



Issue 20 August 2020

COVID-19 Update

As we are all aware, Auckland is in Alert level 3 and the rest of the country is in Alert level 2.

Due to the impact that level 3 has had on Auckland businesses and the subsequent impact on rest of the country, new financial relief packages were announced on Monday, 17 August 2020.

If you have any doubt as to which of these subsidies would benefit you, please talk to us before making an application.

Current relief from the Government for employers and self employed

- the 8 week Wage Subsidy Extension, you can apply for this until 1 September 2020 - if you haven't already
- the new 2 week Resurgence Wage Subsidy, you can apply from 1pm on Friday 21 August 2020, provided you are not still using the extension subsidy
- the Leave Support Scheme for employees who, under the Ministry of Health guidelines, can't work.

Check the Work and Income website, www.workandincome.govt.nz, for details of each payment, so that you can assess and apply for the subsidy that is right for your situation.

You can't receive more than one COVID-19 payment for the same employee at the same time.

All subsidy payments will be subject to audits and reviews.

COVID-19 Income Relief Payment

If you have been made redundant as a result of COVID-19 you may be entitled to

- up to 12 weeks of payments to help with living costs
- you cannot receive the Income Relief Payment and a main benefit at the same time, so you need to decide which is better for you.

Other matters

Mortgage repayment holiday

The Reserve has extended this until 31 March 2021, however, it is up to the individual banks to offer it to customers.

Remember this is not a holiday and making some form of payment is better than nothing.

The Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2020

became law on 11 August 2020. This will affect both tenants and landlords.

From 12 August 2020

- rent can only be increased once a year

From 11 February 2021

- new termination grounds and notice periods
- changes to the fixed-term tenancies
- tenants may ask to make small changes to the property and landlords must not decline if the change is minor
- tenants may install fibre broadband
- a tenancy agreement must be in writing and retained by the landlord
- Tenancy Tribunal can hear cases and make awards up to \$100,000.00

From 11 August 2021

- tenants may withdraw from a tenancy giving two days notice if there is evidence of family violence. If they are the only tenant the tenancy will end
- if a tenant physically assaults the landlord, agent of the landlord, a family member of the landlord or owner and the Police have laid a charge, the landlord can issue a 14 day's notice to terminate the tenancy.
- For more information on this amendment go to <https://www.tenancy.govt.nz/about-tenancy-services/news/residential-tenancies-amendment-act-2020-now-in-force/>

Finally, traditionally we have always billed in arrears for work done, however, we acknowledge that for some, the thought of an annual bill may seem daunting at this time. We are always looking for ways of making cashflow management easier for all and as tax refunds are now not what they used to be, a payment plan may be more convenient. If this is something you want to consider please email info@bellaconsultants.co.nz and we can provide

details.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us.



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