

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

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The Prime Minister announced this afternoon the Government's third round of economic assistance and this has included a new wage subsidy for employers called JobKeeper.

Federal Member for Fairfax, Ted O'Brien has just released the following Q & As on this Wage Subsidy of \$1500 per fortnight to help keep businesses operating and their employees in work.

We have also included further updates from both Councils and some additional fact sheets.

Please feel free to share with your networks.



**TED O'BRIEN MP**  
Federal Member for Fairfax

## Q&A on Support for Businesses

The Prime Minister has today announced the Government's third tranche of economic assistance and this has included a new wage subsidy for employers called JobKeeper.

Here are some answers to business owners' most immediate questions:

- 1. What is the new scheme?**  
The new scheme is called JobKeeper and its objective is to keep businesses operating, their employees in work and the relationship between businesses and their employees intact.
- 2. What is on offer?**  
The Government is offering JobKeeper payments of \$1,500 a fortnight per employee to be paid to businesses to fund the wages of its employees (i.e. full time and part time employees and for casual employees who have been employed with the business for over 12 months).
- 3. How long will the scheme last?**  
Six months from 30 March 2020
- 4. Does the payment vary based on employees' salaries?**  
No, this is a flat payment – i.e. same for everybody.
- 5. Do I need to pay salaries on top of the Government's payment?**  
Consider the \$1,500 per fortnight a contribution from Government, not necessarily the full salary amount; it will represent 100% of the median wage for some sectors but not all.
- 6. Will I need to pay super on the Government payment?**  
No, you will not have to pay super on the \$1,500 fortnightly payment.
- 7. Is my business eligible?**  
All businesses who suffer a fall in their turnover by 30% or more due to the Coronavirus are eligible (including not-for-profit businesses and sole-traders).
- 8. When does the scheme begin?**  
The scheme is effective from 30 March 2020, but it applies to employees that have been on the books from 1 March 2020. In terms of when government payments will begin, this will be subject to arrangements between the ATO and individual businesses.
- 9. What if I have stood employees down who are now on unemployment benefits?**  
If you have stood people down since 1 March and they're now on JobSeeker (Centrelink's income support), they can transfer to JobKeeper once you are fully registered for JobKeeper.
- 10. How do I register?**  
Go to <https://www.ato.gov.au/Job-keeper-payment/> to register your interest.

17 Southern Drive, Maroochydore QLD 4558 Phone (07) 5479 2800 30 March 2020  
Email [ted.obrien.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:ted.obrien.mp@aph.gov.au) Web [tedobrien.com.au](http://tedobrien.com.au) Facebook TedOBrienLNP Twitter Ted4Fairfax

### \*\*\* Just Announced \*\*\* **JobKeeper Payment**

If your business has been significantly impacted by the Coronavirus you will be able to access a wages subsidy to continue paying your employees. Under the JobKeeper program, you will be able to claim a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 per eligible employee from 30 March 2020, for a maximum of six months. This assistance will

help you keep staff and will help you restart when the crisis is over.

**FACT SHEET - JobKeeper Payment**  
**Information for Employers**



### **Boosting cash flow for employers**

Up to \$100,000 to eligible small and medium-sized businesses, and not for-profits (NFPs) that employ people, with a minimum payment of \$20,000.

**Fact Sheet**



### **Instant asset write-off**

The Government is increasing the instant asset write-off (IAWO) threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000 and expanding access to include all businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million (up from \$50 million) until 30 June 2020.

**Fact Sheet**



### **Supporting apprentices and trainees**

This safety net will lessen the threat of actions that could unnecessarily push businesses into insolvency and force the winding up of business.

**Fact Sheet**

## **Helpline for Small Business**

Operations at the [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au) Contact Centre has increased from five days per week to seven days per week, and will provide an additional two hours a day of support outside standard

operating hours, answering calls from  
ato 11.00pm AEST.

Click here for  
more



## Sunshine Coast Council Coronavirus latest news

- [Latest news and updates](#)
- [Preparing your business against coronavirus](#)
- [Government support programs](#)
- [Sole Traders](#)
- [Industry support](#)
- [Looking after your mental health](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Health FAQ's and advice](#)

Council COVID-19 Update



## Links to all the latest from Noosa Council

Please find below the latest update on Business Support and COVID-19 from Noosa Council.

- Free Business Mentors Noosa Hotline - 07 5430 6652
- Business [Checklist](#)
- [Subsidised Business Support Panel](#)

To keep up to date with all Council's Business e-Updates, [subscribe here](#).

Business and COVID-19

### HEALTH ADVICE - coronavirus (COVID-19)


[ NEWS UPDATE ] 

Australian Government  
Department of Health  
health.gov.au

### Current Health Advice from the Department of Health

The latest information about COVID-19 is available on the Department of Health's website, including a number of fact sheets and resources for the public.

Latest Health Information



### Never miss out on our news






If you know people who wish to be added to this regular communication please drop us an email at [media@rdasunshinecoast.org.au](mailto:media@rdasunshinecoast.org.au)

Regional Development Australia  
SUNSHINE COAST INC

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Regional Development Australia Sunshine Coast is an Australian Government initiative which works in collaboration with the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Councils to support economic development within the region.



**An Australian Government Initiative**

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