



NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2021



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

March 2021	
<p>2nd March — Activity Statements due for lodgement and payment for October to December quarter</p> <p>14th March — Jobkeeper Declaration for February due</p> <p>14th March — Jobkeeper fortnight 25 ends</p> <p>22nd March — Lodgement and payment of Monthly Activity Statements for February 2021</p> <p>22nd March—2019/20 Income Tax Payments due for some taxpayers</p> <p>28th March — Jobkeeper Fortnight 26 ends. Jobkeeper scheme finishes</p>	
April 2021	INTERIM ACCOUNTS TAX PLANNING
<p>14th April—Jobkeeper Declaration for Fortnights 25 & 26 due</p> <p>21st April—Monthly Activity Statements due</p> <p>21st April— 2019/20 Income tax payments due for returns due for lodgement 31st March 2021.</p> <p>28th April — Superannuation Guarantee for January to March due.</p> <p>28th April—PAYG Instalment Notices due for payment Jan—March</p>	<p>As we approach the final quarter of the 2020/21 financial year, we, along with many of our clients, turn our focus to year end tax planning.</p> <p>With 2020/21 being a such a different year to previous years, it is more important than ever to review the year to date numbers and map out a strategy to maximise your after tax profits.</p> <p>Many businesses have been receiving tax free government assistance along with taxable assistance such as Jobkeeper.</p>
May 2021	<p>The impact of the full expensing of assets on depreciation claims in 2020/21 should be fully understood as in many cases, this will distort the tax figures.</p> <p>For Salary and Wage taxpayers and investors, the impact of Jobkeeper subsidies and also rent relief and deferred interest on loans may also have unintended tax consequences.</p> <p>By contacting our office to discuss your 2020/21 tax estimates in April/May and early June, this allows time to implement tax planning strategies before year end.</p>
<p>17th May—Income Tax Returns due for lodgment and payment - Companies and Super Funds</p> <p>17th May—Income Tax Returns due for lodgement—most individuals, trusts and partnerships</p> <p>26th May—Activity Statements due for lodgement and payment</p>	



TEAM MEMBER PROFILE— KRIS

Kris has been working with M & B Accountants for the last 9 years as a Bookkeeper.

She assists with the preparation of Financial Statements, Income Tax Returns and Business Activity Statements.

Kris grew up on the family farm at Carngham and loves being outdoors.

Outside of work she enjoys camping with family and friends at Narrawong and the Murray River.

In her spare time she loves watching her children playing sport, gardening and helping out family with any odd jobs.

JOBKEEPER EXPANSION CEASES 28th MARCH

After 26 fortnights, the Jobkeeper subsidy, which has provided support for many businesses since March/April 2020 will cease on 28th March 2021.

For those businesses that are still eligible the final monthly declaration is required to be lodged by 14th April 2021.



WARNING ON ATO SCAM

The Tax Office is warning of a new tax file number scam that has already netted nearly \$120,000 for fraudsters.

The new scam involves a robo-call impersonating the ATO with a pre-recorded message informing the taxpayer that their TFN has been suspended following fraudulent activity.

The ATO advises that they will never:

- Send unsolicited pre-recorded phone messages
- Use aggressive or rude behavior, or threaten you with immediate arrest, jail or deportation
- Suspend your TFN
- Request direct transfers of money to a personal bank account
- Project their number onto your caller ID

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE CIRCUIT BREAKER LOCKDOWN

The State Government of Victoria has recently announced government assistance in the wake of the 5 day “circuit breaker” lockdown across the entire state of Victoria.

The \$143 million support package will offer

- \$2,000 grants for eligible employing and non-employing businesses in the hospitality, food, wholesaling, tourism, events and selected retail industries
- A \$3,000 one-off grant paid automatically to previous recipients of the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund
- Payments for accommodation providers in Melbourne and Regional Victoria that suffered cancellation due to the snap lockdown

Eligibility for the Business Costs Assistance program is dependent on your industry code

The Government has also announced 2 travel vouchers schemes

The Melbourne Travel Voucher Scheme with 40,000 vouchers to support travel in Greater Melbourne will launch soon

The Regional Travel Voucher Scheme has been expanded with an additional 10,000 vouchers to support travel in regional Victoria opening on 30th March at 10:00am.

Further information can be found at www.business.vic.gov.au

COMMERCIAL LANDLORD HARDSHIP FUND

Grants of up to \$3,000 per tenancy are available to eligible small landlords who reduce commercial rent for their tenants under Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme requirements.

At least 50% of the rent relief must be in the form of a rent waiver.

Rent Waiver period commences on 1st January 2021.

Applications are currently open and will remain open until 28th March 2021 or until the funds are exhausted, whichever is sooner.

Further information at <https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/commercial-landlord-hardship-fund-round-2>

VICTORIAN LAND TAX COVID-19 RELIEF

Relief measures have been announced by the State Revenue Office with regard to Land Tax Relief for both 2020 and 2021 Land Tax.

2020

Landowners who were due to pay land tax in 2020, hold at least one non-residential property and have total landholdings of less than \$1m have been granted a deferral until 31st March 2021.

This deferral should have been applied automatically for eligible landholders.

Landlords who have provided rent relief or who are unable to rent a property due to Caronavirus, may be eligible for a 25% reduction on the 2020 Land Tax.

A deferral of the balance was also available through until 31st March 2021.

There was also relief for commercial landlords

Applications for Land Tax Relief close on 31st March 2021

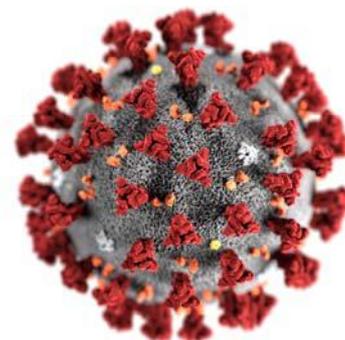
2021

Landlords who provide tenants impacted by Caronavirus with rent relief between 1st January and 28th March 2021 may be eligible for a 25% reduction on the 2021 Land Tax.

Commercial landlords who are providing rent relief to tenants who are receiving Jobkeeper (in March 2021) may also be for Land Tax Relief

Applications are open until 30th June 2021.

Contact M & B Accountants for more information.



CASH FLOW BUDGETING

With the government stimulus over the past 12 months, some businesses have experienced improved cash flow despite the horrific economic conditions.

With government assistance finishing, now is an important time to review your cash flow projection to ensure the continued survival and to improve the growth prospects of your business.

Anticipating the ups and downs of cash flow management will assist in identifying when cash flow will tighten and put in place strategies to mitigate the risks to your business.

Many businesses are also looking to grow and expand. It is vitally important that the business owner consider the impact of that growth on the cash flow of the business.

Please contact our office for assistance with monitoring the cash flow in your business.

WILLS & ESTATE PLANNING

While many people put great thought into their estate and what will happen to their assets upon their passing, other may not consider this at all.

A person's Will may also need to be updated as circumstances change or the wishes of that person evolve over time.

When reviewing your estate planning it is also important to consider:

- Is a Testamentary Trust appropriate in your circumstances?
- Putting in Place a Power of Attorney to act on your behalf, if you are no longer capable?
- What will happen to your interests in private companies and private trusts? Who will control these entities upon your passing?
- Has a nomination been made in relation to your superannuation interest (not included in your will)?

The team at M & B Accountants can assist in this process and liaise with your legal representatives as required.

COVID SAFE PLANS

It is mandatory for all Victorian Businesses with on site operations to have a CovidSafe Plan. Other States and Territories have similar requirements.

Your CovidSafe Plan must demonstrate:

- Your actions to help prevent the introduction of Covid-19 to your workplace
- The type of face mask or personal protective equipment (PPE) required for your workforce
- How you will prepare for, and respond to, a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 in your workplace
- How you will meet all the requirements set out by the Victorian Government. Some higher-risk industries or workplaces have additional requirements of employers and employees.

Organisations with multiple worksites must complete a COVIDSafe Plan for each worksite.

More information can be found at

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covidsafe-plan>



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