

#knowyourrights Young People and JobKeeper

WHAT IS JOBKEEPER?

- The JobKeeper payment is a temporary fortnightly cash payment of \$1,500 for each eligible employee for businesses affected by COVID-19.
- Its purpose is to keep people employed even though the business they work for may close down for a temporary period.
- The payment is made directly to your employer to help with the cost of your wages. If you meet the eligibility criteria, tell your employer you'd like them to claim the JobKeeper payment for you.
- Your employer can apply for the payment even if you have already been stood down. The payment will be taxed as normal, so you will receive less than \$1,500 per fortnight.
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Full-time, part-time or fixed-term employee at 1 March 2020; or a long-term casual employee, i.e. employed on a regular and systematic basis for at least 12 months.
 - Australian permanent resident or citizen.
 - Over 18 years of age.

WILL I RECEIVE \$1,500 FROM NOW ON?

Eligible employers will be able to claim a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 per eligible employee from 30 March 2020, for a maximum period of 6 months.

CAN MY BOSS ASK ME TO DO EXTRA HOURS TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY NORMAL PAY AND THE \$1500?

If you are eligible and normally receive less than \$1,500 in income before tax per fortnight, your employer must pay you \$1,500 before tax per fortnight in order to receive the JobKeeper payment. The Fair Work Ombudsman said employers could not push staff to increase their hours in return for receiving the payment.

The Australian Tax Office says employers can't pick and choose which of their staff should be eligible for JobKeeper. Under the 'one in, all in' principle, an employer cannot refuse to apply for JobKeeper for an eligible employee.



WHY AREN'T I GETTING JOBKEEPER PAYMENTS?

JobKeeper payments are paid directly to your employer in the shape of a refund. That is, once your employer has paid you your wages, they then claim a refund for those wages from the Government.

I'M AN APPRENTICE/ TRAINEE, WHAT AM I ENTITLED TO?

Apprentices can receive the JobKeeper payment, provided they meet the eligibility requirements. However, an employer will not be eligible to claim Supporting Apprentices and Trainees for any period where they choose to claim the JobKeeper Payment for the same Apprentice. Where an employer is eligible for both Supporting Apprentices and Trainees AND the JobKeeper Payment for an Australian Apprentice, the employer will need to choose which payment best supports their circumstances.

I NEED HELP, WHO DO I TALK TO?

- Case worker (if you have one)
- Supervisor/ Manager
- HR Manager
- Fairwork Coronavirus hotline 13 13 94
- Youth Law Australia - yla.org.au
- Your Union (if you are a member)

