

## THE CHAMBER UPDATE

01 March 2021

### Assistance for Business during Alert Level 3 and 2 lockdown

#### [COVID-19 Wage Subsidy](#)

Work and Income are currently seeking contact details from businesses interested in the wage subsidy scheme and will advise when there are more details available including what the scheme criteria is and what funding will be available.

#### Resurgence Support Payment

A Resurgence Support Payment will also be available from late-February 2021 for eligible businesses throughout New Zealand, if there's a move to Alert Level 2 or above for 7 or more consecutive days. This one-off payment is to help businesses affected by the Alert Level upgrade with fixed costs.

When the RSP is activated, eligible businesses and organisations can apply to receive the lesser of:

- \$1,500 plus \$400 per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee, up to a maximum of 50 FTEs
- four times (4x) the actual revenue drop experienced by the applicant.

Applications for the payment will open in myIR for eligible business and organisations 7 days after the alert level increase. They will remain open for one month after the return to alert level 1.

More information can be found [here](#).

#### COVID-19 Short-Term Absence Payment

This payment is available to employers to help pay their workers who cannot work from home while they wait for a COVID-19 test result.

- This payment is available from 9 February 2021;
- This payment is for eligible employees that cannot work from home and need stay at home while they wait for a COVID-19 test result.
- It is a one-off \$350 payment for each eligible worker. It can only be applied for once per worker in each 30 day period, unless a health official or doctor tells the worker to get another test.

More information about the COVID-19 Short-Term Absence Payment can be found [here](#).

We recommend that everybody reads the MSD info on the STA payments, particularly under the heading “workers who are not eligible”. The application of this payment seems quite narrow, in

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that it won't cover a person who himself/herself decides to get a test. There needs to be an element of 'compulsion'.

### COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme

This scheme is available employers to help pay their employees who need to self-isolate and can't work from home.

The Leave Support Scheme is paid at a flat rate of:

- \$585.80 for people who were working 20 hours or more per week (full-time rate)
- \$350.00 for people who were working less than 20 hours per week (part-time rate).

The Leave Support Scheme is paid as a lump sum and covers 2 weeks per employee from the date you submit your application. You can't apply for less than 2 weeks.

More information about the Scheme can be found [here](#).

The details around application of both STAP and LSS can be nuanced and businesses should carefully work through the criteria to understand their entitlement. Note – employees don't receive the payment, the business does on behalf of the employee.

### Other funding options for business

[Business Finance Guarantee scheme](#)

[Business cash flow and tax measures](#)

[Small Business Cashflow Loan Scheme](#) – available until 31 December 2023

[Insolvency relief for businesses](#)

[COVID-19 commercial lease dispute services](#) – available until 31 March 2020

[Apprenticeship Boost initiative](#) – available until April 2022

[COVID-19 financial support tool](#) - the tool will take you through a series of questions tell you what financial help and support you can access, and where you can apply or find more information.