
EVERYDAY ISSUES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

WHERE CAN I GET INFORMATION I CAN TRUST?

As with any natural disaster or crisis, you need to get your information about emerging issues from government sources. Reliable and updated health information is available from:

- <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>
- [Australian Government Department of Health: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) health alert.](#)

The Federal Government has a good overall page here with links to many other services.

- <https://www.australia.gov.au/>

LEGAL ISSUES

For legal questions, [Victoria Legal Aid](#), community legal centres and private lawyers are all good sources of legal information and advice.

For workers, unions and the [Fair Work Ombudsman](#) are trustworthy. [The Young Workers Centre](#) has excellent information for workers under 25.

For financial problems, the [National Debt Helpline](#) is a free, reliable, community-based source of information. You can also speak to the [LTSU Financial Counsellor](#) by calling Reception on 9479 2314

For questions about your enrolment at La Trobe University, coursework and so on go to [La Trobe University](#). You can also speak to an [Advocate](#) from the LTSU by calling Reception on 9479 2314.

Student Visa Holders can find information about their visa status and international travel including travel home at the [Department of Home Affairs](#) and your home country's Embassy or Consulate.

You can always speak to the [LTSU Legal Service](#) lawyer for any legal issue. Call Reception on 9479 2314 for a phone or zoom appointment, or email ltsu_legalservice@latrobe.edu.au.

WORK

JOBSEEKER AND JOBKEEPER PAYMENTS

If you are an Australian citizen or Permanent Resident, you may be eligible for the Jobseeker or Jobkeeper payments.

Jobkeeper is a new payment announced by the Federal Government on 30 March. You can find their media release here: [Jobkeeper payment](#)

For Jobkeeper, your employer needs to register. They can do so at the Australian Tax Office website [here](#)

If you are not eligible for Jobkeeper you may be eligible for the Jobseeker payment though Services Australia (Centrelink)

To register for Jobseeker go to [Services Australia](#)

Student visa holders are not eligible for these payments but there is some financial assistance available from La Trobe University [here](#).

EMPLOYMENT

You can find updated information about employment issues at:

- [Fair Work Ombudsman](#)
- [The Young Workers Centre](#)
- [Jobwatch](#)

For answers to specific questions you can get quick information via online form/phone at

- [Fair Work Ombudsman \(employers and employees\) \(online help\)](#) or phone 13 13 94
- [The Young Workers Centre](#) on 1800 714 754
- [Justice Connect Answers \(employees only\) \(online\)](#)

For free Legal Advice about your particular situation contact us.

HOUSING

For questions about where you're living check out

- [Tenants Victoria](#)
- [Consumer Affairs Victoria](#)

The Federal and Victorian governments have recently announced a freeze on evictions due to the coronavirus situation. Information is still coming through so at this stage we recommend you check the [Tenants Victoria](#) webpage or contact us directly if you are having difficulty paying your rent due to corona.

For free Legal Advice about your particular situation contact us.

SOCIAL DISTANCING – 'STAY AT HOME' AND 'RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES' DIRECTIONS

Victoria is now under Stage 3 Restrictions. The Victorian Government has directed all Victorians to stay at home to help limit the spread of coronavirus.

If you can stay home, you must stay home.

Details about what you can do are [here](#)

There are large on-the-spot fines if you breach these directions.

PARENTING AND FAMILY LAW

If you share your child(ren)'s care with another parent you can continue to take your children from one household to the other even while Stay at Home orders are in place.

Victoria Legal Aid has information [online](#) about how coronavirus affects parenting issues.

Financial Aspects of family law like property settlements are likely to be significantly delayed as the courts slow down due to social distancing measures. Contact us for more information.

INFRINGEMENTS AND MINOR CRIMINAL MATTERS

Social distancing measures mean that the courts have significantly slowed down. Most minor matters at the Victorian Magistrates Courts have been adjourned till at least June. If you have a court date coming up, go to the [Magistrates Court website](#) for more information.

It is likely that Fines Victoria operations will be similarly affected. You can check the status of any fines you have by going to [Fines Victoria](#)

EVERYTHING ELSE

Life goes on. You may have legal issues about all sorts of things that are unrelated to the coronavirus.

The LTSU Legal Service gives free legal advice about all sorts of general legal questions including:

- Housing and tenancy
- Consumer law
- Fines
- Family law
- Domestic and family violence
- Minor criminal matters
- Car accidents
- Victims of crime

We can also refer you to specialists in all areas of law.

We are open throughout the La Trobe campus shutdown.

Contact reception on 9479 2314 or email ltsu_legalservice@latrobe.edu.au for an appointment via phone or zoom.

