**REDUNDANCY CHECKLIST**

This template policy is intended to assist member businesses develop their own workplace policy. The following information should be used as a guide only. Any wording changes, other than those to insert a business name, may change the context, meaning or purpose of the policy. We recommend you receive advice from the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry prior to making such changes.

## Contacting the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Victorian Chamber’s team of experienced workplace relations advisors can assist members with a range of employment, human resources and industrial relations issues.

Our experienced workplace relations consultants can also provide assistance to both members and non-members on a range of more complex matters for a fee-for-service. The consultants can, among other things, provide training to employees, conduct investigations and provide representation at proceedings at the Fair Work Commission.

For assistance or more information, please contact the Workplace Relations Advice Line on **(03) 8662 5222.**

**Disclaimer**

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## **REDUNDANCY**

## What is a redundancy?

## Termination of employment due to redundancy is a form of dismissal by the employer. It carries with it the concept of involuntary termination of the employee’s employment. However, rather than being a fault based dismissal, redundancy is usually caused by factors such as economic conditions, business efficiency, or technological development.

## **REDUNDANCY CHECKLIST**

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| **Sequence of tasks** | |
| **Preliminary steps — Prior to making a definite decision to make a position redundant** | |
| 1. Assess the motivating reasons for the redundancy. Consider whether the reason for the redundancy would amount to a genuine redundancy. | ❒ |
| 1. Do you no longer wish the job to be performed by anyone because of changes in the operational requirements of your enterprise or due to insolvency or bankruptcy? | ❒ |
| 1. Are there reasons of an economic, technological, structural nature that necessitates a restructure of the business? Obtain data to support those reasons. | ❒ |
| 1. Consider alternatives to redundancy, such as transfers, retraining or redeployment (within the employer’s enterprise or the enterprise of an associated entity of the employer). | ❒ |
| 1. Do you still need to consider redundancies? | ❒ |
| **Selection of employee to retrench** | |
| 1. Select employees for redundancy, in a fair and non-discriminatory way. | ❒ |
| 1. Identify employees for redundancy by objective selection criteria which are applied consistently to employees whose position may be made redundant. Relevant factors may include a consideration of an employee’s:   (i) qualifications  (ii) skill set  (iii) experience  (iv) performance | ❒ |
| **Consultation** | |
| 1. Consider obligations contained in awards, agreements, contracts, legislation and employer policies that mandate consultation and notification with employee(s) and/or unions about the proposed redundancies before they take effect. | ❒ |
| 1. Consider whether you are obliged to, or will elect to offer voluntary redundancies. | ❒ |
| 1. Discuss re-deployment opportunities with employees. | ❒ |
| 1. Comply with obligations in awards, agreements, contracts and legislation. | ❒ |
| 1. Notify affected employee(s) and relevant unions (where required) of impending redundancies. | ❒ |
| 1. Ensure affected employee(s) understand the genuine operational reasons for the impending redundancies. | ❒ |
| 1. Notify the employee of his/her redundancy and final date of employment in writing. | ❒ |
| **Entitlements** | |
| 1. Identify any entitlement to redundancy/severance pay an employee might have under an applicable award or agreement, contract of employment, employer policy or legislation. | ❒ |
| 1. Consider whether there are exclusions from paying redundancy pay under the applicable award or agreement, contract of employment, employer policy or legislation. | ❒ |
| 1. Discuss with an accountant or tax adviser any applicable tax free components of the redundancy/severance payments. | ❒ |
| 1. Consider whether you will offer additional severance payments to employees above their legal entitlements. If so consider using a Deed of Release. | ❒ |
| 1. Check applicable award or agreement, contract of employment and legislation for minimum notice periods. Comply with these notice periods. | ❒ |
| 1. Calculate termination entitlements. | ❒ |
| **General** | |
| 1. Notify other parties affected by the redundancy, eg employee’s superannuation fund, workers’ compensation and other insurers (where relevant), other employees and managers, payroll, key customers etc. | ❒ |
| 1. Issue an employment separation certificate. | ❒ |
| 1. Check the applicable award, agreement or contract of employment, employer policies and legislation to see whether you must issue a statement of service. | ❒ |
| 1. Notify Services Australia (Centrelink) of and Employee Representatives where a decision has been made to terminate the employment of 15 or more employees for reasons of an economic, technological, structural or similar nature before termination. | ❒ |