



Thursday, 21 May 2020
Issue 28.0

1. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

JobKeeper enrolment closing soon

The final opportunity for employers to claim paid wages from April and May is approaching, with the JobKeeper subsidy enrolment deadline closing on Sunday, 31 May.

Members requiring help with the application process or advice on eligibility, can contact the VACC Industrial Relations Department on 03 9829 1123 or Andrea Chwalko achwalko@vacc.com.au.

2. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Applications for the Business Support Fund close 1 June

Members are reminded that applications for the \$10,000 grant close 11.59pm Monday, 1 June 2020.

To be eligible, businesses must already employ staff, have payroll of less than \$650,000 and a turnover of more than \$75,000.

Full details on eligibility and how to apply are set out on the Business Support Fund webpage www.business.vic.gov.au/businesssupportfund.

Members can also contact Andrea Chwalko achwalko@vacc.com.au for further assistance.

3. GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Providing the skills for businesses to emerge stronger

The Victorian Government is providing businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic free access to top online short courses and training events.

Launched today, 'Upskill My Business' is in partnership with key industry groups and education providers, as part of the \$1.7 billion Economic Survival Package.

Businesses can access online programs, short courses and events via the platform, which covers topics ranging from business innovation and staff development to export preparation.

Businesses can find out if there is a program to assist them and their workers at the Upskill My Business website, www.upskill.business.vic.gov.au, or by calling the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15.

Read the full media release [HERE](#).

Victorian Parliament will return to scheduled sittings from the start of June

Victorian Parliament will return to scheduled sittings from the start of June, as restrictions that were put in place to slow the spread of coronavirus are slowly being lifted.

Parliament last sat on Thursday, 23 April to pass emergency legislation to keep government services operating and fund critical investments to protect the health system, support jobs and help businesses survive.

Under the schedule announced today, both houses of Parliament will sit from 2-4 June and 16-18 June. Parliament will then break for the previously scheduled winter recesses before returning on 4 August.

4. NEWS

Least cost routing to help small businesses on road to recovery

The Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman Kate Carnell is calling on banks to make “least cost routing” – a method of sending tap-and-go payments via the cheapest payment pathway to limit the costs incurred by merchants – available to small business as a matter of urgency.

It is estimated about \$30 million in extra fees were paid by merchants during March, due to banks directing debit card contactless payments to global companies such as Visa and Mastercard.

Read the full news article [HERE](#).

5. PREVIOUS UPDATE ISSUES

You can read previous Updates of COVID-19 [HERE](#).

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.*