

ATTENTION:

IMPORTANT PACKAGE OF INFORMATION ON COVID-19 FOR MEMBERS

The World Health Organisation has announced that Coronavirus (COVID-19) is now a declared pandemic. The health and safety of all individuals including your staff, your own health and safety and that of your customers is paramount, and therefore we are hoping that the information that we will provide will give you the resources you need to deal with this pandemic and to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

VACC on a daily basis deals with workplace issues such as Industrial Relations and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) as part of the member representation, advocacy and assistance. Currently however, we are experiencing a unique situation and many members are asking for further assistance and information. We have therefore prepared a package of information for employers on managing and protecting employees and the workplace as a whole and answering some of the general workplace relations and occupational health and safety questions that are being asked by members. The package of material is outlined and attached below.

1. Help protect our staff and prevent the spread of COVID-19

This can be displayed in the front of premises for customers and visitors entering your business. Please click on the [Link](#) to download.

2. Prevention measures provided by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

[Outlines the steps in reducing the risks of Covid-19.](#)

3. Interactive self-assessment tool by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services has developed an interactive self-assessment tool for those living in or travelling from overseas to Victoria. The [self assessment](#) uses the latest advice and will help you better understand the risks and precautions you need to take based on your personal circumstances. They do not ask that you provide any personally identifiable information.

(N.B. This site is constantly being updated therefore the link may temporarily not work).

4. COVID-19 Employer Guide – Managing the workplace in the face of the outbreak

The information booklet is a comprehensive guide for employers on COVID-19 and is [attached](#). This booklet has been labelled Edition 2 so that as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses and advice changes this document can be updated. If members have any common concerns from members regarding COVID-19 that is not addressed in the booklet, please call VACC IR or OHS Department and we will endeavour to ensure it is addressed over the phone. Please note the booklet clearly notes that the content contained in the booklet is intended for general use only and not as a source of legal or other advice.

5. Coronavirus information and support for business

The Australian Government will be providing [direct support for businesses](#) during this time, including wage subsidies for apprentices and trainees and increasing the instant asset write off. The financial assistance, eligibility and timing for the new government support for Australian businesses can be found in the link below. The government will be updating this page accordingly.

ACTU Leave Claim for Casuals

The ACTU has last week called for 2 weeks paid leave for employees isolating themselves after Covid-19 exposure. It is unclear whether the employer or government would pay, although from recent ACTU comments it appears either the employer would pay, or there may be scope for some recovery from government. VACC will assist in continuing to oppose any such claim.

The ACTU is also attempting to highlight that 'casuals don't get sick leave', in relation to periods of isolation to stop the spread of Covid-19. It has been pointed out that casuals are paid in advance for sick leave (through the hourly loading), and that if any additional safety net is warranted, it should come from government, not employers.

VACC is watching this active situation closely and considering options for our members as circumstances change, we will advise members accordingly.

Any feedback and concerns can be directed to the VACC IR and OHS & E Departments, (03) 9829 1123 and 1300 585 136 respectively.



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