offering loans of between \$1000 and \$10,000 in the first round, and of between \$20,000 and \$100,000 in the second round. The package offered support to a number of eligible business within the tourism industry, such as hotels, cafes, car and bus hire, among others.
- **Northern Territory:** eligible businesses will get a grant of \$10 000 for upgrades and a further \$10 000 if they contribute \$10 000 of their own funds. From 1 April 2020, businesses that

demonstrate substantial hardship due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic will have their payroll tax abolished for 6 months for small to medium-sized businesses, and a deferral for 6 months for large businesses, impacted businesses will also have power, water and sewerage bills cut by 50 per cent for 6 months. The Government will also provide lease relief to commercial tenants by providing extra support to commercial landlords if they assist impacted tenants, with requirements including that landlords negotiate relief for impacted tenants in line with the Code of Conduct for commercial tenancies.

- The Small Business Survival Fund, funded by the Commonwealth Government, provided payments aimed at business in the food, drink and retail; beauty and personal care services; entertainment venues; and leisure and recreation sectors. Payments varied from between \$2000 to \$50,000 for businesses depending on their number of employees. Eligibility for the program required proof of a reduction in turnover; an impact on fixed costs; and an employment reduction.
- [On 27 June 2021](#), announced a one-off \$1000 Territory Small Business Lockdown Payment for small businesses, not-for profits and incorporated associations affected by COVID-19 lockdown and based in Darwin, Palmerston, Litchfield, Wagait and Belyuen areas. To be eligible, businesses must have turnover of less than \$10 million, less than 20 full-time equivalent staff, and have had to stop trading, or suffered a 50 per cent drop in turnover during lockdown.

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## Support for individuals and households

Assistance for employees and households initially included one-off payments of \$750 to be made from 31 March 2020 to selected income support recipients.

The eligibility was extended to those receiving an eligible payment on any day from 12 March to 13 April 2020. See: [More financial support for people affected by coronavirus](#)

[Further assistance for households was announced](#) by the Commonwealth Government on 22 March 2020:

- temporarily expanding eligibility for income support payments and establishing a new, temporary Coronavirus supplement, paid at \$550 per fortnight from 27 April 2020 for at least 6 months. Both existing and new Jobseeker Payment, Youth Allowance Jobseeker, Parenting Payment, Farm Household Allowance and Special Benefit recipients are eligible:

[Fact sheet – Payments to support households](#)

Also: [More financial support for people affected by coronavirus](#)

- a second payment of \$750 to social security, veterans and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders made from 13 July 2020 (individuals who received the first payment of \$750 and remain eligible for the second payment will receive both payments, unless they have received the \$550 Coronavirus supplement in which case they will not be eligible for the second payment);

[Fact sheet – Payments to support households](#)

This is for those receiving eligible payments on 10 July 2020 and payment will automatically be made. See: [More financial support for people affected by coronavirus](#)

- employees who have been stood down without pay are eligible for benefits provided that they are already in receipt of a benefit or are new income support recipients. They may become eligible (subject to leave arrangements) for the JobSeeker Payment if 'the person's working hours were reduced (including to zero) as a result of the adverse economic effects of the coronavirus known as COVID-19'.

Reference: *Social Security (Coronavirus Economic Response—2020 Measures No. 2) Determination 2020*: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020L00311>

- individuals to access up to \$10 000 of their superannuation in 2019–20 and \$10 000 in 2020–21 without needing to pay tax on the amounts released;

[Fact sheet - Early Access to Super](#)

- on 12 March, the Government announced a 0.5 percentage point reduction in both the upper and lower social security deeming rates. The Government will reduce these rates by another 0.25 percentage points. As of 1 May 2020, the upper deeming rate will be 2.25 per cent and the lower deeming rate will be 0.25 per cent.

[Fact sheet - Providing support for retirees to manage market volatility](#)

- a \$1.1 billion package to support more mental health, medicare and domestic violence services to deal with the secondary effects of the health and economic crisis.

Reference: <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/5686>

On 30 March 2020 a [third stimulus package was announced](#) including the planned introduction of a JobKeeper payment as well as changes to partner income testing for the JobSeeker payment.

JobSeeker recipients will have their partner's income test threshold temporarily increased to \$79 762 per annum (\$3068 per fortnight). Increasing the amount of people who will be eligible for the JobSeeker payment.

From 1 April 2021, the rate of the JobSeeker Payment (and other working age payments) increased by \$50 per fortnight, bringing the single JobSeeker payment fortnightly rate to \$620.80. The income free area of JobSeeker (and some other working age payments) was also increased to \$150 per fortnight, allowing recipients to retain more of what they earn while receiving income support. Mutual obligations requirements were also strengthened starting from early March 2021, with further staged strengthening planned until October 2021.

Subsequently on 8 April 2020, both houses of the Commonwealth Parliament passed the [Coronavirus Economics Response Package Omnibus \(Measures No.2\) Bill 2020](#), which included amendments to the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) (the Act) and introduced the JobKeeper payment. These amendments along with the corresponding [eligibility rules](#) outlined the details of the JobKeeper payment. On 9 April 2020 the [Coronavirus Economic Response Package \(Payments and Benefits\) Rules 2020](#) were released.

- The JobKeeper Payment is a flat \$1500 payment (before tax) per eligible employee, paid directly to businesses who then use it to subsidise the payment of their employee's wage and pay directly to eligible employees. It is designed to maintain the employment relationship between employers and employees.
- Affected employers will be able to claim a fortnightly payment of \$1500 per eligible employee from 30 March 2020, for a maximum of 6 months. Businesses will receive the first payments in the first week of May. The JobKeeper scheme ends on 27 September 2020.
- Eligibility is dependent on employers having suffered a substantial decline in the projected GST turnover compared to a relevant comparison period's turnover. For entities with a turnover of over \$1 billion, the reduction must be at least 50 per cent, for entities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission the reduction must at least 15 per cent, and for other entities at least 30 per cent.
- Full-time workers; part-time workers, sole traders, long-term casual employees (casuals who have been with their employer for 12 months or more and were employees of the business as of 1 March 2020), not for profit entities, New Zealanders on 444 visas, and migrants who are eligible for JobSeeker Payment or Youth Allowance (Other) will be eligible for the subsidy.
- Employees who have been stood down by their employer since 1 March 2020 will be eligible.
- Under the 'one in, all in' principle, if an employer decides to participate in the JobKeeper scheme then they must ensure that all eligible employees are covered (including employees still working for the employer and those that have been stood down).
- If workers ordinarily received \$1500 or more income per fortnight before tax, they will continue to receive regular income according to the prevailing workplace instrument, the JobKeeper Payments will subsidise part or all of their income.
- The payment is a minimum of \$1500 per fortnight, before tax.



- Employees may be eligible for both JobSeeker and JobKeeper payments if they have been stood down. However, they would need to report their JobKeeper income to Services Australia, and are likely to no longer be eligible for income support as a result of receiving the JobKeeper Payment
- Superannuation payments will not be made on the JobKeeper Payment, it will be up to employers if they want to pay superannuation or any additional wage paid because of JobKeeper Payments.
- Amendments repealed core provisions of Part 6-4C of the Act by authorising an employer who qualifies for the JobKeeper scheme to:
  - give a JobKeeper enabling stand down direction to an employee, this can also include a reduction in work hours;
  - direct an employee to perform different duties than they usually perform;
  - direct employees to work at a different location than they usually would;
  - make an agreement in relation to the days or times when an employee is to perform work; and
  - make an agreement in relation to when an employee takes annual leave (including at half pay).
- Directions given by an employer will not apply if the direction is unreasonable in all of the circumstances. Directions in relation to the duties performed by the employee or the location of work, will not apply unless the employer reasonably believes the direction is necessary to continue the employment of one or more employees.
- Disputes regarding the operation of this Part of the Act including JobKeeper enabling directions or flexibility agreements may be dealt with by the Fair Work Commission. Information regarding [JobKeeper disputes](#) can be found on the Fair Work Commission website.
- The temporary changes to the Act will be repealed on 28 September 2020. Further information regarding the JobKeeper payment can be found on the [Australian Tax Office](#) and [Services Australia](#) websites.
- Following the release of the Commonwealth Treasury's [review of the JobKeeper payment](#), on 21 July the Government [announced it was extending the payment](#) until 28 March 2021 for eligible businesses continuing to be significantly impacted by COVID-19.
- To be eligible for JobKeeper Payments from 28 September 2020, businesses and not-for-profits will still need to demonstrate that they have experienced a decline in turnover of: 50 per cent for those with an aggregated turnover of more than \$1 billion; 30 per cent for those with an aggregated turnover of \$1 billion or less; or 15 per cent for Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission-registered charities (excluding schools and universities). This is based on actual GST turnover rather than projected.
  - From 28 September 2020, businesses and not-for-profits will be assessed with reference to actual GST turnover in the June and September quarters 2020 in order to be eligible from 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021.
  - From 4 January 2021, businesses and not-for-profits will need to have met the relevant decline in turnover test in each of the June, September and December quarters 2020 to be eligible from 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021
- From 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021, the JobKeeper Payment rates will be:
  - \$1200 per fortnight for all eligible employees who, in the 4 weeks of pay periods before 1 March 2020, were working in the business or not-for-profit for 20 hours or more a week on average, and for eligible business participants who were actively engaged in the business for 20 hours or more per week on average in the month of February 2020; and
  - \$750 per fortnight for other eligible employees and business participants.
- From 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021, the JobKeeper Payment rates will be:

- \$1000 per fortnight for all eligible employees who, in the 4 weeks of pay periods before 1 March 2020, were working in the business or not-for-profit for 20 hours or more a week on average and for business participants who were actively engaged in the business for 20 hours or more per week on average in the month of February 2020; and
- \$650 per fortnight for other eligible employees and business participants.
- On 21 July 2020, the Government also [announced that it would be making changes to the social safety net](#) for people impacted by COVID-19 from 25 September to 31 December 2020, including:
  - adjusting the Coronavirus Supplement to \$250 a fortnight;
  - increasing the income free area for JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other) to \$300 a fortnight, with this payment being reduced by 60 cents in the dollar on amount earned over \$300 a fortnight;
  - the reinstatement of the following means tests:
    - asset testing for all payments for both existing and new recipients (ongoing);
    - the liquid assets waiting period (LAWP) for all payments applying to new recipients (ongoing); and
    - the JobSeeker Payment partner income test taper rate will increase from 25 cents to 27 cents for every dollar of partner income earned over \$1165 per fortnight, ensuring that an eligible person with no income can receive the JobSeeker Payment and Coronavirus Supplement provided their partner earns less than \$80,238.89 per annum.
- Expanded eligibility criteria for JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other) will continue, allowing access for permanent employees who are stood down or lose their employment and sole traders, the self-employed, casual workers and contract workers (who meet the income and assets tests) until 31 December 2020.
- On 3 August 2020, in response to new restrictions on movement and business activities coming into effect in Victoria, the Commonwealth Government [announced that affected businesses previously not on JobKeeper can apply](#) based on the prospective impact of further restrictions. Similarly, people who potentially face the loss of their employment can apply prospectively for JobSeeker. Mutual obligation arrangements for Victorian JobSeeker recipients have been suspended. The Commonwealth Government also announced the establishment of a Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment available to eligible Victorians from 5 August. This is a \$1500 fortnightly payment for people needing to isolate for a period of 14 days that will be available to those who do not have leave available. This replaces the Victorian Government's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Worker support payment for those who otherwise may not have accessed Commonwealth payments.
- On 5 August 2020, the Commonwealth Government further [announced childcare measures for Victorian families](#) during the Stage 4 lockdown. With children, except for vulnerable children and those of permitted workers, in metropolitan Melbourne no longer be able to attend childcare for 6 weeks, Melbourne families will receive an additional 30 days (6 weeks) of allowable absence from childcare. Combined with a gap fee waiver, this should ensure families will not be charged fees for keeping their children at home and will therefore not have to withdraw from the system. The increase to allowable absence days means the Commonwealth Government can continue to pay its contribution to service through the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) of up to 85 per cent of the total cost of care. As well, a higher transition payment of 30 per cent of pre-COVID revenue for Melbourne services subject to stage 4 lockdowns and further additional top-up payments for eligible services that receive low CCS payment and experience very low attendance. Parts of regional Victoria under stage 3 lockdown will receive 30 additional absence days and extension of the gap fee waiver and Outside Hours Scholl Care (OSHC) payment. These OHSOC services will be paid 15 per cent of their revenue from 6 August in addition to the 25 per cent Transition Payment and CCS.

- On 7 August 2020, additional [changes to JobKeeper payment eligibility were announced](#)
  - From 28 September 2020, businesses and not-for-profits will only be assessed with reference to their actual GST turnover in the September quarter 2020 to be eligible from 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021.
  - From 4 January 2021, businesses and not-for-profits will need to demonstrate that they have met the relevant decline in turnover in the December quarter 2020 to be eligible from 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021
  - For employees, the reference date for assessing eligibility becomes 1 July 2020 with effect from 3 August 2020. The reference period for employees regarding their hours worked to determine their tier of payment will be the 2 fortnightly pay periods prior to 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020.
- On 1 September 2020, the [Coronavirus Economic Response Package \(Jobkeeper Payments\) Amendment Bill 2020 passed](#) both houses of Parliament. The Bill:
  - confirmed the previously announced reduction in the JobKeeper rate from 28 September to \$1200 a fortnight and to \$1000 from January 2021, with a lower payment rate introduced for employees who worked less than 20 hours a week before the pandemic; and
  - set the reference date for assessing eligibility of employees to 1 July 2020 (with effect from 3 August 2020). The reference period for employees regarding their hours worked to determine their tier of payment will be the two fortnightly pay periods prior to 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020.
- [On 26 August 2020, announced](#) that from 22 August, Tasmanian workers are eligible for the \$1500 Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment if they cannot work because they need to self-isolate, quarantine or care for someone who has COVID-19 for 14 days. Tasmanian workers are eligible for the payment if they are instructed by a health official to stay home from work and have used up any sick leave entitlements and are not receiving income, earnings or salary maintenance from work, the JobKeeper payment or other forms of Australian Government income support.
- [On 28 August 2020, announced](#) that the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment was extended to people living in New South Wales and South Australia who work in Victoria.
- [On 16 September 2020, announced](#) that the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment arrangements were extended to Western Australia.
- On 20 September 2020, the New South Wales Government [announced](#) that the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment arrangements were extend to New South Wales workers.
- On 23 October 2020, announced that the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment arrangements were extended to [Queensland](#) and [South Australian](#) workers. [On 10 November, announced](#) (subject to the passage of legislation) the extension of the temporary Coronavirus Supplement at the reduced rate of \$150 per fortnight from 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021.
- [On 4 December 2020](#), announced that the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment arrangements were extended to the Australian Capital Territory.
- [On 3 June 2021, the Commonwealth Government announced](#) that from 8 June 2021, workers who reside or work in Commonwealth declared COVID-19 hotspots who have had their hours of work and income significantly affected due to state lockdowns, will be eligible for a temporary COVID Disaster Payment in respect of the second and any subsequent weeks of restrictions. Eligible recipients will receive up to \$500 per week for losing 20 hours or more of work and \$325 per week for losing under 20 hours a week of work. To be eligible, recipients must: have no more than \$10 000 of liquid assets; be Australian citizens, permanent residents or hold an eligible working visa; have exhausted any leave entitlements (other than annual leave); and not be receiving income support payments, business support payments, or the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment.

[Fact sheet: Jobkeeper payment – Information for Employees](#)

[Fact sheet: JobKeeper Payment – Supporting businesses to retain jobs](#)

[Fact sheet: JobKeeper Payment – Information for employers](#)

[Fact sheet: Extension of the JobKeeper Payment \(last updated 10 August\)](#)

<https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper/extension>

<https://www.ato.gov.au/general/jobkeeper-payment/employers/your-eligible-employees/>

[The JobKeeper Payment: Three-month review](#)

[Coronavirus Economic Response Package \(Payments and Benefits\) Rules 2020](#)

<https://www.dese.gov.au/covid-19/childcare>

<https://www.dese.gov.au/covid-19-restrictions-and-early-childhood-education-and-care-sector>

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/pandemic-leave-disaster-payment>

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/pandemic-leave-disaster-payment-victoria>

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/pandemic-leave-disaster-payment-tasmania>

[https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-10/Fact\\_sheet-Income\\_Support\\_for\\_Individuals\\_0.pdf](https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-10/Fact_sheet-Income_Support_for_Individuals_0.pdf)

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<https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/households/increased-income-support>

[https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/02\\_2021/atd\\_enhanced-social-security-safety-net\\_24022021.pdf](https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/02_2021/atd_enhanced-social-security-safety-net_24022021.pdf)

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/covid-19-disaster-payment>

**State governments** have announced policies providing temporary relief for employees and households, including:

- **New South Wales:** [in April 2020 announced](#) a moratorium on applications for forced evictions due to rental arrears for those financially disadvantaged by COVID-19, as well as requirements for landlords and tenants to enter into negotiations over rental payments in good faith. [On 23 September, it was announced](#) the moratorium was extended until 26 March 2021. Residents over 18 years of age will receive \$100 worth of vouchers to use for dining and entertainment to help support businesses and jobs under the [Out & About Scheme](#) from January 2021. Additionally, [on 25 March 2021](#), the government announced 200,000 accommodation vouchers worth \$100 to residents of New South Wales as part of the Dine and Discover NSW package.
- **Victoria:** the \$1500 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Worker support payment is available to Victorian residents diagnosed with COVID-19 who do not have access to sick leave. This was subsequently replaced by the Commonwealth Government's [Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment](#). People may also qualify for a \$300 test isolation payment if they have symptoms, have taken a COVID-19 test, and do not have paid leave to self-isolate. This was increased on 13 August 2020 to \$450. The payment is also available for parents and guardians caring for someone 16 years and under who is self-isolating while waiting for their COVID-19 test results. Anyone living in Victoria can receive the payment. [Announced on 9 August 2020](#), that all kinder will be free for Term 3, through free sessional kinder support. Further [announced on 17 September](#) that sessional kinder will remain free for most families in Term 4 of 2020 when early childhood services reopen to all Victorian children on 5 October. Additionally, the [Extreme Hardship Support Program](#) was extended on 31 December to also include international students. This program provides emergency funding to people who are not eligible for Commonwealth Government income support. In October, the Victorian Government doubled the payment to individuals from \$400 to \$800. [On 7 June 2020, announced](#) further food and financial support for communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This included: expansion of the CALD Communities Taskforce; supporting new partnerships between food relief organisations and local hospitality businesses; expansion of Foodbank Victoria's mobile food van service, servicing vulnerable groups (casual workers and students); boosting the Priority Response to Multicultural Communities

grants program; extension of the Extreme Hardship Support Program; and a boost to emergency financial assistance, information, referral and complex casework support.

- **South Australia:** a one-off boost of \$500 and bringing forward the 2020–21 'Cost of Living Concession' for households receiving the Centrelink JobSeeker Payment. On 25 August 2020, [announced a Paid Pandemic Leave Scheme](#) that will offer payments of up to \$1500 for eligible workers who are required to quarantine, or care for someone required to quarantine, for up to 14 days following a positive COVID-19 test or as a result of a public health directive. A separate upfront payment of \$300 will also be available for eligible workers in an identified COVID-19 cluster who are required to self-isolate while awaiting a COVID-19 test result, are caring for someone who meets the eligibility criteria or as a result of a public health directive. Recipients must be: 17 years or older; a citizen, permanent resident, or holder of necessary visa and work permits; an employee who can demonstrate they would have ordinarily worked and cannot do so as a result of the need to isolate, and does not have sufficient entitlement to necessary paid leave; and is not receiving any other Australian Government payments during the period of self-isolation.
- **Queensland:** a \$200 rebate for all Queensland households to offset the cost of water and electricity bills.
- **Western Australia:** a doubling in the Energy Assistance Payment (EAP) to \$610 for eligible concession card holders (Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card or Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card) including new eligible applicants until 30 September 2020, with an upfront \$305 credited against their electricity bill from 11 May 2020 and up to a further \$305 credited over the next year; EAP boost payments have been brought forward to this financial year; no households to have their power or water disconnected and no interest charged on deferred bill payments; late payment penalties to be waived for transfer duty, landholder duty, vehicle licence duty or land tax. [Announced on 4 October 2020](#) to provide a one-off credit of \$600 for residential customers to use on electricity bills.
- **Tasmania:** a one-off payment of \$250 per adult and \$125 per child up to a maximum \$1000 per household available to low-income persons who are required by Public Health to self-isolate due to COVID-19 risk. From 22 August 2020, this was replaced by the Commonwealth Government Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment.
- **Australian Capital Territory:** committed to implement a six-month moratorium on rental eviction for any tenants under financial duress due to COVID-19; a rent reduction rebate if landlords reduce tenants' rent by at least 25 per cent for up to six months with the government matching 50 per cent of the reduction to a maximum of \$2600; a temporary freeze on rental increases and prevent 'blacklisting' as a result of being unable to pay rent. The residential tenancy [relief measure has been extended](#) to 30 June 2021.
- **Northern Territory:** commencement of the [Residential Tenancies Bill 2019](#) has been deferred to allow for further legislative changes in line with local and national responses to COVID-19, further legislative amendments to create longer negotiation periods between tenants and landlords and fairer terms for new leases for demonstrated hardship due to COVID-19; an extension of six months to the [Home Improvement Scheme](#) where homeowners can apply for a \$4000 voucher if they contribute at least \$1000 of their own money or \$6000 if they contribute at least \$2000.

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