

# BULLETIN

## Industrial Relations



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### Coronavirus and Temporary Visa holders - International Students

The Government is making a number of changes to temporary visa holder arrangements during the coronavirus crisis in order to protect the health and livelihoods of Australians, support critical industries, and assist with the rapid recovery post the virus.

Temporary visa holders who are unable to support themselves under these arrangements over the next six months are strongly encouraged by the Government to return home and to make arrangements as quickly as possible.

Changes are also geared towards enabling temporary visa holders to remain in key industries, such as health, aged and disability care, agriculture and food processing.

#### Visa changes - International students

International students in Australia are mainly studying in the higher education or vocational education sector. These students are encouraged to rely on family support, part-time work where available and their own savings to sustain themselves in Australia.

Students who have been here longer than 12 months who find themselves in financial hardship will be able to access their Australian superannuation.

The Government will undertake further engagement with the international education sector who already provide some financial support for international students facing hardship. For example, some education providers are providing fee discounts to international students.

The Government will also be flexible in cases where Coronavirus has prevented international students meeting their visa conditions (such as not being able attend classes).

International students are able to work up to 40 hours per fortnight.

However, international students working in aged care and as nurses have had these hours extended to support these critical sectors.

Also, international students working in the major supermarkets have also had these hours extended to help get stock on shelves during the high demand. From 1 May, their hours will return to the maximum 40 hours a fortnight as more Australians are being recruited into these roles.

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