



Wednesday, 15 April 2020
Issue 16.0

We understand there seems to be an overload of information on all things COVID-19, and our aim is to keep these Updates as brief as possible – outlining the most important points allowing members to stay informed.

In this Issue, I want to draw your attention to an updated Edition of the JobKeeper Payment Guide (4) just released by our colleagues at the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI). We have provided a marked-up version for easy reference.

VACC is also undertaking a campaign to remind businesses and consumers that automotive is 'open for business'. Please see segments below for further information.

Finally, a reminder that VACC members are eligible for three (3) free, confidential counselling sessions with Psychology Melbourne. During these trying times it is important that we all look after our mental health – details below.

As always please feel free to reach out to me or the team at any time. VACC is here to help.

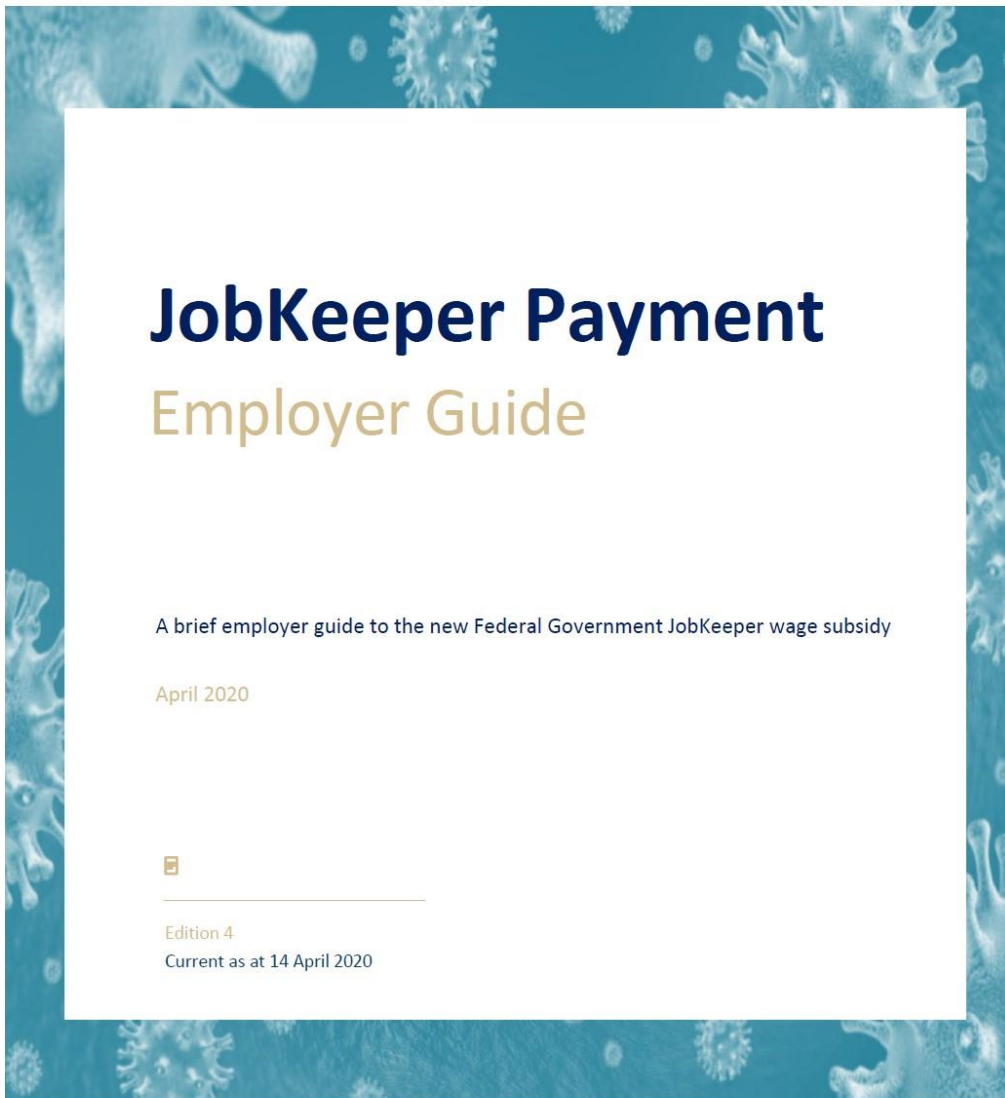
1. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Updated JobKeeper Payment Guide

ACCI has released a new edition of the document sent out last week. The new edition includes new examples on the application of the Fair Work Act temporary changes covered in the last edition of the guide, as well as a Calendar for the JobKeeper fortnights and deadlines and a checklist for employers wishing to issue a JobKeeper enabling direction.

We include a marked-up version of this guide so you can easily reference the updates.

You can access the guide [HERE](#) or by clicking on the image below.



JobKeeper: Step by Step approach for businesses

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has released a step by step approach for businesses to enrol for JobKeeper payments. Visit the ATO link [HERE](#).

Members are advised that the enrolment process commences on **20 April 2020**.

2. MEMBER SERVICES

'Auto is open' campaign launch

VACC has launched a community awareness campaign, 'Auto is open', in order to support members and get the word out to motorists that auto remains open for business.

The initiative includes a five-week advertising campaign, which will engage motorists across a variety of mediums.

Campaign elements include:

- Radio
- Social media
- Media release
- Video (CEO message)
- Posters
- Customer communication templates

This initiative has been launched in response to motorist confusion and member frustration in regard to government restrictions and the automotive industry. While the Chamber supports all measures being put in place to protect Australians, it has proved necessary for industry to make it clear to motorists: We are open for business.

To find out more and to download campaign elements, click [HERE](#).

Mental health check: Free counselling service available for VACC Members

Managing our mental health and being aware of how we are coping is important to all of us – because we all react differently to pressure points. Being able to come out the other side is critical, as is building resilience.

To help our members, VACC would like to offer our professional, confidential counselling service provided by Psychology Melbourne. This service can be accessed via phone or video link.

We would like to provide each member three (3) free sessions.

Simply call 03 9629 1001 for an appointment or book online at: <https://www.psychologymelbourne.com.au/appointments-opening-hours-fees-andrebates>. It is completely confidential.

Full reception is open at their main office in the Melbourne CBD for six days a week from

Monday – Thursday at 8:30am – 7pm;

Fridays from 8.30am – 6pm;

and Saturdays from 8:30am – 1:30pm

Members will simply need to state they are a VACC member. No further identifying information will be recorded or asked for.

For urgent situations please call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

Keeping the workplace clean

As well as staying safe in and around vehicles, VACC members should be vigilant when it comes to other areas of the workplace including office, lunch and waiting areas.

It is the employer's responsibility to implement processes to ensure the following:

- Workers wear gloves when cleaning and wash their hands thoroughly, or sanitise with an alcohol-based hand sanitiser, before and after wearing gloves
- Clean frequently touched areas and surfaces several times a day with a detergent or disinfectant solution. Areas can include EFTPOS equipment, handrails, tables, countertops, door handles, elevator buttons, sinks and keyboards
- Workers wipe down personal property that comes to work, such as sunglasses, mobile phones and tablets with a disinfectant solution

- Areas in which visitors and customers frequent are never crowded and are kept clean, including wiping down chairs after use.
- To help, the VACC OHS&E Unit has developed an [easy-to-use checklist](#) for automotive businesses to ensure the safety of their workers and customers, and assist in minimising the risk of spreading the virus further.

3. NEWS

Emergency sitting of the Victorian Parliament next week

The Victorian Parliament will be recalled two weeks early for a one-day emergency sitting on Thursday 23 April 2020 to pass vital legislation to assist the ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Victorian Government is drafting legislation to address issues such as the tenancy reforms agreed to by the National Cabinet, and the Parliament will also be asked to pass urgent appropriation bills which will ensure our healthcare workers and other vital public sector staff continue to be paid.

Government will buy local to boost manufacturing sector

The Federal Government will use its powers of procurement to rebuild and consolidate the domestic manufacturing of critical products, especially medical supplies. In an interview with The Australian Financial Review, Industry Minister Karen Andrews said while the government was working on bolstering the manufacturing sector generally, the coronavirus pandemic had exposed specific areas of need which required special attention.

You can read the full story in the Australian Financial Review [HERE](#).

Australian government plans to bring in mobile phone app to track people with coronavirus

Australia soon will adopt a sophisticated mobile phone app that tracks coronavirus victims and the people they come in contact with. The Federal Government wants to introduce the app, now being used in Singapore, within a fortnight and will outline the plan to premiers during the next meeting of the national cabinet on Thursday.

Read the full story in the Guardian Australia [HERE](#).

4. PREVIOUS UPDATE ISSUES

You can read previous Updates of COVID-19 [HERE](#).

Geoff Gwilym
Chief Executive Officer

Disclaimer: *The information gathered has been drawn from a number of sources and VACC strongly recommends that members revert to the primary source of information for any clarification.*