

JOBKEEPER UPDATE

Congratulations on securing an extension to the JobKeeper wage subsidy to March 2021. The JobKeeper package was fought for and won by TWU and other union members, and has provided a lifeline to thousands throughout the pandemic. The ongoing support will go some way to helping families struggling through the economic downturn.

But with rates slashed and many workers still left behind, we know that this is not good enough.

We continue to fight for a fairer system, for those left behind, and to stop companies misusing the system.

This fact sheet shares the latest information from the government. If you have any questions please contact your organiser/official or TWU branch.

SLASHED RATES

From September 28th, the JobKeeper payments will be split into two tiers: one for those working or actively engaged in the business for 20 hours or more a week on average, and the other to those who work less than 20 hours a week. **This will be determined by hours worked on average in the month of February 2020.**

Businesses will be required to nominate which payment rate they are claiming for each of their eligible employees (or business participants).

Alternative tests can be applied by the ATO Commissioner where a worker's hours were not usual during the February 2020 reference period. For example, this will include where the employee was on leave, volunteering during the bushfires, or not employed for all or part of February 2020.

If you work 20 hours or more a week:

- From September 28th, the JobKeeper payment will be paid at a reduced rate of \$1200 a fortnight
- From January 3rd 2021, the rate will be further reduced to \$1000 a fortnight

If you work less than 20 hours a week:

- From September 28th, the JobKeeper payment will be paid at a reduced rate of \$750 a fortnight
- From January 3rd 2021, the rate will be further reduced to \$650 a fortnight

****If you believe you will be unfairly pushed into the part-time payment please speak to your delegate.****

MORE INFO ON JOBKEEPER

- The current JobKeeper scheme will continue unchanged until September 27th
- Businesses must provide further evidence of ongoing reduction in turnover by September and again by January. The evidence must prove downturn is continuing, so if applying for the January 2021 quarter, that downturn existed in the June, September and December 2020 quarters.
- Provisions around leave entitlements are unchanged:
 1. Workers can't be forced to take Long Service Leave
 2. Workers can be asked to take annual leave but must maintain a two week leave balance

No further changes to the scheme have been announced. Turn over to find out how JobKeeper can and should be applied. If you believe your employer is misusing the scheme, contact your delegate or official as soon as possible.

WHAT SHOULD YOU BE PAID?

If your employer is still eligible and applies for JobKeeper payments, this payment must be passed on to you. This means you will receive a minimum of \$1200 a fortnight if you work 20 hours or more, and \$750 a fortnight if you work less than 20 hours a week, based on average hours throughout February 2020, regardless of how much (or if) you work. The following payments are included in that minimum:

- Salary, wages, commission, bonus or allowances
- Amounts withheld for tax purposes
- Contributions to superannuation

Any work you do should be paid at your normal rate.

If your hours have not changed and you would normally earn more than \$1200 per fortnight for full time workers, or \$750 per fortnight for part-timers or casuals working less than 20 hours a week, you must receive all payments and contributions to which you would normally be entitled based on your Award or Enterprise Agreement. Your pay should not change.

If you have been stood down or your wage is less than the applicable JobKeeper amount, your pay will be topped up to ensure you receive at least that amount (before tax) in payment. As it stands, any pay provided by the government subsidy does not attract additional superannuation payments, although you can speak to your employer about contributing some of the payment into your superannuation.

Remember to speak to your delegate or organiser/official to make sure you are being paid properly.

CHANGES TO JOBSEEKER

- Changes to the JobSeeker payment listed below apply from 25 September until 31 December 2020. An announcement on further support in 2021 is expected to be made in the coming months.
- The \$550 coronavirus supplement is being cut to \$250 a fortnight, meaning the total payment will go from \$1,115 to \$815.
- From the end of September, you can earn \$300 a fortnight, instead of the previous \$106, before your JobSeeker payment is affected.
- From August 4 all JobSeeker recipients must connect with employment services and undertake four job searches a month, as long as it's safe to do so. This number will increase at the end of September, but the number is still to be announced.
- Penalties for people who don't meet that requirement and don't have a valid reason are also coming back, as well as for anyone who refuses a job that's been offered to them.
- The Government is also reintroducing the assets test and increasing the partner income test, from 25 cents for every dollar of partner income earned over \$996 a fortnight, to 27 cents for every dollar of partner income earned over \$1,165 a fortnight.

Slashing rates to both JobKeeper and JobSeeker is not the way to pull Australia out of recession. We continue the fight for fairness to hold the government and employers to account for ensuring workers do not bear the brunt of this crisis.

BEING UNION MATTERS NOW MORE THAN EVER.

If you or anyone you work with is not yet a member, join now

TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER.

JOIN NOW FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

www.twu.com.au/join

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