

COVID-19 Update from NECA: COVID-19 Disaster Payment

What is the COVID-19 Disaster Payment?

The COVID-19 Disaster Payment is a lump sum support payment made to workers who are unable to earn an income as a result of a state public health order such as a COVID-19 lockdown, hotspot or period of restricted movement.

Who can get it?

Employees need to meet eligibility requirements to get the COVID-19 Disaster Payment in New South Wales. Not everyone who lives in New South Wales can get this payment. To get this payment employees need to meet the following requirements:

1. they are at least 17 years old;
2. they are an Australian resident or hold a visa that gives them the right to work in Australia;
3. they are not receiving an income support payment, ABSTUDY Living Allowance, Dad and Partner Pay or Parental Leave Pay;
4. they are not getting the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment;
5. they live in, work from or have visited Greater Sydney, including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Shellharbour and Wollongong;
6. they had paid employment and because they were in the COVID-19 hotspot or are subject to restricted movement, they cannot attend work on or after day 8;
7. they have lost income on or after day 8 and don't have any appropriate paid leave entitlements; and
8. they have liquid assets of less than \$10,000, for a period starting before:
 - a. 8 July 2021 for Parts of Sydney; or
 - b. 11 July 2021 for Greater Sydney.

Employees can get this payment even if they are eligible on only one day of a recognised COVID-19 period of restricted movement, lockdown or hotspot.

What leave is not considered appropriate leave?

Appropriate paid leave does not include any of these types of leave:

1. annual leave;
2. unpaid leave;
3. paid sick and carer's leave;
4. long service leave; or

5. compassionate leave when your employer has stood you down without pay.

This means employees do not need to take these types of leave before they can receive the COVID-19 Disaster Payment.

What periods are claimable?

Parts of Sydney

Parts of Sydney include the Local Government Areas of Bayside, City of Sydney, Canada Bay, Inner West, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra. For parts of Sydney, the restricted movement order applies from 1 July 2021 to 30 July 2021. The following table sets out the periods of the restricted movement order and when claims can be made:

Period	Event dates	Claims open	Claims close
First	1 July to 7 July 2021	1 July 2021	28 July 2021
Second	8 July to 14 July 2021	8 July 2021	4 August 2021
Third	15 July to 21 July 2021	15 July 2021	11 August 2021
Fourth	22 July to 28 July 2021	22 July 2021	18 August 2021
First	29 July to 30 July 2021	29 July 2021	25 August 2021

Greater Sydney

For Greater Sydney, the restricted movement order applies from 4 July 2021 to 30 July 2021. The following table sets out the periods of the restricted movement order and when claims can be made:

Period	Event dates	Claims open	Claims close
First	4 July to 10 July 2021	4 July 2021	31 July 2021
Second	11 July to 17 July 2021	11 July 2021	7 August 2021
Third	18 July to 24 July 2021	18 July 2021	14 August 2021
Fourth	25 July to 30 July 2021	25 July 2021	21 August 2021

How much can your employees get?

The amount employees can receive will depend on the period of the order and the amount of work lost.

For the first and second period of a restricted movement order (as set out above), employees will be eligible to receive the following:

1. \$325 per each period where the employee has lost less than 20 hours of work per week;
or
2. \$500 per each period where the employee has lost 20 hours or more of work per week.

For the third period and beyond of a restricted movement order (as set out above), employees will be eligible to receive the following:

1. \$375 per each period where the employee has lost between 8 hours and less than 20 hours of work per week; or
2. \$600 per each period where the employee has lost a full day of your usual hours per week.

A full day of your usual work is what you were scheduled to work but could not because of a restricted movement order. This includes not being able to attend a full time, part time or casual shift of less than 8 hours.

Please note that the COVID-19 Disaster Payment is a taxable payment. This means employees will need to include it in their income tax return.

How to Claim?

In order to claim the COVID-19 Disaster Payment, Australian residents are required to do so online through their myGov account, which needs to be linked to Centrelink. Further eligible working visa holders can claim over the phone by calling 180 22 66.