

---

# GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSES – COVID-19 STIMULUS PACKAGE

---

## JobKeeper Payment

The JobKeeper payment is a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 per employee, for up to six months.

It is targeted at businesses affected by the shutdowns in response to the spread of COVID-19. It is available to the self-employed.

Eligible employees will receive, at a minimum, \$1,500 per fortnight, before tax.

### Eligibility

- ✓ Businesses of under \$1 Billion annual turnover with a reduction of 30% relative to a comparable period a year ago of at least a month, or;
- ✓ Businesses of more than \$1 Billion annually with a reduction of more than 50% relative to a comparable period a year ago of at least a month.

The payment is only for all staff employed with the business at 1 March 2020 who continue in employment each month. This includes, full-time, part-time, long-term casuals, and stood down employees.

Casual employees eligible for the payments must have been in regular employment at least for the previous 12 months as at 1 March 2020 (therefore prior to 1 March 2019).

To be eligible, an employee must be 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.

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.

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 a period a year ago (of at least a month).

**Note:** For employees with multiple employers only one employer is eligible for the rebate. The employee must notify the employer to claim the benefit on their behalf. The claiming of the tax free threshold will in most cases be sufficient notification that an employer is the employee's primary employer.

*Employees already stood down and seeking payment from Services Australia will need to advise Services Australia if they get re-employed and start benefitting from the JobKeeper payment, as they are no longer eligible to receive JobSeeker Payments and the Coronavirus supplement from Centrelink.*

### Applying

You must apply for the payment. Supporting evidence will be required by the ATO demonstrating a downturn in business. This would include evidence of the comparable month a year previous, and evidence of a reduction in this current month. In addition, employers must continue to report the number of eligible employees employed by the business on a monthly basis.

Employers can register their interest [HERE](#). The ATO will then contact each registered business with an Information Kit containing further details on the administration of this Scheme.

### Receiving the Payment

The payment will be delivered to employers through the ATO. At a minimum, the payment will be \$1,500 a fortnight, before tax. Employers can choose to top-up the payment.

- If an employee ordinarily receives \$1,500 or more in income per fortnight before tax, they will continue to receive their regular income. The JobKeeper Payment subsidises all or part of the employee's income.
- If an employee ordinarily receives less than \$1,500 in income per fortnight before tax, their employer must pay their employee, at a minimum, \$1,500 per fortnight, before tax to receive the subsidy.
- In the case of employees already stood down, their employer must pay their employee, at a minimum, \$1,500 per fortnight, before tax, to continue receiving the subsidy.
- If an employee was employed on 1 March 2020, ceased employment with their employer after that date, then subsequently was re-engaged by the same eligible employer, the employee will receive, at a minimum, \$1,500 per fortnight, before tax.

Superannuation or on any additional wage paid is up to the discretion of the employer.

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

If you have any further questions on the JobKeeper Payment please email Elyse Keyser on [advocacy@aaa.com.au](mailto:advocacy@aaa.com.au) or call us on 03 8513 9971.