



CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

Communique #7

COCWA - COVID19 ADVICE UPDATE

15 April 2020

COMMERCIAL TENNANCIES

National Cabinet agreed to a moratorium on evictions over the next six months for commercial and residential tenancies in financial distress who are unable to meet their commitments due to the impact of coronavirus. Commercial tenants, landlords and financial institutions are encouraged to sit down together to find a way through to ensure that businesses can survive and be there on the other side.

The National Cabinet has agreed that states and territories will implement a mandatory [Code of Conduct for commercial tenancies](#). The purpose of this Code of Conduct ("the Code") is to impose a set of good faith leasing principles for application to commercial tenancies (including retail, office and industrial) between owners/operators/other landlords and tenants, where the tenant is an eligible business for the purpose of the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper programme. These principles will apply to negotiating amendments in good faith to existing leasing arrangements – to aid the management of cashflow for SME tenants and landlords on a proportionate basis – as a result of the impact and commercial disruption caused by the economic impacts of industry and government responses to the declared Coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic.

If you require support or advice with regard to your commercial lease, please contact your local managing real-estate agent (where applicable) as they will have resources available to guide you in this time.

HILLSONG MUSIC AND LICENSING

Please see the attached info sheet from Hillsong about use of their music in your online streaming of services.

CCLI (AUS)

[Christian Copyright Licensing, Inc. \(CCLI\)](#) enables real-time access to licensed Christian music and media while at once easing the burden of administration in the many complex issues related to copyright.

They have a solution for Churches who want to stay connected by streaming the worship service, including music. CCLI negotiated a pricing structure for the [Church Streaming License](#) that is very low to provide you as much support as possible.

Even if you already have an existing [CCLI licence](#), we recommend you double check that you have the *right* one as there are a few options to choose from. An update from CCLI about the coronavirus can be found here: <https://au.ccli.com/coronavirus>.

ONLINE SAFETY

There has been an increase in COVID-19 themed cyber activity towards websites designed to either install software or steal personal information and banking details. [Learn more about protecting yourself against cybercrime](#), or [report a cybercrime](#).

There are a number of resources and articles being developed to assist churches with running online ministry safely: <https://safeministrycheck.com.au/practising-safe-ministry-online-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

The office of the [eSafety Commissioner](#) provides some excellent resources for all ages on keeping safe online; very timely in what has fast become a new digital environment for many of us.

ACCESSIBILITY OF ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES AND RESOURCES

There are some amazing recordings, podcasts and livestreaming church services hitting the web every week – but not all of them are easy to find, especially to those who are not experienced in this sort of thing! Please make sure they are easily found on your church website – aim for one click from front page to service/resource.

INCREASED RISK OF FAMILY/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Ministers and other pastoral carers are reminded to be aware of the increased risk for family violence during this difficult time. The COVID-19 outbreak and self-isolation requirements may impact individuals and families within your faith community and the wider community. There may be financial pressure, family tensions or a heightened sense of uncertainty and anxiety. No matter what the external stressors, violence should not be tolerated. Please familiarise yourself with the services in your area and always call 000 if someone is in immediate danger.

WA Department of Communities & Child Protection: [Domestic Violence Helpline](#)

National: [1800Respect](#)

AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

Federal Government

Cash Flow Assistance may provide eligible not-for-profits, including charities, with a minimum of \$20,000 and up to \$100,000. This is only available to charities with employees, and is automatically calculated upon submission of BAS. No new forms or applications are necessary.

Go to <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses> for the latest FactSheet. These are updated regularly.

JobKeeper may provide assistance for businesses where turnover drops by 30%; and for charities (registered with ACNC) who employ staff where turnover drops by at least 15% (announced 5 April

2020). Parliament has been recalled to approve the necessary legislation, however the Bill has not yet been viewed to see the details for calculating the drop in turnover for NFPs.

Go to <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses> for the latest FactSheet. These are updated regularly.

STATE

Electricity Credit: Synergy have announced some details on a 'one off \$2,500 credit' for electricity accounts. This will be available to small business customers on certain tariffs; and eligible charities on community service and charitable accommodation electricity plans. This credit applies to: L1, R1, C1, D1 and K1 tariffs. This will be automatically applied to eligible accounts on 1 May 2020.

COVID-19 Relief Fund for NFP and Community Groups: through Lotterywest, a \$159m fund has been established to provide support to organisations that are helping people experiencing hardship. This includes funds for eligible NFP's to assist with costs related to increased demand for food, clothing, shelter and critical needs; and includes funding for new equipment and resources.

Go to <https://www.lotterywest.wa.gov.au/lotterywest/covid-19/covid-19-grants> for information.

STAY UP TO DATE

COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving situation, and all Affiliates are reminded to stay on top of the latest information. Learn more by referring to *trusted* sources, such as:

- [Australian Government](#)
- [Australian Department of Health](#)
- [WA Government - Coronavirus-Community-Advice](#)
- [Prime Ministers Scott Morrison's website](#)

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