

# Small business tenant and landlord support

*We're here for small business*

## WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

Support is available through the Victorian Government's Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme (the Scheme), which has been extended until 28 March 2021.

The Scheme was introduced to relieve financial hardship faced by tenants and landlords as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19).



This extension provides a continuation of the Scheme's supports where:

- **commercial landlords are required to provide rent relief that matches their eligible tenant's fall in turnover** from the date the tenant applies with the required evidence
- **rent increases and evictions for tenants who have requested rent relief and provided evidence of eligibility are banned**
- **tenants and landlords who can't reach an agreement on rent relief can [apply for free mediation](#)** with the Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC) to resolve their dispute

- **tenants can apply to the VSBC for a binding order for rent relief** if their landlord fails to respond to the VSBC or doesn't engage in mediation in good faith.

## I'M SEEKING RENT RELIEF – WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

If you are seeking rent relief from 1 January 2021 to 28 March 2021, you will need to apply to your landlord in writing with [evidence of your eligibility](#) as soon as possible, as a landlord is only required to provide rent relief from the date you do this.

If you have already made a request and are seeking further rent relief for this extended period, you will need to make another request to your landlord supplying the [required evidence](#).

## RESOURCES TO HELP

To make it easier, the VSBC has created a [letter](#) that you can send to your landlord to request rent relief – you just need to fill in the parts highlighted in yellow.

For more information, including the process under the Scheme, translated leasing advice and responses to frequently asked questions, see the VSBC's [web page for tenants and landlords](#).