

BULLETIN

Industrial Relations



Reference No: JobKeeper/dh-8-20

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JobKeeper Payment update

Following the recent introduction of further COVID19 restrictions in Victoria and extensive lobbying from the VACC, MTAA, ACCI and others, the Australian Government has today [announced](#) that the JobKeeper Payment arrangements have been amended.

What has changed?

The reference date for assessing which employees are eligible for the JobKeeper Payment has changed from 1 March to 1 July 2020, effective from 3 August 2020. This means that employees employed during this period who otherwise meet the [eligibility requirements](#), are now eligible employees for qualifying employers under the JobKeeper Scheme.

In addition, the employer eligibility requirements post 27 September 2020 have also changed – please find commentary from VACC and MTAA [here](#).

How does this effect JobKeeper payment rates from 28 September 2020?

From 28 September 2020, JobKeeper payment rates will still be determined by whether the eligible employee was working 20 hours or more a week on average. However, the reference period to calculate average hours for employees employed between 1 March and 30 June 2020 will be the four weeks of pay periods prior to 1 July 2020. For employees who were eligible at 1 March 2020, the reference period will remain the four weeks of pay periods prior to 1 March 2020 (unless the 1 July 2020 average hours reference period is greater).

Have the JobKeeper payment rates changed?

No. As previously [advised](#), the current JobKeeper payment rate for eligible employees remains at \$1,500 per fortnight until 27 September. 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.

Summary of key dates

- From 3 August 2020: Reference date for assessing employee eligibility changes from 1 March to 1 July 2020.
- Until 27 September 2020: Payment continues at \$1,500 per fortnight
- 28 September 2020 – 3 January 2021: Payment reduced to \$1,200 / \$750 per fortnight
- 4 January 2021 – 27 March 2021: Payment reduced to \$1,000 / \$650 per fortnight
- 28 March 2021: Payments end.

Members seeking to issue a JobKeeper enabling stand down direction should refer to our recent Bulletin [here](#) regarding the process and available options. A template JobKeeper enabling stand down direction letter is provided for your reference [here](#).

Members needing further advice and support on JobKeeper Payments are encouraged to contact the Chamber's IR Department on 03 9829 1123 or ir@vacc.com.au. For specific payroll related advice relating to JobKeeper, members are encouraged to contact our new VACC IR resource, Andrea Chwalko: E: achwalko@vacc.com.au.

DANIEL HODGES
Executive Manager
Workplace Relations