

## April 14, 2020 – Financial support available for Australian students

Dear student,

Since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic, the Australian Government has announced a suite of financial measures to reduce the economic effect of this health crisis on our communities.

ACAP recognises that this is a stressful time for many of our students. To help support you during this period, we have put together a list of support measures that you may be able to access. As the situation is constantly changing, it is worth noting that these are relevant as at April 7, 2020.

### Financial assistance

- If you're unable to work or don't have work due to the COVID-19 situation, you may qualify for financial assistance, such as the Youth Allowance, JobSeeker Payment or Parenting Payment.
- To assist with an easier claims process, the Government has relaxed some requirements and broadened eligibility to include more students. Claims can be made through Centrelink with further details [here](#).
- If you currently receive a student payment, such as Austudy or ABSTUDY, at this stage there is no change to your existing regular payments due to COVID-19, but it is worthwhile checking that your details are up to date.

### Economic Support Payment

- If you receive Austudy and ABSTUDY, you're also eligible for a one-off Economic Support Payment of \$750 to be delivered between 31 March and 17 April. You won't need to do anything to receive this payment if you are already receiving benefits but we suggest checking that your details are up to date. More details [here](#)

### Coronavirus Supplement

- If you are on JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Austudy, ABSTUDY or Parenting Payments you may be eligible for the Coronavirus supplement. This is a temporary 'additional' payment of \$550 per fortnight over the next six months and eligible recipients will receive the supplement from 27 April 2020 along with their usual payment. More details [here](#).

### Special Benefit

- If you are experiencing severe financial hardship and not able to claim any of the benefits outlined above, you may be eligible for a 'special benefit' payment from the Australian Government. You can find out more [here](#).

### New JobKeeper Payment

- To support businesses and not-for-profit organisations retain their employees, the Government has launched the JobKeeper payments to subsidise wages by \$1500 per

fortnight for six months. We suggest speaking to your employer to see if this applies to your situation. More details [here](#).

### **Early access to superannuation**

- From mid-April the government is allowing eligible individuals affected by COVID-19 to access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020-21. You may wish to seek financial advice before taking up this option. More details [here](#)

### **Tax relief if working from home**

- The ATO website includes details on how you can claim expenses when you are working from home. There are three methods including the Shortcut Method which has been increased due to COVID-19. Example: If you want to claim 80c per hour you do need to keep a timesheet of your hours worked at home from 1 March and you must include the note 'COVID-Hourly rate' in your return. Check out the ATO website for more details [here](#).

### **Rent Arrangements**

- If you are having difficulty paying rent it might be worthwhile talking to your landlord about a short-term rental reduction arrangement. [Rent Assistance](#) may also be available through the Australian Government.

### **Further information**

- For further information and changes please keep up to date with the Australian Government portal for COVID-19 information which can be found [here](#).

We understand that the current crisis is having financial consequences for many of our students and we hope this information will be helpful to those of you needing financial support.

We will be contacting every ACAP student over the coming week to find out how you are progressing with your studies, and how we can support you during this very challenging time. If you have any concerns with your studies in the meantime, please contact [StudentCentral@acap.edu.au](mailto:StudentCentral@acap.edu.au).

Please continue to refer to the following ACAP web pages for further information and for access to useful resources:

- [COVID-19 updates](#)
- [ACAP Online Campus](#)
- [ACAP Library](#)

Stay safe and healthy,  
The ACAP Team