



A message from the CEO

COVID-19 Update 21/07

Today the Federal Government announced the future of JobKeeper, with support beyond September locked in.

The Prime Minister has announced that JobKeeper has been extended for a further two quarters until 28 March 2021, albeit with more regular eligibility testing and a two tiered payment for those working less than 20 hours per week, such as part time and casual workers.

- From 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021, the payment rate will be **\$1,200 per fortnight** for all eligible employees and business participants who, in the four weeks before 1 March 2020, were working or actively engaged in the business for **20 hours or more a week on average**, and **\$750 per fortnight** for employees and business participants who were working or actively engaged in the business for **less than 20 hours a week on average**.
- From 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021, the payment rate will be **\$1,000 per fortnight** for all eligible employees and business participants who in the four weeks before 1 March 2020, were working or actively engaged in the business for **20 hours or more a week on average**, and **\$650 per fortnight** for employees and business participants who were working or actively engaged in the business for **less than 20 hours a week on average**.

While the 30% reduction in turnover test (or 50% for businesses with an aggregated turnover exceeding \$1 billion) remains the same, eligibility in the JobKeeper extension has had some key changes. Where previously a business could compare a month or quarter against last year, businesses will now need to demonstrate a sustained reduction in turnover.

- From 28 September 2020, organisations will need to demonstrate that they have met the relevant continuing decline in turnover test in the June and September quarters 2020 to be eligible for JobKeeper from 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021.
- From 4 January 2020, organisations will need to demonstrate that they have met the relevant continuing decline in turnover test in each of the previous three quarters to remain eligible for the March 2021 quarter.

Importantly, I'm pleased to advise that the Prime Minister has confirmed that those who have already qualified and are plugged into for JobKeeper will remain locked in until September.

We are also cautiously optimistic that JobKeeper will continue to be available to our hosted apprentices. We are working through the detail and will communicate with our host employers once we have a better picture.

It's an understatement to say that JobKeeper has been the single biggest support measure to those in the automotive industry who have been impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have any questions about the extension and how it affects your business, get in touch with our Workplace Relations team by phone 8291 2000 or by [clicking here](#).

Regards
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