

JobKeeper Payment: Do I Qualify?

The JobKeeper payment has been established to support businesses in retaining their employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal government is attempting to reduce economic impact of this coronavirus through payments to both employers and employees.

This is a temporary scheme open to any business impacted by the coronavirus, including those who are self-employed. The scheme will provide \$1500 per fortnight, per employee for up to 6 months.

This payment is intended to help businesses in a position to rebound after this crisis passes, without having to go through the hassle of rehiring staff.

Employers will be eligible for the subsidy if:

- their business has a turnover of less than \$1 billion and their turnover has fallen by more than 30 per cent (of at least a month); or
- their business has a turnover of \$1 billion or more and their turnover has fallen by more than 50 per cent (of at least a month); and
- the business is not subject to the Major Bank Levy.

The turnover from an equivalent period in the previous period is subject to scrutiny where the previous period was not representative of their usual turnover due to large interim acquisitions etc. The tax commissioner will have discretion in these matters, subject to additional information provided by the business.

The employer must have been in an employment relationship with eligible employees as at 1 March 2020, and confirm that each eligible employee is currently engaged in order to receive JobKeeper Payments.

Eligible employees are employees who:

- are currently employed by the eligible employer (including those stood down or re-hired)
- 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
- are not in receipt of a JobKeeper Payment from another employer

Further information can be found [here](#)

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