

Friday 17th April, 2020

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JobSeeker payment (previously Newstart) and coronavirus supplement

On the 22 March the Federal Government announced changes to Newstart (now named JobSeeker payment) and the introduction of a Coronavirus Supplement of \$550 a fortnight that will be available from the 27th of April. Below is a summary of the how the entitlements will work.

Who can get it?

- JobSeeker payment is available to anyone who is unemployed, including anyone who has lost their job, been stood down without pay, is on unpaid leave or has had their hours reduced to the point where they earn below a certain threshold per fortnight (and their employer is not accessing JobKeeper). Information on income thresholds can be found [HERE](#).
- There are a number of other requirements:
 - you're between 22 and Age Pension age
 - you meet residence rules (Australian Citizens, [some permanent residents](#))
- The JobSeeker payment is available to:
 - Permanent employees
 - Casuals
 - Sole Traders
 - Self-employed people
 - Contractors
- Jobseeker is also available to Community Development Employment Program participants,¹ or if you are temporarily unable to work because you are sick or injured, or caring for someone infected or in isolation as a result of contact with COVID-19.²

What is the Coronavirus supplement?

- The Coronavirus supplement is an additional \$550 a fortnight payment which will be made to anyone eligible to receive the JobSeeker payment. It will be automatically paid to registered JobSeeker recipients from 27 April.
- For a person on the full JobSeeker payment rate, this brings their payment up to slightly more than \$1100 a fortnight.

¹ Social Security Act 1991 s 593(1)(a)(ii)

² <https://guides.dss.gov.au/guide-social-security-law/coronavirus>

How do I get the payment?

- In order to receive either payment you must be registered with Services Australia as a JobSeeker recipient. If you contact Services Australia they will guide you through the application process and let you know what information you need to provide.
- It is important to remember that if you are receiving JobKeeper payments from your employer, even if you are working no hours, you are not eligible for JobSeeker.