

# Relief Schemes and Amendments: A Look At The Legislative Response to COVID-19 during 2020

## Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus Act 2020

The first Economic Response Package provided for businesses and individuals in financial distress

For a look at the effect that this Package had on small businesses, see [here](#), and for medium to large businesses, see [here](#).

For a detailed analysis of the new 'safe harbour' provisions exempting insolvent trading, see [here](#).

24 March 2020

**Amendment to Fair Work Act**  
As per the *Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus (Measures No.2) Act 2020* (Cth), amendments were made to the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) enabling employers to make directions that pander to working conditions during the pandemic.

For an analysis of these changes, with tailored advice to employers, see our article [here](#).

9 April 2020

**JobKeeper 2.0 Extension Announced**  
Announcement that JobKeeper was to be extended to 28 March 2021, with some varied terms

For an overview of these changes see our article [here](#), and for an analysis of their effect on companies and employees see [here](#).

21 July 2020

## Proposed Small Business Insolvency Reforms

The Australian Government announced major reforms to corporate insolvency laws to support small businesses recovery following the expiry of COVID-19 insolvency relief in January 2021.

For a look at the effects of the proposed changes, see [here](#).

24 September 2020

## Expiry of Insolvency Relief Scheme

The temporary protections available for companies and individuals in financial distress expired.

31 December 2020

9 April 2020

**Commencement of JobKeeper**  
The *Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payment and Benefits) Rules 2020* (Cth) enacted the JobKeeper scheme, introducing payments to businesses to cover their wages costs. The initial scheme was planned to expire on 27 September 2020.

For a detailed look at the payment scheme, see our article [here](#).

22 April 2020

**Introduction of Electronic Witnessing of Documents Provisions**  
The *Electronic Transactions Amendment (COVID-19 Witnessing of Documents) Regulation 2020* (NSW) introduced measures allowing documents to be witnessed without requiring face to face contact with a solicitor during the pandemic.

For general advice regarding Estate Planning in light of these regulations, see our article [here](#).

7 September 2020

**Extension of Insolvency Relief**  
The Federal Government announced an extension for the COVID-19 related protections for companies and individuals in financial distress to 31 December 2020.

For a detailed look as these measures, see our article [here](#).

28 September 2020

**JobKeeper 2.0 Rollout**  
The Australian Government commenced their two-pronged extension of JobKeeper, with the first extension period running from 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021, and the second from 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021.

For our article on the rollout, see [here](#).