



# Changes to JobKeeper and JobSeeker

Queensland



Council of Unions

## Payment Schemes change in September

### Payment scheme changes from 28 Sep

After strong campaigning from the union movement, the Federal Government has extended and expanded the JobKeeper Payment scheme for a further six months from 28 September 2020 to March 2021.

The expansion is a good step forward to bringing some financial security to the thousands of workers facing an uncertain future, but it does not go far enough.

As part the extension, eligibility will be loosened but payment amounts will be reduced. Key changes are detailed below.

#### Payment drops from \$1500 to \$1200

The federal government has reduced JobKeeper payments during the extension period and a lower payment rate will be introduced for those who work fewer hours.

From 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021, the JobKeeper Payment rates will be:

- \$1,200 per fortnight for all eligible employees who were working in the business or not-for-profit for 20 hours or more a week on average in the four weeks of pay periods before either 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020, and for eligible business participants who were actively engaged in the business for 20 hours or more per week on average; and
- \$750 per fortnight for other eligible employees and business participants (this depends principally on the “hours worked” test outlined above).

From 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021, the JobKeeper Payment rates will be:

- \$1,000 per fortnight for all eligible employees who were working in the business or not-for-profit for 20 hours or more a week on average in the four weeks of pay periods before either 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020, and for business participants who were actively engaged in the business for 20 hours or more per week on average; and
- \$650 per fortnight for other eligible employees and business participants.

#### KEY POINTS

**JobKeeper payment reduces from \$1500 to \$1200 per fortnight from 28 Sep 2020 and then again to \$1000 per fortnight from 4 Jan.**

**Eligibility for JobKeeper payments has changed.**



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## Eligibility Changes

Some changes have been introduced to who is eligible for the JobKeeper payments during the extension period. To receive the JobKeeper payment after 28 September 2020, you must be:

- Currently employed by an eligible employer (including if you were stood down or re-hired)
- A full-time, part-time or fixed-term employee at 1 July 2020; or
- A long-term casual employee (employed on a regular and systematic basis for at least 12 months) as at 1 July 2020 and not a permanent employee of any other employer
- were aged 18 years or older at 1 July 2020 (if you were 16 or 17 you can also qualify if you are independent or not undertaking full time study)
- Either:
  - an Australian resident (within the meaning of the Social Security Act 1991); or
  - An Australian resident for the purpose of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 and the holder of a Subclass 444 (Special Category) visa as at 1 March 2020.
- Not receiving any of the following payments during the JobKeeper fortnight:
  - government parental leave or Dad and partner pay under the *Paid Parental Leave Act 2010*; or
  - a payment in accordance with Australian worker compensation law for an individual's total incapacity for work.

**Queensland Unions continue to push for JobKeeper to be further expanded to fully cover higher education workers in universities, casuals who have been with their employer for less than 12 months, and workers on temporary visas left out from the scheme.**

## Jobseeker Changes

During COVID the current JobSeeker fortnightly payment for the unemployed has been supplemented by the Coronavirus Supplement of \$550 per fortnight.

The JobSeeker payment is \$565.70 per fortnight for a single unemployed person.

The federal government is now cutting the Coronavirus supplement by \$300 to \$250 per fortnight from 24 September 2020 until 31 December 2020. This will reduce the payment:

- from \$1115.70 to \$815.70 per fortnight for a single person,
- from \$1162.00 to \$862 per fortnight for a single person with a dependent child or children,
- from \$1162.00 to \$862.00 per fortnight for a single person over 60 after 9 continuous months on payment,
- from \$1060.80 to \$760.80 per fortnight if you are partnered.

### KEY POINTS

**The JobSeeker  
Coronavirus  
supplement payment  
reduces on 28 Sept  
from \$550 per  
fortnight to \$250 per  
fortnight - a cut of  
\$300 per fortnight.**

**The JobSeeker  
payment is \$565.70  
per fortnight for a  
single unemployed  
person.**



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