

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION MEMBERS

# COVID-19



If you are stood-down, the following financial support is available:

## NEWSTART (NOW CALLED JOBSEEKER)

The Federal Government has doubled the JobSeeker payment to \$1,100 per fortnight. They will also be waiving the asset test and wait times for new applicants. Apply at [my.gov.au/services](https://my.gov.au/services)

## BIRST

To help counter possible financial hardship caused by COVID-19, BIRST has changed its Trust Deed to allow for workers to access hardship payments from their BIRST account if they are stood down without pay and have exhausted all their leave entitlements (annual leave, long service leave or special leave). If you are eligible:

- Submit the relevant claim form and BIRST will provide you with a payment of \$2,000
- If you remain out of work five weeks later, you can submit a second claim form and receive another payment of \$2,000
- If your balance is below \$2,000, you will be entitled to the entire amount
- Payments will be subject to 32% tax.

A claim form is available at [www.birst.com.au/pdf/birst\\_claim\\_form\\_COVID19.pdf](https://www.birst.com.au/pdf/birst_claim_form_COVID19.pdf)



Contact BIRST on 08 8737 0122 or at [www.birst.com.au](https://www.birst.com.au)

## SUPERANNUATION

Up to \$20,000 may be withdrawn from your Superannuation tax-free. \$10,000 in the 19/20 financial year (up to 30 June 2020) and an additional \$10,000 in the following financial year (as of 1 July 2020).



Contact CBUS on 1300 361 784 or at [www.cbussuper.com.au](https://www.cbussuper.com.au) or  
Contact BUSSQ on 1800 692 877 or at [www.bussq.com.au](https://www.bussq.com.au)



If your employer accesses the JobKeeper payment:

The Federal Government has announced a new JobKeeper wage subsidy. Eligible employers will be paid \$1,500 per fortnight, for each eligible employee. Eligible employees will receive, at a minimum \$1,500 per fortnight, and their employer will be responsible for providing a top-up payment, so employees continue to receive their regular income according to their prevailing workplace arrangements. For more information, visit [treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper](https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper)

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION MEMBERS

# COVID-19



If you are made redundant, or volunteer to be made redundant:

## BIRST

Except for the limits outlined below, the process is the same as normal:

- Have your former employer complete a BIRST Claim Form - [www.birst.com.au/pdf/birst\\_claim\\_form.pdf](http://www.birst.com.au/pdf/birst_claim_form.pdf)
- Add your tax file number and payment details to the form
- Select a full or partial payment
- Forward the form to BIRST
- Funds will be credited to your nominated bank account.

In anticipation of a significant increase in the number of claims and the need to responsibly manage cash flow, the BIRST Board has placed the following temporary limits on the amount you can claim:

- On receipt of your claim form, BIRST will make an initial payment of \$10,000 or the balance of your account, whichever is the lowest
- If you remain out of work five weeks later, you can submit another claim form and receive an additional \$10,000 or the balance of your account, whichever is lower
- This process will continue in \$10,000 instalments until you return to work or your balance is exhausted.

All payments will be taxed at normal employment termination payment (ETP) rates.



Contact BIRST on 08 8737 0122 or at [www.birst.com.au](http://www.birst.com.au)

## OTHER SUPPORT

Additional support may be available:

- You may have entitlements under the Portable Long Service Leave Scheme [www.portableleave.org.au](http://www.portableleave.org.au)
- Centrelink have revised the ability to access unemployment benefits [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/news/more-financial-support-people-affected-coronavirus](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/news/more-financial-support-people-affected-coronavirus)

The MATES in Construction Helpline is available 24/7 if you, or someone you know needs help



Contact the MATES in Construction Helpline on 1300 642 111