

Tuesday 24th March, 2020

JobSeeker payment (previously Newstart) and Coronavirus supplement

On the 22 March the Federal Government announced changes to Newstart (now named JobSeeker payment) and the introduction of a Coronavirus Supplement of \$550 a fortnight that will be available from the 27th of April. Below is a summary of the how the entitlements will work.

- **Between today and 13 April**
 - People who are unemployed or have seen their income drop below the threshold can access the normal JobSeeker payment – this is the old newstart and remains at the previous level of \$565.70 a fortnight for a single person with no children (dependent on income and family circumstances). They will also receive the first lump sum \$750 payment from Government which will be delivered from 31 March (through to 13 April as people sign on)
 - People will still have to provide proof they have been let go from their job (Employment Separation Certificate) if applicable.
 - The ordinary waiting period has been waived (which is one week) but the Liquid Assets Waiting Period (scales with savings from 1 week at \$5,999 in savings up to 13 weeks for \$11,500 or more in savings) still applies. This requires people with significant savings to wait for payments
 - All asset tests still apply.
 - Revised mutual obligations (4 jobs per month)
- **Between April 14 and April 27**
 - All the above applies but you will not receive the first \$750 payment.
- **After April 27**
 - In addition to the Jobseeker payment an additional \$550 per fortnight Coronavirus supplement begins to be paid all eligible recipients (This will also be paid to those receiving sickness allowance, youth allowance, parenting payment, partner allowance, special benefit and the farm household allowance) for 6 months
 - Asset tests, liquid asset waiting period, proof of dismissal are all waived for 6 months. Anyone serving one of these waiting periods gains access to the system.
 - Special eligibility for sole traders and the self-employed, which allow them to satisfy mutual obligation through the continuation of their business, begin for 6 months.
 - If you are eligible for the Coronavirus supplement then you are NOT eligible for the second \$750 lump sum payment.
 - Revised mutual obligations (4 jobs per month)

Disclaimer

This is general guidance only and was correct at the time of writing 09:00 24/03/2020. Check [government sources](#) for more details.