

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

Support for Tasmania's Temporary Visa Holders

The Tasmanian Government's number one priority is to keep Tasmanians safe from coronavirus and we will also not turn our back on temporary visa holders in our state.

We understand there are a significant number of temporary visa holders in Tasmania who have lost their jobs due to the restrictions in place to protect Tasmanians, and we know they are experiencing hardship and income loss as a result.

How are we helping?

- We will immediately extend the eligibility for Pandemic Isolation Assistance Grants, if they can demonstrate genuine financial hardship as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.
- We will also provide additional funding to non-government organisations to provide additional emergency relief and assistance where required.
- For those whose country is safe to return to we will assist with travel advice and if necessary due to genuine financial hardship we will on a case by case basis assist with financial support to do so.
- We will work with industry sectors or employers who want to retain their employees because of their specialist skills in the State for when their business is able to start up again and provide additional support in partnership with them so that we don't lose skilled workers that we need.

Which temporary visa holders will benefit?

Those who currently hold the following visas will be eligible for this additional assistance:

- Student visas (Subclass 500);
- Temporary graduates (Subclass 485);
- Provisional Visa Holders (Subclass 489 & 491);
- Temporary Skilled (Subclass 457 & 482); and
- Seasonal Workers (Subclass 403, 417 & 462).

How to access this support

For information on emergency support, such as the Pandemic Isolation Assistance Grants, visit www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/stimulus-and-support/household/emergency-support-for-vulnerable-tasmanians

To register your interest in support to return to your country of origin, call the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738 by 23 May 2020.

More information on next page

What initiatives are already available to temporary visa holders?

The Australian Government has announced temporary changes to visa arrangements to help agricultural business access the workforce it needs. Visit www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/media-releases/supporting-agricultural-businesses-and-ensuring-food-supply

Social support is also available, with the Tasmanian Government having allocated \$790,000 to assist with the acquiring, production and disbursement of food to those Tasmanians unable to access healthy and nutritious meals. Visit www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/stimulus-and-support/community

The Government has also invested \$4 million into mental health support services to plan and respond to COVID-19. This includes \$120,000 for targeted support for Tasmania's migrant community regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Australian Government has also provided \$7 million to Red Cross to provide limited case management and emergency relief support to temporary visa holders nationally.