



Small Business Debt Helpline

Supporting small business financial wellbeing

February 2022

Small business owners are the backbone to the Australian economy. The Government recognises that COVID-19 and successive natural disaster events have caused financial hardship for many businesses.

The Australian Government is investing \$2.1 million in the Small Business Debt Helpline delivered by Financial Counselling Australia (FCA). This builds on the Government's previous \$3.5 million investment in 2020 to establish the Small Business Bushfire Financial Counselling Support Line as part of the Government's response to the devastating 2019-20 bushfires.

As part of the Government's COVID-19 economic recovery the Small Business Debt Helpline is replacing the Small Business Bushfire Financial Counselling Support Line. The Small Business Debt Helpline assists small businesses in financial distress across Australia—regardless of the cause of the hardship—through free, independent, and confidential financial counselling support over the phone.

The Small Business Debt Helpline supports small business owners across a range of complex issues including avoiding bankruptcy, negotiating payment plans, debt waivers, grant applications and insolvency. Small business owners requiring additional support will be referred to an appropriate service—including mental health support as required.

Small business owners can access the Small Business Debt Helpline by calling **1800 413 828** between 9am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday AEDT or visiting <https://sbdh.org.au>.