



Dear Resident of the Berowra Electorate,

Today the NSW Government announced a four-week extension of the Greater Sydney lockdown. I know this lockdown has been hard for many in our community, particularly for parents homeschooling, year 12s studying for their HSC or businesses trying to keep afloat.

I just want to say a big THANK YOU for the part you continue to play in the vaccine rollout and the lockdown. Your decisions are making a big impact on our ability to get back to normal.

The vaccination rate tells this story with new records being hit everyday and almost 11.4 million doses now administered. This means that almost 2 in 5 of the eligible population aged over 16 are protected with a first dose (38%) and with more than a million doses being administered every week now, we will see the vaccination rise significantly over the coming weeks.

This newsletter contains information about the expanded supports announced by the Prime Minister today to help individuals and businesses get through the next four weeks of lockdown.

My team and I are still working hard to respond to your phone calls and emails however due to the NSW Public Health Order, my electorate office in Pennant Hills is currently closed to visitors. We can be contacted at julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au or (02) 9980 1822.

Please feel welcome to share this newsletter with others who may be interested. Anyone who wants to be added to the newsletter distribution list should email julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au.

Julian Leeser

Boosted COVID-19 Disaster Support Payment

Increased financial support will be available for individuals from next week as part of the Commonwealth Government's expanded national COVID-19 Disaster Payment.

Eligible workers will receive **\$750 per week if they lost 20 hours or more of work** or **\$450 per week if they lost between 8 and less than 20 hours, or a full day or work.**

This new level of payment recognises the significant impact that the new COVID-19 Delta strain is having on communities, businesses and workers.

The new national payment rate will commence for payments processed week commencing 2 August and will be automatically updated for those already in the Services Australia system.

It will be available from day one of any potential lockdown in the future, with claims made from day eight in arrears for the previous seven days. A weekly payment will then be made for the duration of the hotspot declaration.

There will be no liquid assets test applied to eligibility for these payments and an individual does not need to run down personal annual leave.

Individuals who currently receive an income support payment through our social security safety net will receive a weekly payment of \$200, in addition to their existing payment, if they can demonstrate they have lost more than 8 hours of work and meet the other eligibility requirements for the COVID-19 Disaster Payment.

Claiming this payment must be done through Services Australia and myGov and will be a separate stand-alone payment. It will be paid weekly for however long the lockdown and Commonwealth Hotspot declaration remains in place.

For more information on this increased support or to apply for the COVID-19 Disaster Payment go to:

COVID-19 Disaster Payment - Services Australia

Expanded Business Support Package

The Morrison and Berejiklian governments have agreed to expand the JobSaver Payment to support businesses through the extended lockdown, at least until 28 August 2021.

Under the expanded payment, eligible entities, which includes not-for-profits, will now receive payments of between \$1,500 and \$100,000 per week based on the level of their payroll with the maximum turnover threshold increased from \$50 million to \$250 million.

The payment will continue to be calculated based on 40 per cent of payroll for businesses that have suffered a 30 per cent or more decline in turnover.

For non-employing businesses, such as sole traders, the payment will remain set at \$1,000 per week.

The expanded payment will now cover more than 400,000 businesses employing 3.3 million workers in NSW subject to eligibility.

The payment will also provide more substantial support for businesses to cover unavoidable costs such as rent, insurance and maintenance as well as employee costs during an extended lockdown.

The expanded support will continue to be conditional on businesses maintaining their employee headcount as at 13 July (covering permanent and long-term casual employees) by not taking active steps to terminate their employment.

This will help maintain the connection between employers and employees and in doing so support the economic recovery once restrictions are eased.

The expanded payment will take effect from 18 July 2021, the start of the program. Businesses that have already submitted an application will not need to do anything, their payment will be automatically adjusted consistent with the expanded program.

Workers who have lost hours will continue to be supported by the COVID-19 Disaster Payment with more than 812,000 claims granted in NSW to date with more than \$411 million in weekly payments.

Businesses should visit Services NSW for more information:

[Business support - Services NSW](#)

Lockdown restrictions for the Parramatta LGA

NSW Government made some announcements today about changes to the restrictions for the Parramatta LGA. From midnight tonight, if you live in the Parramatta LGA the only people who can leave the LGA are authorised workers.

Helpful COVID-19 links

NSW Government made some announcements today about changes to the restrictions for Greater Sydney, particularly in relation to construction workers, singles bubbles and the vaccination of year 12s. To keep up to date with the latest **NSW public health orders and restrictions** go to: [Public Health Orders and restrictions - COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

It is also more important than ever to get your vaccine if you are eligible. **To check your eligibility and for information on how to book in for you vaccination**, go to: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility->

checker

Australia.gov.au provides the **latest official coronavirus news, updates and advice from the Australian Government.**

The latest information on **NSW case locations and other COVID-19 alerts**, can be found here: [Latest COVID-19 case locations and alerts in NSW - COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)

For your nearest **COVID-19 testing clinics** visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics>

Mental health support

This is a very difficult time for many. Should you, or someone you know need mental health support, I would encourage you to make use of the crisis supports available to you. You can call:

- Lifeline Australia on 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800
- 1800 Respect on 1800 737 732
- Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636
- Suicide Call Back on 1300 659 467
- Headspace on 1800 650 890

There are also many online resources available at <https://www.headtohealth.gov.au/>



BE COVIDSAFE

FEELING OVERWHELMED?

**IT'S OK TO ASK FOR HELP.
24/7 SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE**

Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service
1800 512 348 | coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au



headtohealth.gov.au

headspace **1800 650 890**

Lifeline **13 1114**

Kids Helpline **1800 551 800**

Suicide Call Back Service **1300 659 467**

ReachOut **au.reachout.com**

**Speak to your GP about services
funded under Medicare**

