

COVID-specific Government payments for workers & businesses in NSW August 2021

Below is the link to a PDF, which is an overview all these payments and grants. It contains further links for detailed information on eligibility and what you need to provide in the application to government.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-07/Summary%20of%20measures.pdf>

COVID-19 Disaster Payment is to help workers when COVID-19 restrictions last for more than seven days. This includes a public health lockdown, a period of restricted movement or a declared COVID-19 hotspot.

Amounts vary based on location and time period of the lockdown, which started in July 2021 in NSW. The government recently increased the payment amount. From Aug 8, in NSW, you receive \$450 or \$750 (depending on work hours lost in any given week). COVID-19 Disaster Payment is for employees and sole traders. Most sex workers would be sole traders, even if you work in someone else's business.

If your existing income includes a government support payment (Centrelink) the COVID-19 Disaster Payment is \$200 per week, on top of your regular payment.

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

Eligibility includes:

- Live or work in a Commonwealth declared **COVID-19 hotspot**. Are in paid employment and cannot attend work and lost income on or after day 8 of COVID-19 restrictions.
- Have no entitlement to relevant paid leave or have exhausted their entitlement.
- Are an Australian resident or hold an eligible working visa.

To Apply: Australian residents, the payment can be claimed online through your **myGov** account. If no account, visit Service Australia website. If you are an eligible working visa holder, you will need to call Services Australia on 180 22 66 to make your claim.

The government will not allow you to apply for COVID-19 Disaster and the NSW payments below. You must choose.

COVID-19 Micro Business Grant if you are a 'micro' business or sole trader in NSW you may be eligible for \$1 500 per fortnight payment.

For businesses or sole traders who:

- Have a turnover between \$30 000 and \$75 000.
- Have a revenue decline of 30% or more due to the NSW lockdown.
- Are businesses that provide the primary income source for a person associated with the business.

Apply online: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/2021-covid-19-micro-business-grant>

JobSaver NSW sole traders and businesses may be eligible for the JobSaver payment, co-funded by the Commonwealth

Eligibility:

- Employing businesses: 40% of weekly payroll, with a minimum payment of \$1 500 per week and a maximum payment of \$10 000 per week. Non-employing business: \$1 000 per week
- Eligible businesses must have: A revenue decline of 30% or more; Turnover \$75 000 or above.

Apply online: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/jobsaver-payment>

Service NSW asks for specific and detailed information (e.g., evidence of turnover decline, ABN/ACN, BAS, tax payments etc). Some businesses and sole traders may not have this information on hand and will need supporting evidence from their accountant.

Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment NSW support if you live in New South Wales and can't earn an income because you must self-isolate or quarantine, or are caring for someone with COVID-19. You may be eligible for \$1500 for the period of 14 days.

It is a lump sum payment to help you during the 14 days you have been directed to self-isolate or quarantine by NSW Health or when you are caring for someone who has COVID-19.

Eligibility:

You must also meet all of the following:

- You're at least 17 years old and live in New South Wales
- You're an Australian resident or hold a visa that gives you the right to work in Australia
- You're unable to go to work and earn an income
- You have no appropriate leave entitlements, including pandemic sick leave, personal leave or leave to care for another person
- Your period of quarantine is after 17 September 2020.

Apply online: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/pandemic-leave-disaster-payment-new-south-wales/how-claim>

- Call Services Australia on 180 22 66 where they can take your claim.
- Print and complete the [Claim for Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment – New South Wales](#) form and fax it to 1300 727 760.

Test and Isolate Support Payment is a one-off payment of \$320 to help meet the cost of wages lost whilst self-isolating at home waiting for COVID-19 test results.

Eligibility:

The payment is available to NSW workers in eligible local government areas (see below) of Greater Sydney who do not have sick, carer's or pandemic leave.

- You must be aged 17 years or over
- Live in one of the following [local government areas \(LGAs\) of concern](#)
- Have had a COVID-19 test (nose and throat swabs known as PCR tests) due to experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or be the carer or guardian of someone who has had a test due to experiencing symptoms
- Have needed to self-isolate after your COVID-19 test, or be the carer or guardian for someone who needed to self-isolate after their test
- Be likely to have worked during the period of self-isolation and are unable to work due to:
 - being required to self-isolate following a COVID-19 test
 - having to care for someone who is required to self-isolate following a COVID-19 test.

Apply online:

Within 7 days of having the test.

- Go to your MyServiceNSW Account – you can create one when you start your application
- Enter the details of the date, time and location of your COVID-19 test (including the reference number provided by NSW Health or the testing facility, if known)
- Provide one proof of identity document such as your Australian Drivers Licence, Medicare card or passport
- Provide proof of address such as a rates notice, lease agreement or utility bill
- Provide proof of employment or self-employment such as a payslip, contract, letter from employer or ABN
- Provide your bank account details for payment.

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-test-and-isolate-support-payment>

Extreme hardship payment is delivered through the Red Cross, and is an emergency payment of \$400 for people who:

- Live in Greater Sydney
- Are unable to access Commonwealth income support (including Job Seeker and SRSS)
- Have zero or very limited income, savings or community support
- Are a temporary or provisional visa holder, or undocumented migrant

Apply online:

You will need to provide:

1. Evidence of your current or most recent visa status
2. Evidence of financial hardship

<https://www.redcross.org.au/get-help/help-for-migrants-in-transition/help-for-migrants-in-transition/nsw-relief>

***SWOP can provide sex workers in NSW with contact details of sex worker friendly accountants and tax agents.
Please contact us on 02 9184 9466 or swopconnect@swop.org.au***