

## [COVID-19 Toolkit for Banking and Finance](#)

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Australia's finance and banking sectors have been significantly impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This toolkit provides legal practitioners with Guidance Notes and Latest Legal Updates addressing the changes in law and regulatory responses to COVID-19, and practical information to assist practitioners through the crisis.

### General information about COVID-19

[LexisNexis Information Hub COVID-19](#) 

### Guidance Notes — key issues for banking and finance lawyers:

- ▶ Guidance Note: [Signing documents remotely or electronically in a pandemic or crisis](#)
  - How to sign documents during a pandemic or crisis
  - Issues to consider when signing remotely or electronically
  - Checklist: [Lending — Checklist for the use of electronic signatures under the Electronic Transactions Act 1999 \(Cth\) \(ETA\)](#)

See also: Signing and witnessing documents (see below) for latest updates.

- ▶ Guidance Note: [Emergency legislation, signing under s 127 and remote witnessing during COVID-19 pandemic](#)
  - Commonwealth and state-by-state summary of emergency legislation and in response to COVID-19 regarding signing and witnessing documents
- ▶ Guidance Note: [Financing during a pandemic or crisis](#)
- ▶ Guidance Note: [Key issues when acting for a borrower during a pandemic or crisis](#)
- ▶ Guidance Note: [The Council of Financial Regulators and other regulators' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

See also: Regulatory activities (see below) for latest updates.

- ▶ Guidance Note: [Hardship and default during a pandemic or crisis](#)

### Latest Legal Updates

▶ Access to credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Treasury announces SME Guarantee Scheme in response to COVID-19</a> (24 March 2020)</li><li>• <a href="#">APRA to launch new data collection to support SME guarantee scheme</a> (24 April 2020)</li></ul>
▶ Capital raising/management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">APRA defers implementation of capital reforms</a> (30 March 2020)</li><li>• <a href="#">ASIC gives temporary relief to listed companies for low doc capital raisings as part of COVID-19 response</a> (2 April 2020)</li><li>• <a href="#">APRA issues guidance to ADIs and insurers on capital management</a> (08 April 2020)</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">ASX provides Compliance Update that includes changes to temporary emergency capital raising relief measures</a> (24 April 2020)</li> </ul>
▶ Consumer assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">AFCA to modify its approach to dispute resolution in light of Australia's COVID-19 response</a> (27 March 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">AFCA gives more time to resolve complaints due to COVID-19</a> (16 April 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">ASIC warns retail lenders regarding consumers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19</a> (29 April 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">ASIC temporarily relaxes hawking and product disclosure requirements for debit cards</a> (1 May 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">AFCA activates significant event response plan in response to ME Bank change to redraw facility</a> (7 May 2020)</li> </ul>
▶ <a href="#">Corporations Act 2001</a> (Cth) changes and insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Corporations Act amended to include temporary relief measures for companies under Federal Government's COVID-19 economic stimulus package</a> (24 March 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Federal Treasurer makes new Legislative Instrument temporarily amending Corporations Act requirements due to impact of COVID-19</a> (06 May 2020)</li> </ul>
▶ Credit relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">New regulations provide exemption from responsible lending obligations for Australian Credit Licensees in some circumstances</a> (03 April 2020)</li> </ul>
▶ Derivatives markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Deferral of Global Initial Margin requirements for Non-Centrally Cleared Swaps — Impact of COVID-19 on Initial Margin Phase-In</a> (24 April 2020)</li> </ul>
▶ Foreign investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Threshold to FIRB approval of foreign investments dropped to \$0 to address economic impact of COVID-19</a> (31 March 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">FIRB regulations made to implement \$0 threshold for FIRB approval in response to COVID-19</a> (12 May 2020)</li> </ul>
▶ Home loans and mortgages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">NSW Supreme Court considers impact of COVID-19 emergency measures on mortgage enforcement and repossessions (Catalyst Provisional Lending Pty Limited v Dick-Telfar) [2020] NSWSC 324</a> (06 May 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Mortgage broker reforms and design and distribution obligations delayed for six months</a> (08 May 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">APRA publishes frequently asked questions on loan repayment deferrals and residential mortgage lending</a> (12 May 2020)</li> </ul>
▶ Regulatory activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Industry responds to COVID-19</a> (13 March 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Industry responds to COVID-19 — APRA update</a> (19 March 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">ASX releases statement on COVID-19</a> (20 March 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RBA announces sweeping measures to support Australian economy through COVID-19 crisis</a> (20 March 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">ASIC and APRA readjust 2020 activities to prioritise responding to COVID-19 challenges</a> (24 March 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">AUSTRAC extends deadline for submitting Compliance Report 2019</a> (27 March 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#">ASIC offers fee relief for entities in financial difficulty due to COVID-19</a> (02 April 2020)</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><u>APRA temporarily suspends the issuing of new licences due to impact of COVID-19</u></a> (08 April 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>ASIC announces changes to regulatory activities due to COVID-19</u></a> (14 April 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>ASIC announces extended deadline for financial reporting by unlisted entities due to COVID-19</u></a> (14 April 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>ASIC reminds responsible entities of their obligations in COVID-19 environment</u></a> (14 April 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>ACCC provides update on "Open Banking", including temporary exemptions and further consultation on Consumer Data Right Rules</u></a> (24 April 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>APRA to launch new data collection to assess temporary early release of superannuation scheme</u></a> (24 April 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>ASIC warns retail investors at risk in COVID-19 period</u></a> (06 May 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Federal Government to delay implementation of Royal Commission findings by six months</u></a> (08 May 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>AFCA amends rules to reflect COVID-19 related small business relief measures</u></a> (15 May 2020)</li> </ul>
▶ Relief for financial advisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><u>ASIC gives temporary relief for urgent advice and early access to superannuation</u></a> (15 April 2020)</li> </ul>
▶ Signing and witnessing documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Does the COVID-19 outbreak affect e-conveyancing VOI checks?</u></a>  (23 March 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>JobKeeper legislation includes temporary powers to amend Commonwealth legislation relating to executing and witnessing documents</u></a> (15 April 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>QLD emergency legislation provides broad powers to amend laws relating to documents</u></a> (22 April 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>NSW temporary regulations allow for remote witnessing of documents</u></a> (23 April 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>VIC temporary regulations allow for electronic signing of deeds and remote witnessing of documents</u></a> (12 May 2020)</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>QLD temporary regulations allow for electronic signing of documents (including deeds) and remote witnessing</u></a> (22 May 2020)</li> </ul>

## Key resources

[ASIC COVID-19 information](#) 

[APRA news and publications](#) 

[Australian Government COVID-19 hub](#) 

[Australian Treasury](#) 

[AFCA Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic support hub](#) 

## COVID-19 Toolkit for Banking and Finance

[Australian Banking Association Covid-19 information](#) 

State and territory land titles offices — COVID-19 related updates:

- [NSW Registrar General — Guidance for eConveyancing](#) 
- [VIC Land Registry — Latest News](#) 
- [QLD Titles Registry — COVID-19 update](#) 
- [WA Landgate — COVID-19 information](#) 
- [SA Registrar-General's Customer Information Bulletins](#) 
- [TAS Recorder of Titles — Office Circulars](#) 