

## JobKeeper 2.0

On 21 July 2020, Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Treasurer Josh Frydenberg announced the eligibility criteria as well as the reduced JobKeeper payments for the six months after September 2020. The program will run to **28 March 2021** taking the entire JobKeeper program to \$86 billion. Below, we have outlined the exact changes and whether you are eligible for the wage subsidies after **27 September 2020**.

### Employer Eligibility

The current JobKeeper test requires all employers to **pass** the following:

- **30%** decline in **projected** GST turnover (**50%** decline for businesses with aggregated turnover of more than \$1 billion)
- **15%** decline if a registered charity

It has been outlined, that the decline percentages will **remain the same** for the rest of the 2.0 program but will be cut into two different segments. To be eligible for each segment, the following will apply:

#### Segment 1 – 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021

Measure decline using **actual** GST turnover in **both** the June and September 2020 quarter to 3 January 2021, relative to comparable 2019 periods.

#### Segment 2 – 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021

Measure decline using **actual** GST turnover in **each** of the June, September, and December 2020 quarters, relative to comparable 2019 periods.

The above segments and the reporting requirements are in line with the governments initial decision to wean out the businesses who are facing financial problems, by demonstrating that they have suffered an ongoing decline in turnover.

## Worker Eligibility

The eligibility requirements from the first round of JobKeeper will **still** be utilised after 28 September 2020. The initial JobKeeper was and is still accessible for:

- Not-for-profit employees
- Part time & casual staff who have been working with the business for at least one year
- Certain New Zealanders working in Australia who are normally not eligible for welfare payments
- Holders of permanent visas, protected special category visa holders, nonprotected special category visa holders who has been residing continually in Australia for the last 10 years OR a special category (subclass 444) visa holders

Further to the above, **additional** requirements have been outlined to determine which subsidy tier workers will be eligible for.

### 20+ hour work test (look-back to February 2020)

From 28 September 2020, eligibility for tier 1 JobKeeper revolves around whether the respective employee **worked for 20 hours or more** on average, during the **four weeks** of pay periods **prior to 1 March 2020**. This test will also be applicable to **sole traders** and eligible **business participants** from 28 September 2020, calculated by reference to time spent **“actively engaged in the business”**.

ATO discretion to apply an alternative test if employee’s hours were not usual during February 2020 reference period.

### Apprentices and trainees in place on 1 July 2020

A wage subsidy of **50%** of the apprentice or trainee’s wages paid until 31 March 2021. In addition to the existing support for small businesses, medium-sized businesses employing 199 people or fewer will **now be eligible** for the subsidy, for wages paid from **1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021**.

## JobKeeper Subsidies

To reiterate, the current JobKeeper wage subsidies will remain at **\$1,500/fortnight** until 27 September. However, after 27 September 2020, passing the above requirements is **mandatory**, and will determine which subsidy tier your business is eligible to follow.

### Tier 1 – Worked 20+ Hours

This tier is focused on the employees who passed the **working 20+ hours test** back in February 2020. Once passed, the fortnightly payments will be as follows:

- From 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021 - **\$1,200/fortnight**.
- From 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021 - **\$1,000/fortnight**.

### Tier 2 – Others

If your business has only passed the employer requirements, this tier is focused on employees who **did not pass** the 20+ hours test. The following fortnightly payments will be applicable:

- From 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021 - **\$750/fortnight**.
- From 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021 - **\$650/fortnight**.

#### **Disclaimer**

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