

**Additional Income Support for JobSeeker Payment Recipients**  
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**What is the stimulus/Relief?**

Expanding eligibility to income support payments and establishing a new, time-limited Coronavirus supplement to be paid at a rate of \$550 per fortnight. This payment will be taxable.

**What is the aim of the measure?**

Part of the federal government's commitment to provide financial assistance to those who are financially impacted by the Coronavirus.

**Who is eligible?**

This supplement will be paid to both existing and new recipients of the eligible payment categories, and there will be temporary changes to the asset test and liquid asset waiting period.

<b>Payment</b>	<b>Asset Test</b>	<b>Liquid Asset Test</b>
Jobseeker Payment	No	No
Youth Allowance – Jobseekers & Students	No	No
Parenting Payment (Partnered and Single)	No	No
Farm Household Allowance	Yes	No
Special Benefit recipients	Yes	No
Austudy & ABSTUDY – Students	No	No

**Provided that at least \$1 of benefits from the above table is provided in a fortnight, the full \$550 additional payment will be available.**

These payments can apply to sole traders, the self-employed and casual workers.

**How do I get it?**

You need to apply with Centrelink in person, by phone or online via myGov. The payments will commence from 27 April 2020 and apply until 15 October 2020.

Those who are receiving sick leave or annual leave, and those receiving income protection insurance, may not receive Jobseeker Payment and Youth Allowance Jobseeker.

Income test for the Jobseeker Payment are as follows:

<b>Income per fortnight</b>	<b>Amount your payment reduces</b>
up to \$104	0
\$104 to \$254	50 cents for each dollar over \$104
over \$254	\$75 plus 60 cents for each dollar over \$254

Payments will apply provided that your partner earns less than \$79,762 (\$3,068 per fortnight).

**More Info:** <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/affected-coronavirus-covid-19>

## **Closing comments**

The government is moving quickly, and things are changing daily with regards to the response to COVID-19. Should you have any queries regarding this measure, or any Government measure announced in relation to COVID-19, please contact your Brentnalls Tax Specialist.

## **Examples**

### **Example if you're a sole trader**

Chris is a sole trader, running an architecture practice, specialising in home renovations.

The economic downturn due to Coronavirus has adversely affected Chris' business, and his income has been reduced to zero.

Chris will be able to apply for the new JobSeeker / Coronavirus supplement and will not have his assets included as part of the eligibility assessment for the payment.

He will also not be required to serve a Liquid Asset test Waiting Period, as that has been waived.

Chris is eligible for the Jobseeker payment and, as he is married, will receive:

- JobSeeker Payment partnered rate of \$510.80 per fortnight; plus
- Energy Supplement of \$7.90 per fortnight; plus
- Coronavirus supplement of \$550 per fortnight
- This brings Chris' total fortnightly income support payment to \$1,068.70.

This is on the basis that Chris earns no income and his wife earns less than \$3,068 per fortnight.

### **Example if you're an employee**

Leonie is in her mid-30s, with two dependent children aged 10 and 12 and works as a telephone consultant for a travel agency.

The economic downturn due to coronavirus has caused the travel agency where she works to close for a six-month period and resulted in Leonie's hours being reduced to zero.

Leonie will be eligible to apply for JobSeeker Payment and the Coronavirus supplement under the new streamlined process.

Leonie can apply on-line and make a declaration about her identity, residency status, income and that she has had her hours reduced to zero as a result of the economic downturn due to Coronavirus.

Leonie is eligible for Jobseeker Payment and will receive \$1,171.50 per fortnight, comprising:

- JobSeeker Payment single, with dependent child rate of \$612.00 per fortnight; plus
- Energy Supplement of \$9.50 per fortnight; plus
- Coronavirus supplement of \$550 per fortnight.
- Leonie will also receive Family Tax Benefit Part A and Part B of \$483 a fortnight.

Having recently left employment, Leonie is already job ready.

An employment service provider will look to match Leonie's skills with available opportunities (for example, in another call centre) so Leonie's skills can be used in another industry and Leonie can get another job quickly.