

# Government Stimulus and COVID-19 Payments for Job Seekers

## I am on income support – or might soon be – what will I get?

The government announced that it is establishing a new, time-limited coronavirus supplement to be paid at a rate of \$550 per fortnight for the next six months on top of the basic JobSeeker Payment (previously called NewStart).

This will effectively double the current rate of JobSeeker Payment.

The coronavirus supplement will be paid for the next six months. Eligible income support recipients will receive the full amount of the \$550 coronavirus supplement on top of their Jobseeker Payment each fortnight.

### Maximum JobSeeker Payment rates with coronavirus supplement

	Maximum fortnightly payment	Maximum fortnightly payment with \$550 coronavirus supplement
Single, no children	\$565.70	\$1,115.70
Single, with a dependent child or children	\$612	\$1,162
Single, aged 60 or over, after 9 continuous months on payment	\$612	\$1,162
Partnered	\$510.80 each	\$1,060.80 each
Single principal carer granted an exemption from mutual obligation requirements for any of the following: foster caring, non-parent relative caring under a court order, home schooling, distance education, large family	\$790.10	\$1,340.10

## Who is eligible?

The extra supplement will be paid to both existing and new recipients of the Jobseeker Payment, Youth Allowance jobseeker, parenting payment, farm household allowance and special benefit.

Eligible income support recipients will receive the full amount of the \$550 coronavirus supplement on top of their payment each fortnight.

The government will also waive the asset test and waiting periods to access the payment.

**[See full list of eligibility requirements.](#)**

## I'm a sole trader or self-employed, will I be able to access the JobSeeker Payment and Coronavirus supplement?

Yes. The government has announced that in the case of sole traders and the self-employed, anyone impacted by the economic downturn triggered by the coronavirus will be able to access the jobseeker payment and the coronavirus supplement.

Applicants will make a declaration to Centrelink that their business has been suspended or had turnover reduced significantly as a result of the downturn.

Sole traders that become eligible for the jobseeker payment and supplement will automatically meet their mutual obligation requirements during this period by continuing to develop and sustain their business.

## What about the \$750 payment?

The government announced that 6.5 million lower-income Australians will receive a one-off \$750 payment aimed at boosting domestic demand in the economy.

The payment – which will be made from 31 March – will be made to all social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders. This includes those on JobSeeker Payment/NewStart, those who have commonwealth seniors health cards, and families receiving family tax benefits.

Around half of those that will benefit are pensioners.

[See full details of which payment recipients are eligible.](#)

The first payment will be made from 31 March 2020 to people who will have been on one of the eligible payments any time between 12 March 2020 and 13 April 2020.

## Who will receive the second \$750 payment?

The government also announced that it will provide an extra \$750 payment to social security and veteran income support recipients and eligible concession cardholders.

**This won't be available if you get the \$550-a-fortnight coronavirus supplement.**

This second payment will be made automatically from 13 July 2020 to around five million social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession cardholders.

Around half of those that benefit are pensioners, [see full list to check eligibility.](#)

If you are eligible, you will receive the payment automatically.

Correct as at 31 March 2020

Information is adapted from [The Guardian Australia](#)