

THE COOK ISLANDS GOVERNMENT IS EXTENDING THE LIFELINE SUPPORT THROUGH THE WAGE SUBSIDY UNTIL THE END OF 2020

In light of the recent setback of COVID-19 in Auckland, on October 1 the Government Wage subsidy will be extended for a further 3 months, until the end of December, and will remain in place regardless of whether quarantine free-travel with New Zealand is established earlier.

Continuing on with Phase II of the Economic Response plan (ERP) to COVID-19, the subsidy will be available for eligible businesses at the following rates:

- \$320 per week per full-time employee working 20 hours per week or more
- \$160 per week for a part-time employee, working between 5 and 19 hours per week

Businesses will no longer be eligible for the subsidy if at any time their turnover increases to more than 50 per cent of the turnover in the same month last year.

Further changes to the requirements under the wage subsidy will be announced in the coming days.

In addition to the Wage Subsidy exten-

sion, a further **sole trader business grant of \$3,000 will become available** to cur-

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rent recipients in October to ensure that these businesses receive continued support and are able to continue operations during the crisis.

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In order to receive the grant and/or wage subsidy, Sole Traders and Employers will need to re-apply on Te Roro on <https://app.cinsf.com>

