

Protecting yourself and others from coronavirus

COVID-19 Landlord Support Fund



The Tasmanian Government has established the COVID-19 Landlord Support Fund to provide financial support to landlords who are experiencing financial hardship due to tenants being behind in paying rent.

The fund starts from 7 September 2020 and is available until 1 December 2020.

COVID-19 Landlord Support Fund

The COVID-19 Landlord Support Fund is a one-off payment available to landlords, who have a current residential lease with tenants who have fallen behind in paying rent. The payment reduces the amount of rent owing. Landlords or their agents must show this reduction in any outstanding rental balance.

How much is the financial support?

This one-off payment is to the value of the rent in arrears, up to \$2,000.

A landlord can apply in relation to rent arrears at more than one property but the payment is capped at \$2000 per landlord.

IMPORTANT: the value will be whichever is the lesser amount.

Who is eligible to apply?

Landlords or their agents can apply if:

- they have a current residential lease, and
- tenants are behind in rent as at 7 September 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

How to apply to the fund?

Complete the [Landlord Support Fund online form](#). As part of this process you will need to upload a copy of the:

- rental lease agreement which applies to each tenancy and the property where rent is owed, and
- rental ledger showing the rent is in arrears as at 31 August 2020.

Acceptable document formats are doc, docx, pdf, jpg. Have your documents in a suitable format before you start the online application.

If you are unable to complete this form online, contact the Office of the Residential Tenancy Commissioner on **1300 654 499**.

How long is the financial support available?

The fund is available from **7 September 2020 to 1 December 2020** inclusive and can only be applied for once during this period.

Does this mean tenants can stop paying rent?

No. Tenants are still expected to pay rent as agreed in their lease agreement or any other negotiated rent reduction agreement. The purpose of this fund is to support landlords where tenants are now behind in rent (in arrears) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A landlord can apply to the fund if a tenant falls behind in rent after 7 September 2020. However an applicant may have to provide more detailed evidence to support an application or the application may not be accepted.

How is the money paid?

The money will be paid directly into the landlord or agent's nominated bank account.

How can I stay updated?

Advice is updated frequently as the COVID-19 situation evolves in Tasmania. Please refer to the following for the latest information:

- Tasmanian Government Coronavirus website www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au
- Australian Government Department of Health www.health.gov.au
- Tasmanian Public Health Hotline **1800 671 738**