

# Rates Financial Hardship Application

For this application, you MUST:

- Complete all questions on this form;
- Provide any mandatory supporting information identified on the form as being required to accompany your application.

Prior to completing this form please contact Council's rates department to see if the Standard arrangement to pay option is suitable for you

**Please allow 10 working days for processing**

## SECTION 1 – PROPERTY DETAILS

Assessment Number:

Property Address:

## SECTION 2 - PROPERTY OWNER DETAILS

Full Name Applicant / Owner 1:

Relationship to Other Owners:

Date of Birth:

Residential Address:

Postal Address:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

## SECTION 3 – DETAILS OF ALL OTHER OWNERS (as indicated on Rate Assessment)

*To add additional owners, attach details to this form.*

Full Name Owner 2:

Relationship to Other Owners:

Date Of Birth:

Full Name Owner 3:

Relationship to Other Owners:

Date Of Birth:

## SECTION 4 – PROPERTY

|   | Applicant/Owner 1  | Owner 2  | Owner 3  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Is this property your Principal Place of residence?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are you a Pensioner?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| If yes Centrelink or Veterans Affairs?  |  |  |  |
| Pensioner Only: if this is your principle place of residence, have you applied for the State Government and Council Pension Rates Subsidy | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is this property currently for sale?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |  |  |

**Section 5 – SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION****ASSETS**

Do you own any other properties?

 Yes  No

If yes provide details below. (i.e. Address, Valuation)

Do you own any other substantial assets?

 Yes  No

If yes provide details below (i.e. Boat, Caravan)

Do you own a motor vehicle?

 Yes  No

If yes provide details below

Make and Model:

Value: \$

Make and Model:

Value: \$

**SAVINGS**

Total of funds at Bank, Credit Union, Term Deposit

\$

Total of Shares/Investments

\$

Cash at hand

\$

**INCOME****Fortnightly**

Centrelink Pension, Benefit or Allowance

\$

Type of Benefit:

Fortnightly Board Payments or Rent (including holiday rental)

\$

Fortnightly Employment Income:

 Full-time  Part-Time/Casual  Self Employed

\$

**Fortnightly household income/dependents:**

\$

| Name | Relationship | Age          | Fortnightly Income | Contribution to Liabilities / Debts |
|------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
|      |              |              | \$                 | \$                                  |
|      |              |              | \$                 | \$                                  |
|      |              |              | \$                 | \$                                  |
|      |              | <b>Total</b> | <b>\$</b>          | <b>\$</b>                           |

**Liabilities / Debts:***Please list all outstanding debts and amounts outstanding and/or current payment arrangement per fortnight*

| Debt owed to          | Type of Debt          | Payment per fortnight | Total Amount |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Douglas Shire Council | Rates                 | \$                    | \$           |
| Douglas Shire Council | Water Rates           | \$                    | \$           |
|                       | Home Loan Re-payments | \$                    | \$           |
|                       | Electricity           | \$                    | \$           |
|                       | Credit Cards          | \$                    | \$           |
|                       | Personal Loans        | \$                    | \$           |
|                       | Other                 | \$                    | \$           |

**SECTION 6 – APPLICATION**

Have you contacted Council's Rates department to discuss a standard arrangement to pay option?

Yes                       No

How long have you been experiencing hardship:

Have you ever applied for rate assistance from Douglas Shire Council before (excluding Pensioner remissions)?

Yes                       No

Have you explored any alternative avenues for assistance e.g. early release of superannuation, mortgage relief loan?

Yes                       No

Are you currently receiving any financial counselling?

Yes                       No

If yes, please advise type:

Social worker       Financial counsellor

What form of financial relief are you requesting from Council:

- Interest Freeze, no longer than 6 months
- Deferment of Rates and charges, no longer than 6 mths (interest still accrues on this option)
- Other (please explain):

Please comprehensively explain the changes in circumstances that have affected the ability to meet your rate commitments. Also explain your financial plan to get your rates up to date if granted rate assistance by Council.

**SECTION 7 – APPLICATION EVIDENCE CHECKLIST:**

The applicant must provide evidence of financial hardship. Please tick what you have included with this application. Failure to provide this evidence, may result in your application being denied.

|  | Applicant Supplied       | N/A                      | Officer Checked          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Copy of most recent pay slip, government benefit statement   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Medical practitioner or health profession letter (if applicable)   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Letter confirming financial hardship from a recognised financial counsellor or financial planner (if applicable) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Letter from Employer (if applicable)   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any other supporting documentation considered relevant in supporting this request                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**DECLARATION**

I, the Applicant named in this form, declare that the information provided by me in this application is true and correct and I consent to the making of enquiries and exchange of information with authorities of any Local, State/Territory or Commonwealth department regarding any matters relevant to this application.

Please note: If Council becomes aware of any ratepayer or individual providing false or misleading information to gain assistance for which he or she would otherwise not be eligible, the agreement with Council will become null and void and legal action to recover debt may be taken.

This application must be signed by all property owners:

|  |  |              |  |
|--|--|--------------|--|
| <b>Applicant/Owner 1</b><br>Signature: |  | <b>Date:</b> |  |
| <b>Applicant/Owner 2</b><br>Signature: |  | <b>Date:</b> |  |
| <b>Applicant/Owner 3</b><br>Signature: |  | <b>Date:</b> |  |

**Douglas Shire Council – Privacy Collection Notice:**

Douglas Shire Council collects and manages personal information in the course of performing its activities, functions and duties. We respect the privacy of the personal information held by us. The way in which the council manages personal information is governed by *the Information Privacy Act 2009* (Qld). We are collecting your personal information in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* so that we can assess and finalise your application. Generally, we will not disclose your personal information outside of Council unless we are required to do so by law, or unless you have given us your consent to such disclosure. For further information about how we manage your personal information please see our Information Privacy Policy.

**OFFICE USE**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment number written on form | <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of documentation attached                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ALL Questions answered            | <input type="checkbox"/> Check rates database and ensure all details are correct |

# Financial Assistance Information Sheet

[www.moneyhelp.org.au](http://www.moneyhelp.org.au)

Financial Counselling Australia has developed a self-help website which provides letter templates, fact sheets, information on financial counselling services and a debt management self-help tool.








## Self Help

The Consumer Action Law Centre is a not-for-profit provider of phone based financial counselling services.

The financial counselling hotline can be reached on free call **1800 007 007**. The free hotline is open from 9.30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday

The centre can also direct callers to their closest local in-person service.

A very useful resource is the Victorian Government Money Help Website: [www.debtselphelp.org.au](http://www.debtselphelp.org.au).

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  <p><b>Queensland Government</b></p>   | <p><b>Queensland Government – Financial Assistance</b><br/> <a href="https://www.qld.gov.au/community/losing-your-job-income/financial-assistance/">https://www.qld.gov.au/community/losing-your-job-income/financial-assistance/</a><br/>           Telephone: 13 74 68</p> |
|   | <p><b>Lifeline</b><br/> <a href="https://www.lifeline.org.au/Get-Help/Facts---Information/Financial-problems">https://www.lifeline.org.au/Get-Help/Facts---Information/Financial-problems</a><br/>           Telephone: 13 11 14</p>   |
|    | <p><b>The Salvation Army</b><br/> <a href="https://salvos.org.au/need-help/financial-assistance/">https://salvos.org.au/need-help/financial-assistance/</a><br/>           Telephone: 1300 363 622</p>   |
|    | <p><b>Money Smart</b><br/> <a href="https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources">https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources</a></p>   |
|  <p><b>Queensland Government</b></p>   | <p><b>Queensland Government - Mortgage Relief Loan</b><br/> <a href="https://www.qld.gov.au/housing/buying-owning-home/mortgage-relief-loan/">https://www.qld.gov.au/housing/buying-owning-home/mortgage-relief-loan/</a><br/>           Telephone: 1300 654 322</p>         |
|  <p><b>Australian Government</b><br/> <b>Australian Financial Security Authority</b></p> | <p><b>Australian Financial Security Authority</b><br/> <a href="https://www.afsa.gov.au/insolvency/i-cant-pay-my-debts/get-help-debt-decisions">https://www.afsa.gov.au/insolvency/i-cant-pay-my-debts/get-help-debt-decisions</a></p>                                       |
|    | <p><b>Financial Counsellor 1800 007 007</b></p>  |