

Application for remission of rates or postponement of rates – financial hardship



Legislation

Remissions of rates, fines and postponement of rates on the basis of hardship are provided for under the Local Government Act 1999. In particular Section 182 contains provisions for remission or postponement of rates in whole or in part on the basis of hardship.

Application for remission of rates and postponement

To apply for a remission of general rates or a postponement of rates on the basis of ongoing financial hardship please complete all sections of the attached form. All details supplied are confidential.

Eligible seniors (holders of a current state seniors card) applying for postponement of rates must complete a 'Postponement of rates for seniors' application form and should not apply using this remission application form.

Rate remissions and postponements – financial hardship

We will accept applications for remission of rates or postponement of rates from ratepayers suffering ongoing or extreme financial hardship, and will consider each application on its own merits. Postponed rates (on the basis of hardship) are also subject to evidenced ongoing extreme hardship criteria. In most instances:

- Applicants will be required to attend an accredited financial counsellor who must prepare a current income and expenditure statement (this service is available free of charge through some charitable organisations eg Uniting Care Wesley but no longer offered through Families SA) **(not required if a Debt Agreement with the Australian Financial Authority is proposed).**
- The counsellor must review the income and expenditure statement and prepare a suggested budget (where appropriate)
- The counsellor must prepare a letter for council substantiating the current financial circumstances, indicating any advice, assistance provided to the ratepayer and their reasons supporting that a rate remission be granted

A copy of these documents must be provided to council to support the remission application

- Other information or evidence may also be requested in certain circumstances.

Property valuation and rates payable

As rates are based on property value, prior to lodging any application for remission, the ratepayer should first determine if they consider their valuation to be a fair assessment of their property. If the valuation is considered to be incorrect, an objection to valuation must be lodged through the State Valuation office within 60 days after the service of the first rate notice for the current year. Please telephone the State Valuation office on 1300 653 346 to discuss any valuation issues.

Payment of rates pending processing of remission application

Where a ratepayer has applied for a remission of rates or postponement of rates, payment of any amounts due cannot be deferred pending the outcome of their application. Amounts due must be paid as invoiced or statutory fines or interest will apply. Where a rates remission is granted, the applicant will be advised in writing and the adjusted amount will be reflected in the following rates notice.

(08) 8563 8444 | barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au | barossa.sa.gov.au

43-51 Tanunda Road (PO Box 867), Nuriootpa SA 5355 | ABN: 47 749 871 215

Section A – Ownership/ratepayer details

Name of ALL ratepayer(s):	
Postal address:	
Daytime telephone:	
Name of owner: (Complete only if different to Ratepayer details or indicate 'as above')	
Property address:	
Rates assessment no:	
Purchase date of property:	
Is this your principal place of residence?:	Yes / No
Please list ANY other properties owned: (attach list if insufficient space provided)	

Section B – Occupant details

Please provide details of all occupants of the property

For the column marked 'Status' – please indicate if this person is employed, unemployed, pensioner, SFR concession holder, dependant child or other suitable description (attach list if insufficient space).

Occupant No.	Name	Relationship (spouse etc)	Status
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

Section C – Concession details

Please provide details of any concessions for which all ratepayers/occupiers are/may be eligible.

Concession Types = Pensioner, SFR concession, Centrelink beneficiary, health care card holder.

Occupant No.	Concession Type	Pensioner, Seniors card, Centrelink or card number (shown on your card)	Date of grant or date benefits commenced
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Have you received or applied for the appropriate concession toward council rates for the current financial year?
Yes No (Please circle answer)

If the answer to the above question is 'No' do you require information on how to apply for the concessions available?
Yes No (Please circle answer)

Section D – Rates/fines remission or postponement

Amount of general rate remission requested:	\$
Amount of fines remission requested:	\$

Are you requesting a postponement of rates? **Yes No** (please circle response)
Note: Seniors applying for postponed rates must complete the appropriate application form.

Please state reason for this request – THIS INFORMATION MUST BE PROVIDED:
(If insufficient space attach separate sheet)

Please complete the following questions

Do you consider the Capital Value shown on your annual rate notice to be a fair assessment for the property?
Yes No (Please circle response)

Have you lodged an objection to the valuation with the state valuation office for the current financial year?
Yes No (Please circle response)

Please note: If you have responded 'No' to both of the above questions you must lodge an objection to valuation (please see instructions on page 1 of this document). Applications for remissions will not be considered unless any issues with the valuation have been resolved.

Have you previously received remissions of rates on the basis of ongoing financial hardship?

Yes No (Please circle response)

Legal Declaration

I wish to apply for a remission on my rates for the current financial year and declare that the information shown above is true and correct:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please forward the completed application to:

The Barossa Council

Private and Confidential
Rates Department
PO Box 867
NURIOTPA SA 5355.

Once the application has been assessed, you will be advised of the outcome in writing. Until you are advised of the outcome of your application please ensure that you pay your rates as per your Rates Notice. Payment of any amounts due cannot be deferred or statutory fines or interest will apply.

Financial Counselling Services Barossa/Northern Region



Phone 1800 759 707
Email: financialcounselling@anglicaresa.com.au
91-93 Elizabeth Way
Elizabeth SA 5112



The Salvation Army
AUSTRALIA SOUTHERN TERRITORY



Phone: 8523 4844 or 13 72 58
Email: fcsupport@aus.salvationarmy.org



UnitingCare
Wesley Bowden



Phone 8245 7100 UCWB Outreach
Email: ucwb@ucwb.org.au



centrelink



Centrelink Offices
7 Langford Drive
Elizabeth SA 5112

23 High St East
GAWLER SA 5118

Phone 13 24 68



Phone 8202 5980
Email: FConduity@unitingcommunities.org
2/2b Morialta Drive
Smithfield SA 511

(08) 8563 8444 | barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au | barossa.sa.gov.au

43-51 Tanunda Road (PO Box 867), Nuriootpa SA 5355 | ABN: 47 749 871 215



Phone 8562 2688 – Monday - Thursday
26 Second Street
NURIOOTPA SA 5355



Phone 8522 4522

Email: ucare@internode.on.net

10 Tod St
GAWLER SA 5118

Emergency Help Phone Numbers



beyondblue Support Service
Support. Advice. Action

 **1300 22 4636**

**Lifeline** **Saving Lives**
Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.

I need help now!
 **CALL US: 13 11 14**

1800RESPECT
NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC
FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE

Call **1800 737 732**
NRS: 1800 555 677  Interpreter: 13 14 50



Call 1300 659 467



SA Health

Mental health emergency - call 13 14 65



www.financialcounsellingaustralia.org.au

Juggling bills and debts?
Get back on track with

free
financial
counselling



NATIONAL
DEBT
HELPLINE
1800 007 007
ndh.org.au

The [website](http://ndh.org.au) has step-by-step
guides explaining how to fix
common debt problems



Call the **Helpline** to speak to a
financial counsellor

1800 007 007



(08) 8563 8444 | barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au | barossa.sa.gov.au

43-51 Tanunda Road (PO Box 867), Nuriootpa SA 5355 | ABN: 47 749 871 215



Provide no interest loans and other support
www.goodshep.org.au
Phone 1300 770 550
Located at 58 John St Salisbury

Rural Business Support



www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au
or Free call 1800 836 211 during business hours



www.ruralaid.org.au
or Free call 1300 327 624