



Tuesday, 28 July 2020
Issue 39.0

1. GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

JobKeeper Payment extended

The JobKeeper Payment has been extended – at a lower rate and with stricter eligibility – until March 2021, the Morrison government has announced.

Originally due to run until 27 September 2020, JobKeeper will now continue to be available to eligible businesses and not-for-profits until 28 March 2021.

To be eligible post 27 September 2020, businesses will need to requalify. Businesses and not-for-profits seeking to claim the JobKeeper Payment will be required to demonstrate that they have suffered an ongoing significant decline in turnover using actual GST turnover (rather than projected GST turnover) in the June and September quarters 2020 to be eligible for the December quarter. Businesses will again need to reassess their eligibility for the March quarter.

The current fortnightly payment rate of \$1,500 for eligible employees (including the self-employed) will continue until 27 September 2020.

From 28 September 2020, JobKeeper payment rates will be determined by whether the eligible employee, in the four weeks of pay periods before 1 March 2020, was working 20 hours or more a week on average.

From 28 September 2020, JobKeeper payment rates for eligible employees meeting this 20-hour or more test will be \$1,200 per fortnight, reducing to \$1,000 per fortnight from 4 January 2021.

For other eligible employees (e.g. part-time), JobKeeper payment rates will be \$750 per fortnight from 28 September 2020, reducing to \$650 per fortnight from 4 January 2021.

The Government has also indicated it will seek to extend the temporary changes to the Fair Work Act 2009 under JobKeeper phase 2.

The Federal Government has released a comprehensive factsheet, [Extension of the JobKeeper Payment](#) for employer convenience.

Members can read more and find assistance [here](#).

2. MEMBER RESOURCES

VACC Face Coverings posters now available

As Melbourne and Mitchell Shire adapt to the introduction of mandatory face coverings which came into effect last Thursday, VACC has developed a variety of posters for members to display prominently at the front entrance and at various locations within the workplace.

These posters are designed to be a visual reminder for all staff, customers and visitors to the premises, that a face covering must be worn whilst on site (unless the individual has a valid exemption). Click [here](#) to access the posters.

For more information on face coverings, please refer to the recently released VACC OHSE Unit [bulletin](#).

For any additional COVID-19 related questions, please contact the OHSE Unit on 03 9829 1265 or via email ohs@vacc.com.au.

3. INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Business Support Fund Expansion

On 10 July 2020 the Victorian Government announced further support measures to businesses highly impacted by the reintroduction of stage 3 restrictions across metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire. This included a \$5,000 grant for eligible businesses.

To be eligible for the Fund, businesses must:

- a. Operate a business with an address located in one of the 31 metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire subject to the return to Stage 3 'Stay at Home' restrictions; and
- b. Be a participant in the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper Payment scheme.
- c. Employ people and be registered with WorkSafe on 30 June 2020; and
- d. Have an annual payroll of less than \$3 million in 2019-20 on an ungrouped basis; and
- e. Be registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST) on 30 June 2020; and
- f. Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at 30 June 2020; and
- g. Be registered with one of the following Federal or State regulators:
 - a. Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC);
 - b. Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC);
 - c. Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV);
 - d. and in the case of sole traders ABN registration will suffice (sole traders who use a business name other than their own personal name, must have that business name registered with ASIC)

For more information or to apply click [here](#).

4. RESTRICTION UPDATES

South Australia shuts Victorian border

South Australians will not be able to return to their home state from Victoria unless they are essential travellers, starting at one minute past midnight tonight.

It's among a raft of new restrictions designed to prevent Melbourne's surging coronavirus crisis spreading west into the neighbouring state.

Essential travellers to South Australia include essential skills workers and people entering the state on compassionate grounds, such as to attend a funeral or visit a dying relative.

Those wanting to apply for essential traveller status will need a letter confirming the reason for the application — such as from an employer or funeral home.

Read more [here](#).

5. 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.*