



A PROGRAM OF



LINKS TO ASSISTANCE DURING COVID-19

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS)

(For daily updates on COVID-19)

www.dhhs.vic.gov.au

https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/04/coronavirus-covid-19-at-a-glance-coronavirus-covid-19-at-a-glance-infographic_0.pdf

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojODBmMmE3NWQtZW50OVRkLTk1NjYtMjYTY1MjI2NzdjIiwidCI6ImMwZTA2MDFmLTBmYWMtNDQ5Yy05Yzg4LWExMDRjNGViOWYyOCJ9>

PAYMENTS AND BENEFITS

Permanent residents and citizens

Centrelink JobSeeker payments:

Register your intent to claim here:

https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/affected-coronavirus-covid-19/if-you-need-payment-coronavirus-covid-19/register-your-intention-claim-payment-coronavirus-covid-19?_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8lufi9fdf4cBM_WnsRxmrfuv2hxDOirI_r_TFKWtgv2hloSyF8p2zLecOhkU7zWLCwQUO4gVEdyLgf5_c_BZhm4SP-hx4jBmBT_paRzyyi8kJhtk-w&_hsmi=85631741&utm_content=85631741&utm_medium=email&utm_source=hs_email

More info on income support: https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Income_Support_for_Individuals.pdf

Sex worker-specific Jobseeker information:

http://www.scarletalliance.org.au/library/applying_for_JobSeeker

Early access to superannuation:

If you're affected by coronavirus you can access up to \$10,000 of your superannuation early, once in the 2019-2020 financial year and again in the 2020-2021 financial year.

We recommend only withdrawing superannuation as a last resort

More info: https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Early_Access_to_Super.pdf

Non-residents/citizens

Red Cross

Financial aid for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants who have no other support:
<https://www.redcross.org.au/about/how-we-help/migration-support/migration-emergency-relief>

Homeward Return Program

Assistance to voluntarily depart Australia with travel expenses covered, if deemed eligible
<https://www.assistedreturns.com.au/>

Updates on visas and border control (language translated options available):

<https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

Hospital care and ambulance cover:

If you do not have Medicare or health insurance and are suspected of having coronavirus (COVID-19) you can access hospital care and ambulance transfer at no cost:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19#what-if-im-from-overseas-and-im-not-eligible-for-medicare>

Contact your home country's embassy or High Commission in Australia for further support:

<https://protocol.dfat.gov.au/Public/MissionsInAustralia>

HOUSING AND TENANCY

Coronavirus Rent Relief Grant:

If you are experiencing rental hardship due to coronavirus you may be eligible

<https://www.housing.vic.gov.au/help-renting/rentrelief>

Eviction Concerns

Tenants Victoria:

They are currently not taking calls and have reached email capacity, but up-to-date advice for renters can be found here: <https://www.tenantsvic.org.au/advice/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Template for writing a letter to your landlord

<https://apps.justiceconnect.org.au/dear-landlord/>

VCAT

1300 01 8228

For legal matters relating to housing. VCAT can also provide legal if needed.

For concerns relating to public or government subsidised housing

Ph: 1300 558 181

Homelessness and crisis accommodation

Opening Doors:

Ph:1800 825 955

This is a 24-hour state-wide toll-free number that will connect you with a housing and support worker closest to you. Note that if the call is outside business hours, it will be directed to Salvation Army Crisis Services.

EMERGENCY FOOD PACKAGES DURING ISOLATION

RhED might be able to provide sex-workers who are in need of food & toiletries with an emergency parcel (dependent on donations and your location) call RhED : **1800 458 752**.

If you are in mandatory self-isolation you can access the emergency relief package by calling Victoria's dedicated coronavirus hotline: **1800 675 398**. This hotline can also refer you to other support services if needed.

ENERGY AND POWER SUPPLIES

Support for individual households

If you're unable to pay your bill on time, contact your retailer to discuss options on how they can help. Their hardship policy will outline the options available and you may be able to delay payments or pay your bill off in smaller amounts.

More info: <https://www.energy.gov.au/energy-sector-response-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/information-australian-households>

Information on the expectations of energy suppliers during COVID-19:

<https://www.aer.gov.au/publications/corporate-documents/aer-statement-of-expectations-of-energy-businesses-protecting-consumers-and-the-energy-market-during-covid-19>

FREE LEGAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT DURING COVID-19

<https://help.justiceconnect.org.au/>

OTHER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES DURING COVID-19

Jobs Hub

While the sex industry is affected by the ban of brothels, clubs, and private work during COVID-19, there are some areas outside of the industry which have an increased demand for workers:

<https://www.dese.gov.au/covid-19/jobs-hubz>

Scarlet Alliance

An in-depth resource for sex workers to set up online

<https://redbook.scarletalliance.org.au/getting-started-in-online-non-contact-work/>

ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH & SUPPORT FOR SEX WORKERS

Pineapple support

Free support groups and therapy service for people working in the adult online entertainment industry. Online video therapy sessions run by sex-worker friendly, kink-aware therapists.

<https://pineapplesupport.org/>

SHIPS Psychology

SHIPS is a kink-friendly, poly-friendly, sex work-positive, LGBTIQ+ and disability inclusive practice for psychology (Available online)

<http://www.shipspsychology.com.au/>

Red Files

Australian secure online group for sex workers to connect, network and share safety information

www.redfiles.org.au

HEALTH RESOURCES

Thorne Harbour Health

- **COVID-19 and Sex**
“For the first time ever, we’re advising our communities **to NOT have casual sex.**”
<https://thorneharbour.org/covid19/sexcovid19/>
- **COVID-19 and People Living with HIV/AIDS**
<https://thorneharbour.org/covid19/covid-plhiv/>
- **COVID-19 and People Taking PrEP**
<https://thorneharbour.org/covid19/prepcovid19/>
- **COVID-19 and Trans, Gender-Diverse and Non-Binary Communities**
<https://thorneharbour.org/covid19/tgdcovid19/>
- **COVID-19 and LGBTQI Women**
<https://thorneharbour.org/covid19/lgbtiqwomencovid19/>
- **COVID-19 and People Experiencing Family Violence**
<https://thorneharbour.org/covid19/covid-19-family-violence/>

Scarlet Alliance

COVID-19 and Harm Reduction for sex workers

<https://redbook.scarletalliance.org.au/covid-19/>

DRUG AND SUBSTANCE USE INFORMATION

AIVL (Australian Injecting and Illicit drug users League) <http://aivl.org.au/nsp/>

Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) Outlet Locations in Victoria:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18_ZDiuwWP_0z107Uo9xc-qK3WkkShPP7RoEqc2200jQ/edit#gid=0

Info for drug users during COVID-19:

<https://www.penington.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Drugs-and-Coronavirus-.pdf>

Undercurrent have put together a wonderful community resource for support and safety planning during COVID-19 (covering domestic and family violence, housing, legal aid, alcohol, drugs and

other substance abuse, counselling, food services, support for refugees etc). You can download it here for further information and support:

<http://www.undercurrentvic.com/support-services-and-resources-during-covid19>