

Number 3/August 2020

**NSW Parliamentary Research Service** 

## NSW and Commonwealth Government funding responses to the COVID-19 pandemic

Australian governments have announced extraordinary funding measures in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The measures have aimed to boost the health system, support the economy, and assist households and vulnerable groups in the community. On 16 June, NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet <u>advised</u> Parliament that the NSW Government's COVID-19 funding response exceeded \$13.6 billion. The Commonwealth Treasurer's 23 July <u>update</u> reported that the Commonwealth had committed \$9.4 billion in health funding and \$289 billion in economic support.

This issues backgrounder outlines NSW Government funding measures. It also summarises *major* Commonwealth funding initiatives, which in this paper are defined as those of \$100 million or more. The measures have been divided into the following seven categories (each measure has been placed into one category only even though some of them could fit into multiple categories):

- 1. Health;
- 2. Businesses;
- 3. Infrastructure;
- 4. Households;
- 5. Education;
- 6. Communities; and
- 7. Local government.

The measures in each category are listed in chronological order. The information was sourced from government media releases, which are hyperlinked and listed at the end of the paper. Note that the figures cited do not always reflect the cost to the government as some measures involve spending being brought forward, and some involve the provision of low cost loans or loan guarantees.

This paper covers funding announcements up to 21 August 2020.

To enable a clear listing of NSW and Commonwealth funding responses, this issues backgrounder is structured as follows:

1. Key resources	2
2. New South Wales funding measures	3

3. Major Commonwealth funding measures	10
4. List of media releases	15

## **1. KEY RESOURCES**

#### **1.1 NSW Government**

NSW Government, <u>COVID-19</u>, [website].

NSW Treasury, Keeping people in jobs and businesses in business, [website].

NSW Government, COVID-19 Recovery Plan, 16 July 2020.

Perrottet D, Covid-19 and State economy, Hansard (LA), 16 June 2020.

#### **1.2 Commonwealth Government**

Commonwealth Treasury, Economic Response to the Coronavirus, [website].

Business.gov.au, Coronavirus information and support for business, [website].

Frydenberg J and Cormann M, Economic and Fiscal Update July 2020, 23 July 2020.

#### 1.3 Reserve Bank

Reserve Bank of Australia, <u>Supporting the Economy and Financial System in</u> <u>Response to COVID-19</u>, [website]

#### **1.4 Council of Australian Governments**

National Partnership on COVID-19 Response, 13 March 2020.

#### **1.5 Other organisations**

Commonwealth Parliamentary Library, <u>COVID-19 Publications and Resources</u>, [website].

KPMG, COVID-19 Assistance Programs at a glance, 7 August 2020

Centre for Social Impact, Financial Wellbeing and COVID-19, July 2020.

Minshull L, <u>Great Southern Hand State emergency economic responses to COVID-</u><u>19</u>, The Australia Institute, May 2020.

## 2. NEW SOUTH WALES FUNDING MEASURES

#### 2.1 Health

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>17 March</u>	<ul> <li>Hospitals and testing: Package including: <ul> <li>assist in doubling ICU capacity</li> <li>preparing for additional COVID-19 testing</li> <li>purchasing additional ventilators and medical equipment</li> <li>establishing acute respiratory clinics</li> <li>bringing forward elective surgeries to private hospitals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The following announcements appear to be part of this package: <ul> <li><u>13 May</u> – \$3 million for ICU refresher training for nurses to boost ICU staff.</li> </ul> </li> <li><u>18 May</u> - Patients at hospital emergency departments and COVID-19 clinics will benefit from an \$8.6 million expansion of the Patient Experience Program.</li> <li><u>23 May</u> - \$34 million to build a specialised workforce of physiotherapists and other allied health professionals</li> </ul>	700
<u>7 April</u>	<ul> <li>providing vital ICU care.</li> <li>Health workers and research: Package including:</li> <li>\$58 million for health worker accommodation</li> <li>\$25 million for medical research and vaccine trials</li> <li>\$11 million for commercialisation of research products</li> <li>\$10 million to partner with industry to boost domestic supply chains.</li> </ul>	100
<u>10 April</u>	Health workers: Free parking for health workers at public hospital car parks.	Not stated
<u>17 April</u>	<b>Hospitals:</b> Funding to fast-track health infrastructure including \$15 million for a purpose-built COVID-19 recovery ward at Royal North Shore Hospital.	100
<u>24 April</u>	<ul> <li>Mental health: Package including:</li> <li>over 180 additional specialist, community-based mental health clinicians and peer support workers</li> <li>expanding the virtual mental health program to all local health districts</li> <li>free access to Tresillian's digital SleepWellBaby program</li> <li>capacity for 60,000 extra calls to the 1800 NSW Mental Health Line</li> <li>creation of pop-up mental health Safe Space sites, reducing pressure on emergency departments.</li> </ul>	73

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>4 May</u>	<b>Personal protective equipment (PPE):</b> The NSW Government has purchased almost \$1 billion of PPE to help contain the spread of COVID-19 and protect frontline emergency workers, medical staff and the public.	1,000
<u>16 June</u>	<b>Elective surgeries:</b> Funding to ramp up elective surgeries, focusing on patients whose surgery has been delayed by COVID-19 to ensure they are booked in as soon as possible.	388

### 2.2 Businesses

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>17 March</u>	<ul> <li>Payroll tax relief:</li> <li>Waiver of payroll tax for businesses with payrolls up to \$10 million for three months.</li> </ul>	450
<u>17 March</u>	<ul> <li>million for three months.</li> <li>Bring forward the next round of payroll tax cuts by raising the threshold limit to \$1 million in 2020-21.</li> </ul>	56
<u>17 March</u>	<b>Other taxes/fees relief:</b> Waiver of a range of fees and charges for small businesses including bars, cafes, restaurants and tradies.	80
<u>17 March</u>	<b>Rent relief:</b> Deferral of rents for six months for commercial tenants with less than 20 employees in all Government-owned properties.	Not stated
27 March	<b>Working for NSW Fund:</b> To sustain business, create new jobs and retrain employees. Several measures relating to this Fund are listed in other categories below (see Ch 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, and 2.7). The measures below relate to businesses only:	1,000
	<ul> <li><u>13 April</u> - \$10 million for the NSW Small Business Commission to deliver increased mediation and advisory services to commercial parties.</li> </ul>	
	• <u>20 April</u> - \$14 million for <u>Business Connect</u> to help small and medium businesses navigate the pandemic.	
27 March	<ul> <li>Payroll tax relief:</li> <li>Deferral of payroll tax for businesses with payrolls of up to \$10 million for three months.</li> </ul>	Not stated
27 March	• Deferral of payroll tax for business with payrolls over \$10 million for six months (up to \$4 billion deferred).	Not stated
27 March	Other taxes/fees relief:	Not stated

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
	<ul> <li>Deferral of gaming tax for clubs, pubs and hotels, and lotteries tax for six months, conditional on these funds being used to retain staff.</li> </ul>	
	• Deferral of the parking space levy for six months.	
<u>3 April</u>	<b>Small Business Support Fund:</b> Eligible small businesses that have been highly impacted by the COVID-19 public health orders can receive grants of up to \$10,000. The following announcement relates to this Fund:	750
	<ul> <li><u>16 June</u> – Eligible small businesses can receive a Small Business Recovery Grant of up to \$3,000.</li> </ul>	
<u>13 April</u>	<b>Rent relief:</b> Eligible commercial landlords will be able to apply for a land tax concession of up to 25 per cent of their 2020 (calendar year) land tax liability on relevant properties – but only if they pass the savings on to tenants through a rent reduction. A similar land tax concession will apply to the residential sector and will be worth around \$220 million [see <u>Ch 2.4</u> ].	220
<u>15 April</u>	<b>Licence fee waivers:</b> Up to 200,000 licence holders operating across the trades and construction sectors will not have to pay up to \$50 million worth of licence fees. This funding appears to be additional to the funding announced on 17 March.	50
<u>6 May</u>	<b>Arts industry:</b> Digital adaptation grants of up to \$5,000 for Creative Kids providers to support online delivery of programs.	1
<u>24 May</u>	<b>Arts industry:</b> Rescue and Restart package for NSW arts and cultural organisations to ensure the sector continues to make an important contribution to the NSW economy during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.	50
<u>16 June</u>	<b>Regional exports:</b> NSW small and medium exporters will benefit from support programs aimed at creating jobs and supporting the regions, including a \$10,000 Exporter Assistance Grant. On <u>17</u> <u>August</u> , further details were announced.	12.8
<u>16 August</u>	<b>PPE manufacturing:</b> program to support domestic manufacturing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in NSW by providing grants to local companies to help fund equipment, raw materials and recruitment of skilled staff.	5

### 2.3 Infrastructure

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>17 March</u>	<b>Maintenance:</b> Bring forward maintenance on public assets including social housing and crown land fencing.	250

#### Issues Backgrounder

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
	The following announcements appear to be part of this funding:	(+)
	<ul> <li><u>15 April</u> - \$60.5 million program for maintenance works and upgrades on public housing properties; including 50 per cent in regional NSW.</li> </ul>	
17 March	<b>Capital works and maintenance:</b> Bring forward capital works and maintenance.	500
	The following announcements appear to be part of this funding:	
	<ul> <li><u>15 April</u> - more than \$100 million of the COVID-19 stimulus package will go towards regional NSW including the expansion of plantation nurseries to boost production, infrastructure repairs in State forests, the rebuild of local showgrounds, and vital upgrades to regional hospitals, courthouses and Aboriginal housing.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li><u>29 May</u> - \$12.5 million is being allocated to get 393 projects underway to improve and repair 137 showground sites across NSW this financial year.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li><u>29 June</u> - a further \$10.77 million will be added to the showground stimulus program to fund another 129 projects at 71 showgrounds this financial year.</li> </ul>	
<u>17 March</u>	<b>Cleaning</b> : Employing additional cleaners of public infrastructure such as transport assets, schools and other public buildings.	250*
<u>3 April</u>	<b>Infrastructure Acceleration Fund:</b> Fund to co-fund vital new community infrastructure in North West Sydney including roads, drainage and public parks to unlock plans for the construction of thousands of new houses. The following announcement relates to this Fund:	70
	<ul> <li><u>29 June</u>: \$1 billion joint Commonwealth/NSW funding for NSW projects (NSW contributing \$569 million).</li> </ul>	
<u>26 April</u>	Low cost loans to councils for infrastructure projects: an increase in low-cost loans to eligible councils through the state's borrowing facility to kick-start community infrastructure projects.	250
<u>29 April</u>	<b>Cleaning:</b> Funding to improve the cleaning of public facilities including NSW transport, schools and TAFE.	250
<u>8 May</u>	<b>Streets as Shared Spaces program:</b> To fund council projects to provide more space for communities to safely walk, cycle and exercise.	15
<u>31 May</u>	Infrastructure and Job Acceleration Fund: This fund will be used for smaller, shovel-ready projects across NSW. The projects	3,000

<sup>\*</sup> This is funded out of the \$1 billion Working for NSW Fund: see  $\underline{Ch \ 2.2}$  above.

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
	are expected to add up to 20,000 extra jobs to the NSW workforce.	
<u>29 July</u>	<b>Build to rent housing:</b> The NSW Government will introduce a land tax discount for new build-to-rent housing projects until 2040. The discount will be equivalent to at least a 50 per cent reduction in land tax, dependent on the unimproved land value.	Not stated
<u>5 August</u>	<b>Public Spaces Legacy Program:</b> Local councils that focus on fast-tracking development assessments for projects that deliver jobs and housing will be eligible for up to \$5.5 million each in funding for parklands, town squares and main streets.	250

#### 2.4 Households

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
27 March	<b>Energy bills:</b> Boost to Energy Accounts Payments Assistance Scheme.	30
<u>15 April</u>	<b>Rent:</b> Residential landlords would be eligible for a land tax waiver or rebate of up to 25 per cent if they passed the saving on to tenants in financial distress.	220
<u>27 July</u>	<b>First home buyers:</b> The stamp duty threshold on newly-built homes and vacant land for first home buyers will increase from the current \$650,000 to \$800,000, with the concession reducing on higher values before phasing out at \$1 million.	Not stated

#### 2.5 Education

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>6 April</u>	<ul><li>TAFE: A suite of 21 fee-free TAFE NSW short courses are available online to assist anyone across the State who wants to upskill during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li><li>On <u>30 April</u>, 13 new fee-free TAFE NSW courses were added.</li></ul>	Not stated
<u>9 April</u>	<b>Preschool fees:</b> Parents in NSW will not have to pay preschool fees for up to six months. On <u>3 August</u> , this was extended until the end of term 4.	51*
<u>9 April</u>	<b>Childcare centres:</b> Funding to support 260 council childcare centres who are not eligible for the JobKeeper payments.	82*

<sup>\*</sup> This is funded out of the \$1 billion Working for NSW Fund: see <u>Ch 2.2</u> above.

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>18 May</u>	Higher education: Package for international students including:	20
	<ul> <li>a temporary housing scheme, targeted at students in genuine need and delivered through approved student accommodation or homestay providers.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>50,000 free subscriptions to the multilingual My Legal Mate student app.</li> </ul>	
<u>9 June</u>	<b>Higher education:</b> The NSW Government's Loan Guarantee scheme will bridge the gap between the Australian Government's Higher Education Relief Package and what NSW universities need to recover from the impact of COVID-19.	750

#### **2.6 Communities**

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
26 March	<b>Hotline:</b> 24 hour COVID-19 hotline for advice and support on non- health related enquiries via the Service NSW contact centre.	Not stated*
<u>27 March</u>	<ul> <li>Homelessness: Boost in funding to prevent homelessness</li> <li>The following announcement regarding domestic violence support appears to provide further details:</li> <li><u>31 March</u> - \$14.3 million investment to increase the supply and flexibility of temporary accommodation; and \$20 million to accelerate pathways for existing clients and priority social housing applicants to secure stable housing in the private rental market.</li> </ul>	34
27 March	Charities: Support for charities.	10
27 March	Suicide: Lifeline's operations in NSW.	6
<u>6 April</u>	<b>Seniors:</b> Combatting Social Isolation for Seniors During COVID- 19 grants program.	0.6
<u>15 April</u>	<b>Tenancy advice:</b> Funding for tenancy advocacy and advice services across the state.	2.5
<u>26 May</u>	<b>Domestic violence:</b> Funding to help victims seek support during the COVID-19 pandemic to better protect women and children across the state.	12.8
<u>3 June</u>	<b>Migrants and temporary visa holders:</b> The government will distribute funding to specialist migrant and settlement NGOs, and	6

<sup>\*</sup> This is funded out of the \$1 billion Working for NSW Fund: see <u>Ch 2.2</u> above.

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
	multicultural community organisations who are providing basic support to vulnerable people including domestic violence victims.	
	The following announcement appears to be part of this funding:	
	<ul> <li><u>14 July</u> - \$4 million to provide temporary visa holders with access to food and supplies, medical support, telecommunications, transport and essential housing.</li> </ul>	
<u>12 June</u>	<b>Sport:</b> Community Sport Recovery Package which includes financial support and assistance for sport and recreation organisations across NSW.	27.3
<u>29 June</u>	<b>Homelessness:</b> The Together Home project is expected to deliver stable housing and wrap-around support for hundreds of people experiencing homelessness.	36

#### 2.7 Local government

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>26 April</u>	<b>Job retention allowance:</b> A council job retention allowance of \$1500 per fortnight per employee to limit job losses in the NSW local government sector.	112.5*
<u>26 April</u>	<b>Emergency Services Levy:</b> Funding to assist councils to meet the cost of the FY2020/21 increase in the Emergency Services Levy.	32.8
<u>10 May</u>	<b>E-planning:</b> Enhancements of <u>ePlanning platform</u> and ensure all councils can get online from 1 July 2020 onwards.	10

<sup>\*</sup> This is funded out of the \$1 billion Working for NSW Fund: see <u>Ch 2.2</u> above.

## 3. MAJOR COMMONWEALTH FUNDING MEASURES

As noted in the introduction, this section covers major Commonwealth Government funding measures, which are defined as those of \$100 million or more.

#### 3.1 Health

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
11 March	Primary care:	
	<ul> <li>A new Medicare service for people in home isolation or quarantine to receive health consultations via phone or video.</li> </ul>	100
11 March	• Up to 100 dedicated respiratory clinics.	206.7
<u>11 March</u>	<ul> <li>A dedicated Medicare funded and bulk billed pathology test for COVID-19.</li> </ul>	170.2
<u>11 March</u>	<b>Health partnership:</b> The Government will pay 50 per cent of the additional costs incurred by state and territory health services as a result of the diagnosis and treatment of patients with COVID-19, or activities to prevent the spread of it.	500
<u>11 March</u>	<b>Protective equipment:</b> Funding to ensure patients and critical health care staff have face masks, and other protective equipment.	1,100
29 March	<b>Telehealth:</b> Funding to expand Medicare-subsidised telehealth services for all Australians.	669
<u>31 March</u>	<b>Partnership with private health:</b> The government has guaranteed the viability and capacity of the private hospital sector, in an agreement that will ensure over 30,000 hospital beds, and the sector's 105,000 skilled workforce, is available alongside the public hospital sector.	1,300

#### 3.2 Businesses

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>12 March</u>	Business investment:	700
	<ul> <li>Increasing the instant asset write off threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expanding access to include businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million) until 30 June 2020.</li> </ul>	
<u>12 March</u>	• Accelerating depreciation deductions - businesses with a turnover of less than \$500 million will be able to deduct an additional 50 per cent of the asset cost in the year of purchase.	3,200

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>12 March</u>	<b>Cash flow boost:</b> Boost cash flow for employers by up to \$25,000 with a minimum payment of \$2,000 for eligible small and medium-sized businesses.	6,700
<u>12 March</u>	<b>Wage subsidy for apprentices:</b> Eligible employers can apply for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent of the apprentice's or trainee's wage for up to 9 months from 1 January 2020.	1,300
<u>12 March</u>	<ul> <li>Severely affected regions: Funding to support those sectors, regions and communities that have been disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of the Coronavirus. This includes those regions heavily reliant on industries such as tourism, agriculture and education.</li> <li>The following announcements appear to be part of this funding: <ul> <li><u>28 March</u> - \$198 million for a Regional Air Network Assistance Package. \$100 million is also available to provide direct financial support to smaller regional airlines should it be needed.</li> <li><u>1 April</u> - \$110 million International freight assistance mechanism to help agriculture and fisheries industries export their produce into key overseas markets. On <u>3 July</u> this mechanism was extended until the end of the year with funding of \$240 million.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1,000
<u>18 March</u>	<b>Aviation industry:</b> Refunding and ongoing waiving of a range Government charges on the industry including aviation fuel excise, Airservices charges on domestic airline operations and domestic and regional aviation security charges.	715
<u>19 March</u>	<b>Credit:</b> Funding to enable smaller lenders to continue supporting small businesses and consumers. This will complement the Reserve Bank of Australia's announcement of a \$90 billion term funding facility for authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs).	15,000
22 March	<b>Cash flow boost</b> : Boost cash for employers by up to \$100,000 for eligible small and medium sized businesses, and not-for- profits that employ people, with a minimum payment of \$20,000. [This replaces the "cash flow boost" announced on 12 March – see above].	31,900
22 March	<b>Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme:</b> This scheme will support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to get access to working capital to help them get them through the impact of the coronavirus. Under the Scheme, the Government will guarantee 50 per cent of new loans issued by eligible lenders to SMEs.	20,000

#### **Issues Backgrounder**

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>30 March</u>	<b>Wage subsidy:</b> JobKeeper wage subsidy to employees of \$1,500 per fortnight through their employer. The payment will be open to eligible businesses that receive a significant financial hit caused by the coronavirus.	70,000#
<u>16 April</u>	<b>Aviation industry:</b> Funding to assist Qantas and Virgin Australia Groups to operate a minimum domestic network servicing the most critical metropolitan and regional routes.	165
<u>9 June</u>	<b>Business investment:</b> Extension of the \$150,000 instant asset write-off for six months to 31 December 2020.	300
<u>25 June</u>	<b>Arts industry:</b> A JobMaker support package to stimulate the creative economy and get the entertainment, arts and screen sectors back to work. The package includes:	250
	<ul> <li>Seed Investment to Reactive Productions and Tours - \$75 million in competitive grant funding;</li> </ul>	
	• Show Starter Loans - \$90 million in concessional loans;	
	<ul> <li>Kick-starting local screen production - \$50 million fund;</li> <li>Supporting sustainability of sector-significant organisations - \$35 million in direct financial assistance.</li> </ul>	
<u>16 July</u>	<b>Wage subsidy for apprentices:</b> Extending the program for six months to March 2021 and expanding the program to make it available to medium businesses with less than 200 employees.	1,500
<u>17 July</u>	<b>Arts industry:</b> Extending the Location Incentive program over 7 years.	400
20 July	<b>Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme:</b> This scheme to be modified and extended to 30 June 2021.	Not stated
21 July	<b>Wage subsidy:</b> Jobkeeper wage subsidy to be modified and extended to 28 March 2021.	16,600
<u>7 August</u>	<b>Wage subsidy:</b> Following stricter public health restrictions in Victoria, Jobkeeper wage subsidy to be modified to allow more businesses to be eligible. The changes will apply nationwide but it is expected that more than 80 per cent of the increased payments will flow to Victorian businesses and employees.	15,600

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>#</sup> The cost of Jobkeeper was initially estimated at \$130 billion but was later revised to \$70 billion: see <u>22 May</u>.

#### 3.3 Infrastructure

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>22 May</u>	<b>Local Road and Community Infrastructure program:</b> This program will support local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia. <u>On 31</u> <u>July</u> , the first payment under this scheme was announced.	500
<u>15 June</u>	<b>Small priority infrastructure projects:</b> Funding to immediately start work on small priority projects identified by the states and the territories. The following announcement relates to this funding:	1,500
	<ul> <li><u>29 June</u>: \$1 billion joint funding for NSW projects – Commonwealth Government contributing \$451 million and NSW Government \$569 million (which is sourced</li> </ul>	

from the \$3 billion Project Acceleration Fund).

#### 3.4 Households

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>12 March</u>	<b>Stimulus payment for income support recipients:</b> A \$750 stimulus payment to pensioners, social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders.	4,800
22 March	<b>Income support payments:</b> Temporarily expand eligibility to income support payments and establish a new, time-limited Coronavirus supplement to be paid at a rate of \$550 per fortnight.	14,100
<u>22 March</u>	<b>Stimulus payment for income support recipients:</b> A further \$750 payment to social security and veteran income support recipients and eligible concession card holders.	4,000
22 March	<b>Superannuation:</b> Individuals in financial stress as a result of the coronavirus can access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020-21. They will not need to pay tax on amounts released and the money they withdraw will not affect Centrelink or Veterans' Affairs payments.	1,200
<u>4 June</u>	<b>HomeBuilder program:</b> This program will provide all eligible owner-occupiers with a grant of \$25,000 to build a new home or substantially renovate an existing home.	680
<u>21 July</u>	<b>Income support payments:</b> Coronavirus Supplement to be modified and extended to 31 December 2020.	3,800

## 3.5 Education

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>2 April</u>	<b>Early childhood education:</b> Early childhood education and care relief package – free child care for around 1 million families.	1,600
<u>12 April</u>	<ul> <li>Higher education relief package: The package includes:</li> <li>The cost to study short, online courses from universities and private providers will be slashed to help Australians retrain.</li> <li>The Government will also guarantee funding for universities at current levels, even if there is a fall in domestic student numbers, and provide greater flexibility in the use of these funds.</li> <li>Tertiary and international education providers will get regulatory fee relief so they can better support domestic and international students, as well as exemptions from loan fees under FEE-HELP and VET Student Loans.</li> </ul>	Not stated
<u>16 July</u>	<b>Vocational education:</b> The JobTrainer program will provide up to an additional 340,700 training places to help school leavers and job seekers access short and long courses to develop new skills in growth sectors and create a pathway to more qualifications. A matched contribution is being sought from state governments.	500

#### 3.6 Communities

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>11 March</u>	<b>Aged care:</b> Funding to educate and train aged care workers in infection control, and enable aged care providers to hire extra nurses and aged care workers for both residential and home care.	101.2
<u>20 March</u>	<b>Aged care:</b> Package including \$234.9 million for a COVID-19 'retention bonus' to ensure the continuity of the workforce for aged care workers in both residential and home care.	444.6
29 March	<b>Domestic violence:</b> Initial funding to support Australians experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence due to the fallout from coronavirus.	150
<u>1 May</u>	<b>Aged care:</b> Additional funding for residential aged care providers aimed at covering the additional costs of caring for the health and wellbeing of residents during the pandemic.	205

## 3.7 Local government

Date	Description	Amount (\$m)
<u>22 May</u>	<b>Grants:</b> Bringing forward \$1.3 billion of the 2020-21 Financial Assistance Grant payment.	1,300

## 4. LIST OF MEDIA RELEASES

#### 4.1 NSW Government

Date	Title
17 March	<u>\$2.3 billion health boost and economic stimulus</u>
26 March	NSW Government hires more staff and launches 24 hour COVID-19 hotline
27 March	Billions in tax relief for business, \$1 billion fund for jobs, and help for the vulnerable
31 March	Domestic violence support during COVID-19 crisis
3 April	<u>\$10,000 grants to provide fast relief for NSW small businesses battling COVID-</u> <u>19</u>
3 April	Jobs boost through fast-tracked planning system
6 April	Free TAFE courses to support NSW in pandemic
6 April	Funding to combat isolation for seniors
7 April	\$100m support for health workers to fight COVID-19
9 April	Free preschool in NSW for up to six months
10 April	Free parking for healthcare workers amid COVID-19 crisis
13 April	NSW Government offers \$440 million land tax break to support tenants and landlords
15 April	Funding boost and new emergency measures to protect tenancies
15 April	Slashed licence fees a big win for businesses
15 April	Economic stimulus to boost jobs and social housing
15 April	NSW Government to boost resilience in regional NSW amid COVID-19
17 April	<u>\$15-million COVID-19 ward fast-tracked for Royal North Shore</u>
20 April	<u>\$14 million boost to continue to assist small businesses across NSW</u>
24 April	<u>\$73 million to support mental wellness during COVID-19 pandemic</u>
29 April	<u>\$250 million cleaning stimulus package to help stop the spread of COVID-19</u>
30 April	Free short courses to support NSW
4 May	Almost \$1 billion of PPE secured for COVID-19 battle
5 May	Nearly \$10 million in enhancements for ePlanning
6 May	Creative kids expansion goes digital
8 May	<u>\$15 million to transform our streets and public spaces for social distancing</u>

## Issues Backgrounder

Date	Title
13 May	Boost to intensive care nurse workforce
18 May	NSW Government supporting international students through COVID-19
18 May	<u>\$8.6 million to improve patients hospital experience</u>
19 May	Helping councils unlock billions in unspent infrastructure funds
23 May	NSW world leader in COVID-19 ICU therapy
24 May	<u>\$50 million package for NSW arts and culture</u>
26 May	Funding boost to support domestic violence during COVID-19
29 May	NSW showgrounds get \$12.5 million kickstart
31 May	<u>\$3 billion boost creates \$100 billion infrastructure and jobs pipeline</u>
3 June	Funding to Support Multicultural Communities during COVID-19
9 June	Universities get a \$750 million lifeline
12 June	<u>\$27.3m To Support Local Sport Return</u>
16 June	New recovery grants to help small business reopen in a post-COVID world
16 June	\$388 Million To Fast-Track Elective Surgeries
29 June	NSW Showgrounds Get Extra \$10.77 Million Funding
16 June	<u>\$13 Million Package To Boost Regional Exports</u>
29 June	Securing housing for the homeless
14 July	Funding support for temporary visa holders
27 July	Big Boost for First Home Buyers and Construction Industry as Stamp Duty Slashed
29 July	Land tax cut to drive build-to-rent revolution
5 August	<u>\$250 Million Boost For Public Spaces</u>
16 August	PPE manufacturing to skyrocket in NSW
17 August	NSW Government backs exporters to go global
20 August	Term 4 preschool free across NSW

## 4.2 Commonwealth Government

services

Date	Title
11 March	<u>\$2.4 Billion health plan to fight COVID-19</u>
12 March	Economic Stimulus Package
18 March	Relief package for Australian aviation industry
19 March	Government to invest up to \$15B in support of SME lending
20 March	Measures to support Senior Australians and those who care for them
22 March	Supporting Australian workers and business
28 March	Additional new support for critical regional aviation services through COVID-19
29 March	\$1.1 billion to support more mental health, Medicare and domestic violence

Date	Title
30 March	\$130 billion JobKeeper payment to keep Australians in a job
31 March	Australian Government partnership with private health sector secures 30,000 hospital beds and 105,000 nurses and staff, to help fight COVID-19 pandemic
1 April	Securing freight access for Australia agricultural and fisheries exporters
2 April	Early childhood education and care relief package
12 April	Higher Education Relief Package
16 April	Federal Government guarantees domestic aviation network
1 May	New COVID-19 payment to keep senior Australians in residential aged care safe
22 May	<u>\$1.8 billion boost for local government</u>
22 May	JobKeeper update
4 June	<u>'HomeBuilder' program to drive economic activity across the residential construction sector</u>
9 June	Extending the instant asset write-off
15 June	Address – CEDA's State of the Nation Conference
25 June	<u>\$250 million JobMaker plan to restart Australia's creative economy</u>
29 June	<u>\$1 billion to unlock thousands of infrastructure jobs in NSW</u>
3 July	Freight flights boost for Australian exporters
16 July	JobTrainer skills package for economic recovery and growth
17 July	New \$400 million incentive to boost jobs for screen industry
20 July	Supporting small business to adapt, grow and create jobs
21 July	JobKeeper payment and income support extended
31 July	Funding flows to local roads and community infrastructure
7 August	More support for more businesses and workers

#### Author: Lenny Roth

#### Last updated: 25 August 2020

#### For further information please contact the Research Service on 9230 2768

Issues Backgrounders are prepared by the NSW Parliamentary Research Service for Members of Parliament on Bills or subjects of topical importance.

This Issues Backgrounder provides links to parliamentary material, journal articles, media articles and interest group web sites to provide Members with detailed information relating to matters under consideration by the NSW Parliament. Although every attempt is made to ensure that the information provided is correct at the time of publication, no guarantee can be made as to its ongoing relevancy or accuracy. This Issues Backgrounder should not be considered a comprehensive guide to this particular subject and is only a representative sample of the information available. This Issues Backgrounder does not constitute a professional legal opinion.