

**CIRCULAR NO.** GEN/33/CCV/2020  
**DATE:** 26 August 2020  
**SUBJECT:** JobKeeper 2.0 – Changes announced  
**ATTENTION:** Club Managers

IR Minister Christian Porter has released details of proposed changes to the JobKeeper scheme that will be introduced to Parliament on Wednesday.

The new provisions, intended to ensure the continued flexibility of working arrangements in response to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, will remain in place until March 2021.

#### *JobKeeper wage subsidy*

Under 'JobKeeper 2.0,' the current JobKeeper wage subsidy of \$1500 per fortnight will be reduced to \$1200 from 28 September 2020 and \$1000 from 4 January 2021. Employees who worked less than 20 hours per week in the 4 weeks before 1 March 2020 will qualify for a \$750 per fortnight payment, to be reduced to \$650 on 4 January 2021.

#### *Employers who qualify for JobKeeper 2.0*

Employers' eligibility for the scheme will be reassessed from 28 September 2020 and again from 4 January 2021. Employers who re-qualify will continue to have access to the current JobKeeper-related provisions in the *Fair Work Act (FW Act)*, including the ability to issue directions changing employees' duties, place, time/s or day/s of work and reducing working hours to as little as zero. However, employers will no longer be able to direct employees to use their annual leave entitlements until they have two weeks remaining.

#### *Employers previously entitled to JobKeeper payments who no longer qualify*

Under the FW Act, 'legacy employers' previously entitled to JobKeeper payments who no longer qualify for the wage subsidy, may apply for a '10% decline in turnover certificate' if they can demonstrate their turnover has declined by 10% in a designated quarter compared to last year. Employers holding a certificate will retain access to a number of existing provisions in the FW Act, including the ability to direct an employee to work other duties and alter the location, day/s or time/s of work.

Employers holding a certificate may also issue employees with a stand-down direction to work fewer days or hours than they ordinarily would if they cannot be usefully employed due to the pandemic. This stand-down direction must not require the employee to work a reduced number of hours less than 60% of their ordinary hours of work at 1 March 2020, nor to work less than 2 hours a day.


Employers must give written notice of any direction made under these provisions to the employee at least 7 days before the direction is given; during this period they must also consult with the employee.

We will update you as soon as further information is available as to the progress of the Bill.

If you have any questions or if you require further information, please contact the SIAG National Advisory Service on 03 9644 1400 or 1300 (SIAG HR) / 1300 742 447. The Information provided in this email is generic advice. For advice in respect of your specific situation please contact us.



**BRIAN COOK**  
Managing Director  
SIAG



**LEON WIEGARD**  
CCV President  
Community Clubs Victoria

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