

Government Announces New JobKeeper Payment

31 MARCH 2020

Contributed by Cameron Field

The Government has announced a \$130 billion JobKeeper payment to help keep more Australians in jobs and support businesses affected by the significant economic impact caused by the Coronavirus.

Around 6 million workers will receive a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 (before tax) through their employer.

The payment ensures eligible employers remain connected to their workforce and will help businesses restart quickly when the crisis is over.

The subsidy will start on 30 March 2020, with the first payments to be received by employers in the first week of May. Businesses will be able to register their interest in participating in the Payment from 30 March 2020 on the ATO website.

Payments will be made to the employer monthly in arrears by the ATO.

Eligible Employers

To receive the JobKeeper Payment, employers must:

- Be able to show that their **business turnover has dropped by 30%** compared to the equivalent period last year;
- **Register an intention** to apply on the ATO website and assess that they have or will experience the required turnover decline.
- **Provide information to the ATO on eligible employees.** This includes information on the number of eligible employees engaged as at 1 March 2020 and those currently employed by the business (including those stood down or rehired).
- **Ensure that each eligible employee receives at least \$1,500 per fortnight (before tax).** For employees that were already receiving this amount from the employer then their income will not change. For employees that have been receiving less than this amount, the employer will need to top up the payment to the employee up to \$1,500, before tax. And for those employees earning more than this amount, the employer is able to provide them with a top-up.
- Notify all **eligible employees that they are receiving the JobKeeper Payment.**
- Continue to provide information to the ATO on a monthly basis, including the number of eligible employees employed by the business.

Eligible Employees

Eligible employees are employees who:

- are currently employed by the eligible employer (including those stood down or rehired);
- were employed by the employer at 1 March 2020;
- are full-time, part-time, or long-term casuals (a casual employed on a regular basis for longer than 12 months as at 1 March 2020);
- are at least 16 years of age;
- are an Australian citizen, the holder of a permanent visa, a Protected Special Category Visa Holder, a non-protected Special Category Visa Holder who has been residing continually in Australia for 10 years or more, or a Special Category (Subclass 444) Visa Holder; and
- are not in receipt of a JobKeeper Payment from another employer.



Application Process

Employers can register their interest in applying for the JobKeeper Payment via ato.gov.au from 30 March 2020.

Once the scheme becomes active, eligible employers will be able to apply via an online application form with the first payment to be received from the ATO in the first week of May 2020.

Employers will need to identify eligible employees and must provide monthly updates to the ATO. Participating employers will be required to ensure their eligible employees receive, at a minimum, \$1,500 per fortnight, before tax.

It will be up to the employer's discretion as to whether superannuation guarantee is paid on any additional wage paid as a result of the JobKeeper Payment.

Businesses Without Employees & Self-Employed

Businesses without employees, such as the self-employed, can register their interest in applying for JobKeeper Payment via ato.gov.au from 30 March 2020.

Businesses without employees will need to provide an ABN for their business, nominate an individual to receive the payment and provide that individual's Tax File Number and provide a declaration as to recent business activity.

People who are self-employed will need to provide a monthly update to the ATO to declare their continued eligibility for the payments. Payment will be made monthly to the individual's bank account.

Further Information

Further information on the JobKeeper Payment can be found at the following links:

[JobKeeper Payment - Fact Sheet](#)

[Information for Employers](#)

[Information for Employees](#)

To discuss if you or your business may be eligible for the JobKeeper Payment please contact our office.

LEVEL 4, 240 QUEEN STREET
BRISBANE, QLD, 4000
general@hallchadwickqld.com.au
+61 7 3212 2500