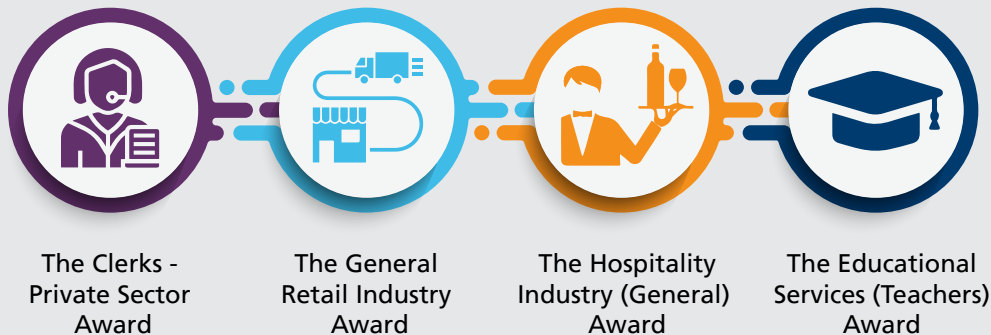


COVID-19 changes proposed for most Modern Awards

The Fair Work Commission this week proposed variations to 103 modern awards. The variations would operate until **30 June 2020**. The variations are designed to protect those required to self-isolate, particularly if not entitled to personal leave, and to increase flexibility to assist with the COVID-19 response.

Some of the major awards on the list include:



The Clerks - Private Sector Award

The General Retail Industry Award

The Hospitality Industry (General) Award

The Educational Services (Teachers) Award

A number of industries are not covered, including the mining and resources industry and the construction industry.

Written submissions responding to the provisional variations must be received by **4pm on Monday 6 April 2020**. A hearing will be held on 8 April 2020 if required, otherwise a decision will be made on the papers.

A summary of the proposed variations are:

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Pandemic Leave

<p>What is the entitlement?</p> <p>2 weeks' unpaid leave if required to self-isolate or otherwise prevented from working because of COVID-19.</p>	<p>The fine print</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice and evidence required. • The leave counts as service. • Taking pandemic leave is a 'workplace right'.
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Annual leave at half pay

<p>What is the entitlement?</p> <p>Employee and employer may agree to the employee taking twice as much leave on half pay.</p>	<p>The fine print</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking leave at half pay is a 'workplace right' • The agreement must be recorded in writing and retained as an employee record.
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