

COVID-19 AUSTRALIAN BANK ASSISTANCE

As the impacts of COVID-19 continue to escalate, and the scope of challenges flow into the broader economy, the banks in Australia are rolling out larger support packages for their clients.

Industries are now feeling impacts across the board. Successfully navigating through the crisis will require businesses to engage with key stakeholders early, before the financial impacts leave little to no options.

Key stakeholders include your bank, creditors and the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

Most banks in Australia have offered a range of assistance options. While all the banks have advised that tailored assistance will be considered on a case-by-case basis, the following table outlines the specific areas they are offering help.

BUSINESS CUSTOMERS	ANZ	CBA	NAB	WBC	BOQ	SUNCORP
Defer repayments	Up to 6 months	Automatic for April-June then opt-in for 3 more months	Up to 6 months	Up to 6 months for SME loans <\$3m	Yes	Yes, up to 6 months
Interest rate relief	Yes by 0.25% on top of previous announcements	Yes, by 0.25%	2.0% cut on new loans / overdrafts for SME,			
1.0% cut for existing loans	2.0% cut on all overdrafts					
1.0% cut for SME		No increases				
Extension of loan term			Up to 3 months	Up to 6 months		
Restructuring & consolidating loans			Case-by-case	Case-by-case		Case-by-case
Breaking term deposits without rate/fee impact	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Deferred business credit card payments			Yes	Yes		
Business financial counselling access				Yes		
Merchant terminal fee waivers		Up to 3 months		Up to 3 months		
Additional bank staffing to process decisions		Yes				
Fee relief		Yes		No establishment fees for equipment finance and fee free redraw	Yes	
Working capital assistance	Yes, temporary increases on overdraft facilities for 12 months	Yes, unsecured lending up to \$250,000 with no fees / repayments for 6 months, for <\$50m turnover	Pre-assessment for selected clients for increases		Yes, by arrangement	Yes
Special Term Deposit Rates	Yes			Yes	Yes	

PERSONAL CUSTOMERS	ANZ	CBA	NAB	WBC	BOQ	SUNCORP
Defer Repayments	Yes, for 3 months with an option to extend for 3 more months	Yes, for up to 6 months	Yes, for up to 6 months, including a 3 month checkpoint	Yes, for 3 months with an option to extend for 3 more months		
Interest Rate Relief	Yes, by 0.15% and special fixed rate available		Special fixed rates available			
Special arrangements regarding arrears					Yes	
Special Term Deposit Rates			Yes	Yes		

Note: this list is current as at 23/03/20 based on each bank's public announcements

Where in doubt, please speak to your bank as early as possible. In many cases, seeking assistance from your existing bank is normally a more sustainable solution (and less expensive) than seeking unsecured working capital loans. If you're faced with uncertainty regarding your business cash flow and would like assistance to talk about the options for dealing with your finance requirements, our Debt Advisory team is here to help. We are experienced bankers who can help guide you through your discussions with your bank.

It may be the case that assistance from your bank is only part of the solution and other strategies may be required. We can help guide you to our restructuring experts who can provide assistance in navigating these issues.

MORE INFORMATION

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