

JOBKEEPER PAYMENT

- ✓ NEW PAYMENT TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES AND TO KEEP AUSTRALIANS IN JOBS.
- ✓ \$1,500 PER FORTNIGHT PER ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE.

To all NSW Affiliated Bridge Clubs - JobKeeper payments

Notice 1 - Based on information known as at 31 March 2020

Dear club administrator,

You may have seen the Government announcement on Monday about new JobKeeper payments for employees who work for businesses that have suffered a significant loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is to give a broad overview of what we currently know about the scheme, and how it might benefit some bridge clubs and their employees. Be aware that this is brand new, formal legislation has not yet been prepared, and nothing has been legislated in Parliament. Therefore the details could still change. We will keep you advised as we learn more.

Can my club use the JobKeeper scheme?

Your club is likely to find the scheme of value if you:

- Have paid employees; and
- Have lost at least 30% of your revenue compared to last year. If, like most bridge clubs, your club has ceased operations then you will definitely satisfy this part.

What does it do?

Broadly for “eligible employees” (see below) the government will fund \$1,500 per fortnight for up to 6 months.

The government pays that to you. You must pass it on to the eligible employees (note you must pay the full \$1,500 to them – even for people who currently earn less than that).

If you are continuing to pay staff then the \$1,500 represents a government subsidy to you towards the costs of their wages.

If you are not continuing to pay staff, the \$1,500 may now allow you to support them and retain them to help get your operations back up and running as soon as possible after it is deemed safe for clubs to re-open.

When does it start and how long does it last?

30 March 2020. It will run for up to 6 months.

Note that, if eligible, the first actual payment from the government to your club will be in May but is backdated to 30 March.

Who are eligible employees?

This is not yet fully clear. What we know so far is they include those who:

- Are
 - full-time
 - part-time
 - casual and have been for at least 12 months*
 - Were employed on 1 March 2020;
 - Have your club as their primary employer; and
 - Remain on your books as an employee (or were stood down but are now rehired).
- *We have not seen a definition of casual and we are not sure at this point whether it automatically includes everyone (even very occasional casuals who might have done very little work for you, or people who have other contract income). We will find out as soon as we can.*

What about people who invoice us as contractors?

You will be unable to receive any payments for these people. However, someone with an ABN that is self-employed may be eligible to join the scheme in their own right (e.g. if their own business has suffered a similar drop in revenue).

How do we join the scheme?

At this stage you need to register interest through the ATO website:

<https://www.ato.gov.au/general/gen/JobKeeper-payment/>

You will then receive updates from the ATO about how to formally join the scheme.

Where can we get more information?

The relevant Government Treasury website is: <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper>

This contains factsheets for employers and for employees.

The following site may also be useful:

<https://www.business.gov.au/risk-management/emergency-management/coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/jobkeeper-payment>

Disclaimer

The above is not formal advice and should not be relied upon. Anyone seeking further or definitive information should consider obtaining their own independent advice.

Regards

John Scudder

Chairman, NSW Bridge Association