



COVID-19 Stimulus Package JobKeeper Payment FAQ – General & Compliance

GENERAL

What is the JobKeeper Payment?

The JobKeeper Payment package is a payment that is made to eligible businesses and not-for-profits that have been adversely affected by the Coronavirus to support them in retaining employees.

Eligible businesses can opt-in to the program and will receive \$1,500 per fortnight for each eligible employee.

When will the JobKeeper Payment start?

Payments will be available from the 30th March 2020.

When will the JobKeeper Payment end?

Payments will be available until the 27th September 2020.

My business received a wage subsidy through an employment services provider. Are we eligible to receive the JobKeeper Payment?

Where an employer received a wage subsidy when they engaged an employee, they can still access the JobKeeper Payment if all other eligibility criteria for this payment are met.

There have been no changes to wage subsidies administered by employment services providers.

The Government's announcement of the JobKeeper Payment is intended to encourage employers, who might make staff redundant due to the Coronavirus outbreak, to retain or rehire their employees.

Can employers receive both the JobKeeper payment and the supporting Apprentices & Trainees wage subsidy?

Where small businesses receive the JobKeeper Payment, they are not eligible to receive the apprentice and trainee wage subsidy from 1 April 2020 onwards.

Eligible small businesses can receive the 50 per cent wage subsidy for apprentices and trainees in the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees measure from 1 January to 31 March 2020, and the JobKeeper Payment thereafter.

COMPLIANCE

Payment in arrears to guarantee full payment to workers

The JobKeeper Payment is paid to employers in arrears. This ensures that employees receive the government funds in full. Employers will be reimbursed by the ATO from the first week of May. This will allow the ATO to conduct compliance and audit activity such as comparing payments to Single Touch Payroll.

*This information is true and correct as at 12th April 2020
Further information and updates as they arise will be provided promptly by our team.*



Appropriate reporting and record-keeping to verify compliance

Entities claiming the JobKeeper Payment must ensure they have all relevant records with regards to themselves and their employees. Monthly reporting will be required to show payments have been made to employees and with respect to their turnover etc.

Payments can be withheld by the ATO if appropriate reporting has not been made or serious questions arise about the information that has been provided by the taxpayer, until that information can be verified.

Entities must keep these records for at least 5 years in case the ATO wishes to verify the information at a later date.

What will be done to ensure compliance?

This program will be subject to ATO compliance and audit activities. There will be a positive obligation on employers to establish their eligibility and that of their employees. In addition, the ATO will cross-check payments with Services Australia data, and data from other government agencies, and undertake activities designed to identify multiple or ineligible payments to individuals.

What is the Government going to do to ensure companies don't manipulate their turnover to ensure they qualify?

The ATO will provide guidance to help businesses self-assess their eligibility. This will include for circumstances that do not fit neatly into more general circumstances that most businesses are in.

The Government will include appropriate integrity rules to prevent employers from entering into artificial schemes in order to get inappropriate access to payments. There are serious consequences, including large penalties and possible imprisonment, for those trying to illegally get benefits under the scheme.

What impact does the JobKeeper Payment have on Workplace Entitlements and Obligations?

Employers must continue to comply with their obligations in the Fair Work Act. The JobKeeper Payment does not remove any workplace protections for employees. Enforcement in relation to Fair Work entitlements will continue to sit with the Fair Work Ombudsman.

Enforcement and compliance to ensure the JobKeeper Payment is passed on to employees will be done by the ATO.