

UPDATE, 10:50 am today 29/08/21: Commonwealth COVID-19 disaster payments explained

You may have heard of these disaster payments, you may already be receiving one. But as we enter another week of lockdown, and many Greater Shepparton workers find themselves unable to perform their job roles, it's worth going over a few of the key points again.

What is it?

The COVID-19 Disaster Payment is available to people affected by a COVID-19 state public health order who have lost hours of work, and it supports people who are impacted by extended weekly periods of lockdown, hotspots, and movement restrictions.

It is paid weekly at the following rates:

- \$450 a week for people who have lost between 8 and less than 20 hours of work or one full day of work.
- \$750 a week for people who have lost 20 or more hours of work.
- \$200 a week for people who have lost at least a full day's work and get an eligible Centrelink or Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) payment.

Do I have to use my annual leave before making a claim?

No. People are **not** required to use other leave entitlements before claiming COVID-19 Disaster Payment.

People who choose to take paid leave for the duration of a lockdown period will be considered as receiving income - this means they won't be eligible for the payment.

People may still be eligible if they have taken leave for part of a lockdown period, but have also lost the required work hours and meet the eligibility criteria.

How do I check if I'm eligible and make a claim?

There is plenty of information about eligibility and the application process for the Commonwealth COVID-19 Disaster Payment online at <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/>

Australian residents must claim COVID-19 Disaster Payment online using myGov, by linking Centrelink to their myGov account.

Eligible visa holders need to call the Emergency Information line on 180 22 66, which operates Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.