



Tuesday, 7 April 2020
Issue 12.0

Today the Prime Minister and Premiers have agreed to a [mandatory code of conduct for commercial tenancies](#) to be legislated across all states and territories. The new rules will apply to commercial tenancies where the tenant or landlord is eligible for the JobKeeper payment and has a turnover of \$50 million or less. Overall this is considered a good thing for a small business and no doubt greatly appreciated by those who qualify.

VACC does recognise, however, that some members will not qualify (those with higher than \$50million turnover) and for this reason, we will be pursuing a meeting with the Crisis Council of Cabinet (CCC) to put the case of industry forward. I also wrote an OpEd earlier today "Battlefront: Rent assistance for all business" calling for the government not to penalise businesses who turnover more than \$50 million per annum. You can read the OpEd [HERE](#).

The mandatory Code of Conduct can be accessed [HERE](#).

The Prime Minister's Press Release can be accessed [HERE](#).

With regard to the JobKeeper program, we are expecting further details to be released tomorrow once the legislation has been passed. We will ensure this information gets out to members as quickly as possible. In the meantime, please continue to contact Industrial Relations with any JobKeeper queries.

I would also like to draw members' attention to the financial relief that is being offered by banks. VACC reiterates it's important you read the fine print regarding the terms of various loan deferrals, as a deferral is not necessarily 'freeze'. We address this in a segment of the update.

Finally, we would also welcome your feedback on this daily Update. You can email your feedback to vacc.admin@vacc.com.au or simply reply to this email.

As always, please continue to engage with VACC, we are here to help.

1. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

JobKeeper package

As more information is coming to hand on the JobKeeper package we will keep members updated.

Legislation is likely to be passed by Federal Parliament tomorrow (Wednesday), informing us of the detail related to the package and its implementation.

In the meantime, the Government has released this list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Please note these are yet to be updated again soon, but may prove helpful in the interim.

Members are reminded to channel any JobKeeper questions directly to the Industrial Relations team until further notice.

IR hotline: 03 9829 1123.

Government Grants and Schemes

As announced in yesterday's Update, VACC is pleased to welcome Ms Andrea Chwalko to the Industrial Relations team.

Andrea's role is to address member questions relating to the available government grants, support, initiatives and schemes.

Andrea's details are:

E: achwalko@vacc.com.au

Ph: 0438 723 608

Please note, until further information is available on the JobKeeper program, members must still contact IR via the hotline: 03 9829 1123.

2. MEMBER SERVICES

Impact of COVID-19 on Victorian Franchise Dealers: Paper

IPA Michael McKenna has prepared a comprehensive paper "**The impact of COVID-19 on Victorian Automobile Dealer Association (VADA) dealership businesses**". The paper utilises publicly accessible data and VACC survey data gleaned from a random sample of 70 VADA members.

The results show the impact of COVID-19 on the following dealership profit centres:

- New car
- Used Car
- Parts
- Finance and Insurance
- Service and repair

Dealer members are encouraged to read the paper as it contains advice on VACC's strategy for future consumer issues citing COVID-19 under the Australian Consumer Law and how it may be connected to buyer's remorse and commercial rent issue.

VADA will provide an updated environmental scan on COVID-19 and its impact in mid to late April 2020.

Members are encouraged to keep in close communication with VACC throughout this period and report any issues to you Industry Policy Advisor.

Member can access the paper [HERE](#).

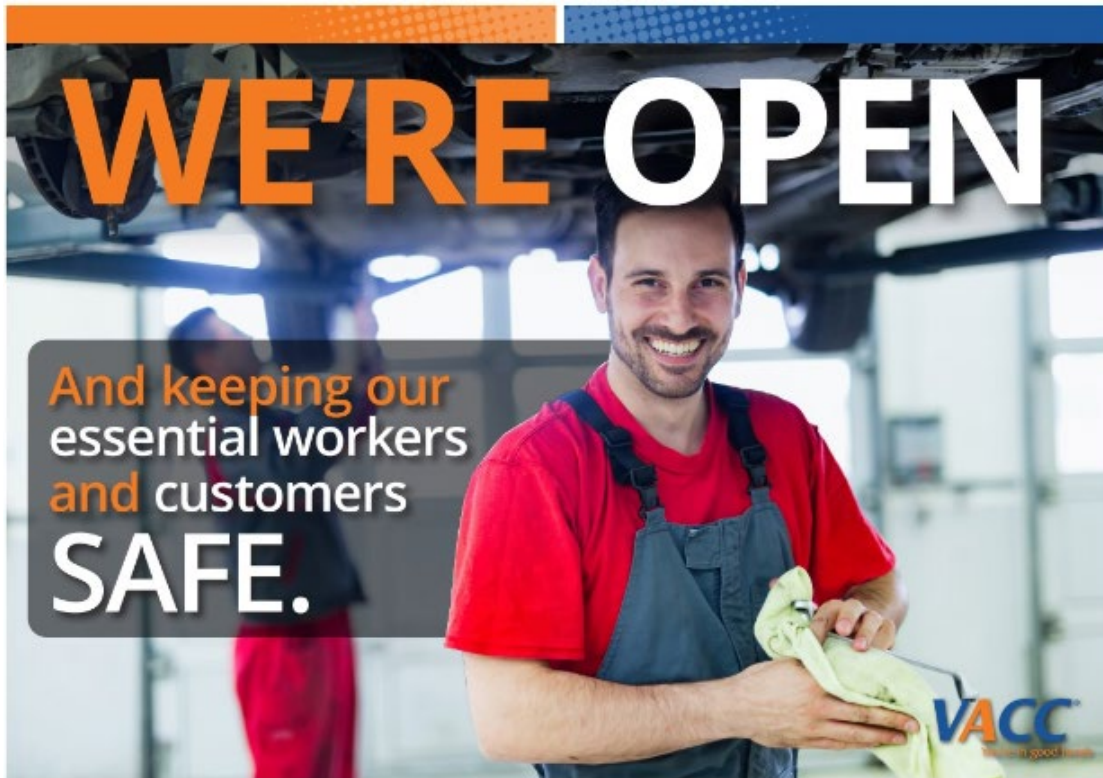
Customer communication templates

VACC is here to support member businesses during these difficult times. This includes assisting with customer communications: letting them know their doors are open.

The Chamber has designed a series of posters, including a 'We're open' sign, which can be downloaded, printed and displayed on the business premises.

Additionally, the VACC website provides simple templates to assist with your communication plan.

These templates and posters can be accessed



3. FINANCE

Financial Hardship: how banks are helping

The Australian Banking Association has hardship information available on their website. They specify that the type of assistance will depend on individual circumstances.

Assistance may include:

- A deferral of scheduled loan repayments
- Waiving fees and charges
- Debt consolidation to help make repayments more manageable.

Click [HERE](#) to read a list of Frequently Asked Questions provide by the Australian Banking Association.

COVID-19: relief FAQs

1. Are banks open?	+
2. Who is the business relief package available to?	+
3. How can my bank help me exactly?	+
4. Does business relief apply to sole traders?	+
5. How do I get the assistance?	+
6. Is my business eligible?	+
7. Can a business borrow money at this time?	+
8. What evidence will I need to prove I've been impacted by COVID-19?	+
9. Can I get help with my mortgage?	+

Members should be aware of what 'loan deferral' really means

Members will be aware that many banks have announced a 'loan deferral' option on commercial and individual loans.

It is important that members fully understand what this means and should ask their bank to be explicit.

ABC News has reported that all of the big banks will apply **interest capitalisation**. This means that interest will still be accrued during the deferral period and added to your outstanding loan balance.

Read the full article [HERE](#), which also includes Frequently Asked Questions.

A COVID-19 mortgage deferral won't affect your credit rating

The Australian Banking Association has reported that any Australian who is granted a six month deferral on loan repayments on their mortgage or other credit products, such as a credit card, will not have their credit rating affected as a result of that deferral, provided they were up to date with repayments prior to COVID-19.

Read the full article [HERE](#).

4. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Austrade

Austrade has developed a COVID-19 information and insights page [HERE](#), which is regularly updated.

Information regarding the recently announced International Air Freight Mechanism and extra funding for EMDG can be found [HERE](#)

5. Previous Update Issues

- [Monday, 23 March 2020 - Issue 1](#)
- [Tuesday, 24 March 2020 - Issue 2](#)
- [Wednesday, 25 March 2020 - Issue 3](#)
- [Thursday, 26 March 2020 - Issue 4](#)
- [Friday, 27 March 2020 - Issue 5](#)
- [Monday, 30 March 2020 - Issue 6](#)
- [Tuesday, 31 March 2020 - Issue 7](#)
- [Wednesday, 1 April 2020 - Issue 8](#)
- [Thursday, 2 April 2020 - Issue 9](#)
- [Friday, 3 April 2020 - Issue 10](#)
- [Monday, 6 April 2020 - Issue 11](#)

Geoff Gwilym

Chief Executive Officer

Disclaimer: *The information gathered has been drawn from a number of sources and VACC strongly recommends that members revert to the primary source of information for any clarification.*