



Tas Chapter Membership Survey Results – APRIL

We have surveyed our Tasmanian members, and the information below is the impact felt by our membership as of COVID-19 as of April 9 when the survey closed. From this survey, 59 members responded across a variety of practice types, from sole practitioners and small to medium-sized firms, including city-based and regionally-based firms. Respondents also included a cross-section of position descriptions including directors, architects and graduates.

Q: Is COVID-19 affecting your practice?

- 33.90% of respondents indicated their practice has been significantly affected by COVID-19
- 59.32% of respondents indicated their practice has been somewhat affected, but not significantly.
- 5.01% of respondents indicated that haven't been affected at all.

In total, 94.92% of respondents indicated their practice had been affected in some way by COVID-19.

Q: If you have lost work, what is the approximate value of lost earnings?

- 57.62% of respondents indicated their loss of work is less than \$1 million.
- 8.47% indicated their loss of work is between \$1 million and \$5 million.
- 3.39% indicated their loss of work is between \$5 million and \$10 million.
- 1.69% indicated their loss of work is over \$10 million.

In total, 71.19% of the Tasmanian Chapter membership who completed this survey reported that they had had monetary loss in work. Please note, some respondents (graduates and other employees who don't know the monetary value of the lost works) didn't complete this question.

Q: Have you been forced to lay off or stand down staff? If so, how many staff (FTE) have been affected? Have you required staff to take leave (paid or unpaid)?

- 15.25% of respondents indicated their workforce has had forced layoffs or stand downs, which affected on average 3.33 staff (FTE) per office.
- In addition, 6.78% of respondents reported that staff have been required to take leave (paid or unpaid).

Note that this survey was undertaken prior to the details being released regarding the JobKeeper scheme.

Q: If you have had to reduce hours, approximately how many hours per week?



- 23.73% of respondents reported no forced layoffs but a reduction in working hours with their average reduction in work hours being 22.4 hours per week per person.

In total 42.37% of respondents reported either staff layoffs, a reduction in hours or forced leave (paid or unpaid) which has affected them, their colleagues/employees.

Q: Have you been able to negotiate reduced costs for your practice? If so, please state what these are (e.g. rent)?

- Other than the reduction in wages, 13.56% of respondents reported they have been able to negotiate a reduction in overhead costs for their practice.

Q: If you are experiencing supply chain issues, what are these?

- 28.81% of respondents listed procurement issues as their main supply chain issue.
- 32.20% reported their supply chain issues was due to consultant/sub-consultant hold-ups.
- 30.51% reported lack of communication from clients being their main issue with the supply chain.

Q: How helpful has the government relief initiatives been to date?

- 66.1% of respondents haven't accessed any government relief.
- 16.95% of respondents reported the government relief is not at all helpful.
- 13.60% of respondents reported that the government help was moderately helpful.
- 3.39% of respondents reported that the government relief initiatives have been extremely helpful.

Note that this survey was undertaken prior to the details being released regarding the JobKeeper scheme.

Q: At this point in time, realistically, how long do you feel you can continue to 'hold on'?

- 32.20% of respondents indicated they could continue to 'hold on' for another 2-4 months.
- 35.59% of respondents indicated they could continue to 'hold on' for another 4-6 months.
- 6.78% of respondents indicated they could continue to 'hold on' for another 12 months.
- 20.34% of respondents indicated they are able to continue as they have been.

The following is the breakdown of the practitioners that data was received from, noting that 23 respondents were sole practitioners, 27 respondents were from small practices, and 9 were from medium practices:

- 95% of sole practitioners listed that the government relief initiatives have not been accessed or aren't helpful, and of those, 26% reported they could 'hold on'



for another 2-4 months, and 39.1% reported they could 'hold on' for another 4-6 months.

- 70% of small practices reported that the government relief initiatives have not been accessed or aren't helpful and of those 47.8% reported they could 'hold on' for another 2-4 months, and 33.3% reported they could 'hold on' for another 4-6 months.
- 77% of medium sized practices listed that the government relief initiatives have not been accessed and of those, 22% reported they could 'hold on' for another 2-4 months and 66% reported they could 'hold on' for another 4-6 months.

Note that this survey was undertaken prior to the details being released regarding the JobKeeper scheme.

We intend to conduct a similar survey over the next few weeks to understand if there has been any change over the month.

We have also been in contact with some of the larger councils around the state regarding the numbers of development applications they have received this month compared to the same time last year, which is particularly telling of the impact on the building and construction industry, and we are waiting on this data.

The City of Hobart's statistics show that 45 development applications have been lodged to date in April 2020 as compared to 71 in 2019, with a decrease of 37%. We will receive further data at the end of the month, and we hope to receive data on building applications as well.