

# COVID-19

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## Federal Government's \$130 Billion Stimulus JobKeeper package

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30 March 2020



10+  
YEARS

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## JobKeeper payments

The JobKeeper Payment will support employers to maintain their connection to their employees. These connections will enable business to reactivate their operations quickly without having to rehire staff when the crisis is over.


The Government will provide \$1,500 per fortnight per employee for up to 6 months.

### *Employer eligibility*

- Business turnover is less than \$1 billion per annum and has decreased by 30% or more relative to a comparable period a year ago (of at least 1 month); or
- Business turnover is more than \$1 billion per annum and has decreased by 50% or more relative to a comparable period a year ago (of at least 1 month);
- Self-employed individuals will be eligible to receive the JobKeeper Payment where they have suffered or expect to suffer a 30 per cent decline in turnover relative to a comparable period a year ago (of at least a month); and
- The business is not subject to the Major Bank Levy.

An employer must elect to participate by including the following in an application to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO):

- Supporting information demonstrating a downturn in their business; and
- Number of eligible employees employed by the business on a monthly basis.



Eligible employers will receive payment for each eligible employee that was on their books from 1 March 2020 and continues to be engaged by that employer, including:


- Full-time;
- Part-time;
- Long-term casuals; and
- Stood down employees.

Eligible employers who have stood down their employees before the commencement of this scheme will be able to participate. Employees that are re-engaged by a business that was their employer on 1 March 2020 will also be eligible.

Employees with multiple employers can only receive one payment and need to notify their primary employer to claim the JobKeeper Payment on their behalf.

## *Employee eligibility*

Affected employers will be able to claim a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 per eligible employee from 30 March 2020, for a maximum of 6 months. These employees include:

- Australian Citizens;
  - Permanent visa holders;
  - Protected Special category visa holders;
  - Non-protected Special Category Visa Holder who has been residing continually in Australia for 10 years or more;
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- Special Category (Subclass 444) visa holders; and
- Full-time and part-time employees including stood down employees and casuals over the age of 16 that have been with their employers for at least 12 months.

Employees will receive a notification from their employer that they are receiving the JobKeeper Payment. The majority of employees will need to do nothing further.

Employees in the following circumstances will have additional obligations:

- Employees that have multiple employers must notify the employer that is their primary employer;
- Employees that are not Australian citizens must notify their employer of their visa status, to allow their employer to determine if they are an eligible employee; and
- Employees that are currently in receipt of an income support payment must notify Services Australia of their new income.

## *Payment process*

Employees will be able to receive this payment in a number of different ways:

- For employees who receive \$1,500 or more in income per fortnight before tax, their regular income will continue to be received according to their ongoing workplace arrangements. The JobKeeper Payment will assist employers to continue operating by subsidising all or part of their employee(s) income;

- Employers must pay employees a minimum of \$1,500 per fortnight before tax if employees ordinarily receive less than or equal to \$1,500 per fortnight before tax;
- If an employee has been stood down, their employer must pay their employee, at a minimum \$1,500 per fortnight before tax; and
- If an employee was employed on 1 March 2020, subsequently ceased employment with their employer, and then has been re-engaged by the same eligible employer, the employee will receive, at a minimum \$1,500 per fortnight before tax.

It will be up to the employer if they want to pay superannuation on any additional wage paid because of the JobKeeper Payment. Payments will be made to the employer monthly in arrears by the ATO.

## *Timing*

The subsidy will start on 30 March 2020, with the first payments to be received by employers in the first week of May, with payments to be back paid to 30 March 2020.



**Gunderson**  
**Briggs**

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