

# HELP FOR CASUALS WITHOUT WORK DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

# COVID-19 FACT SHEET

## The Australian Government is providing financial assistance to needy Australians.

Over the next six months, the Australian Government is temporarily 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 will be paid to both existing and new recipients of JobSeeker Payment, Youth Allowance Jobseeker, Parenting Payment, Farm Household Allowance and Special Benefit.

### INCOME SUPPORT

Casual workers who are stood down or lose their employment as a result of the economic downturn due to the Coronavirus are being supported.

For the next six months, jobseekers will get the \$550 per fortnight coronavirus supplement in addition to their payments.

The one week Ordinary Waiting Period has already been waived. To further accelerate access to payments, the Liquid Asset test Waiting Period and the Seasonal Work Preclusion Period will also be waived for recipients eligible for the coronavirus supplement.

To ensure timely access to payments, new applicants are encouraged to claim through on-line and mobile channels. If applicants do not have internet access, they can claim over the phone.

From April 2020, Services Australia will allow new applicants to call to verify their identity to reduce the need to visit a Services Australia office.

Those receiving Jobseeker Payment have an obligation to actively look for work or build their skills, but the Government is making sure this can be done flexibly and safely.

- Jobseekers who have caring responsibilities, or who need to self-isolate, are able to seek an exemption from their mutual obligation requirements without the need for medical evidence.

- Activities can be rescheduled if the job seeker is unable to attend as a result of the coronavirus. Job Plans will be adjusted to a default requirement of four job searches a month (or one a week) to reflect softening labour market conditions.

Mutual obligations can be tailored for each individual to suit not only their needs but also the needs of the community. In some circumstances, job seekers can undertake training or volunteer within their community to meet their mutual obligation requirements.

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

## Fast facts...

- The Australian Government's economic response to the COVID-19 coronavirus totals \$189 billion across the forward estimates.
- The Coronavirus Supplement and expanded access for payments will commence from April 27.
- A number of simplified arrangements will be put in place to make it easier to claim, including removing the requirements for Employment Separation Certificates.
- Job seekers are encouraged to stay job ready, connected to their employment services provider and up to date on potential job opportunities in their local area.