

WGANZ COVID-19 BULLETIN 14 April 2020

New support for small to medium-sized businesses 15 Apr 2020

On 15 April the Government announced a set of new relief measures for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Media release and fact sheet](#) on the Beehive website. The fact sheet at the bottom of the page contains a particularly useful table and two examples of tax loss scenarios.

[More information on the tax measures](#) is available on the Inland Revenue website

The new measures include:

- greater flexibility for taxpayers in respect of statutory tax deadlines
- changes to the tax loss continuity rules
- a tax loss carry-back scheme
- measures to support commercial tenants and landlords
- further business consultancy support.

Finance Minister Grant Robertson says while the Government has already acted swiftly in response to the crisis, with about \$20 billion in support already announced, it recognises that more is needed.

The new measures include:

- \$3.1 billion tax loss carry-back scheme (estimated cost over the next two years)
- \$60 million estimated annual savings to business each year from changes to the tax loss continuity rules
- \$25 million in the next 12 months for further business consultancy support
- Greater flexibility for affected businesses affected to meet their tax obligations
- Measures to support commercial tenants and landlords

Mental health support finally improving

The previous day MoH extended the [online resources](#) available publicly for Mental health support dramatically. The contents page lists resources for –

- Supporting your own mental wellbeing
- Supporting others' mental wellbeing
- If you need someone to talk to
- If you're feeling suicidal

- If you're concerned about someone's safety
- Behaviour support services from Explore
- More support coming soon

Having spent some time on the site, we recommend it highly. From one-page cheat sheets to 3-month online courses – all free – the resources are impressive and timely. Addiction support is also covered.

ACC invoicing delayed

ACC has announced that it will delay CoverPlus Extra invoicing for three months, in response to the difficulties visited on businesses by COVID-19.

Phil Riley, Head of Business Customer Service Delivery, ACC, says that “During this time CoverPlus Extra payment plans will be paused, and we will not seek payment for outstanding balances. Rest assured all customers will remain covered at their agreed amount. We are also communicating this directly to our CoverPlus Extra customers.

“Customers on a payment plan with an outstanding amount owing may have their next instalment taken before being paused. They will not have any future payments taken, even if it shows in MyACC for Business.

“We will be in touch if there are any further changes to our invoicing practices during this time, and to let you know when the 2020/21 CoverPlus Extra invoice will be issued, and payment plans will resume.

With regard to other ACC invoicing, Mr Riley says that invoices are still being issued daily, generated by either a change to a customer’s details, or as a result of information sent to ACC from Inland Revenue.

“At this stage these invoices continue to be sent, but we have added an insert to reassure customers that we have options available to support them and we are not actively collecting at this time.

“We will continue to monitor the impact this is having to businesses and be as responsive as possible. Our website up to date with the latest information about our response for business customers.”

This bulletin is brought to you by Advicewise People - 0800 692 384. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the bulletin above, please call Philip or Anthony.
