

## Extension of the Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme until 15 March 2022

Dear members

VACC would like to advise you that the Victorian Government has [extended the CTRS](#) until 15 March 2022. The [regulations](#) have been made and FAQs available on the [Victorian Small Business Commission's website have also been updated](#). Where a change has been made to a FAQ, it is marked as updated 2 February 2022.

Template letters, tables and forms for dispute assistance have also been updated and available on the [VSBC website](#).

### **Key features of the extended Scheme include:**

- The small business tenant's turnover must be under \$10 million.
- Eligible businesses that make a compliant rent relief request will be eligible for relief that matches their fall in turnover, backdated to 16 January 2022.
- Eligibility is assessed by comparing turnover from January 2020 with turnover from January 2022, or December 2021 if the tenant stopped trading for a week or more during January 2020 and started trading again before 16 January 2022.
- Alternative tests for comparing turnover are available.
- Tenants must still pay the reduced portion of the rent.
- Deferred rent repayments will start on 16 March 2022 for both the extended and previous Schemes – we're .
- VSBC is encouraging tenants who think they might have difficulty paying deferred rent after the Scheme ends to call the [Partners in Wellbeing helpline](#) (1300 375 330) as early as possible for free access to financial counselling and business advice.

***It is important to note that if you are applying for relief under this extended Scheme, you will be required to submit a new application. This is the case even if you have engaged with the Scheme in the past and would like to continue with the same arrangements.***

Members are also reminded that the VSBC is offering free and impartial help to resolve disputes over rent relief, including help early on and mediation. This is available to both landlords and tenants. They are also available to field any questions related to the Scheme. Their contact details can be found [HERE](#).

### **A note for landlords**

VACC has been advised that the [Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund](#) will also be extended. We are awaiting the release of this scheme's guidelines, which will provide specific details. VACC is led to believe this announcement is imminent. Once available, VACC will communicate this to members.

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