



# COVID-19

## GUIDANCE NOTE

# Extension of JobKeeper 2.0

## Government Announcement

- ▶ On 21 July 2020, the Australian Government announced that it will be extending the JobKeeper Payment subsidy until 28 March 2021; however, eligibility criteria and payment amounts shall be changing.
- ▶ From 28 September 2020, eligibility for the JobKeeper payment will be based on actual turnover for the most recent quarter, and the payment (currently \$1,500 per fortnight) will be stepped down and paid at one of two rates (Tier 1 and Tier 2).

## Turnover eligibility

- ▶ Your congregation (ABN) will need to demonstrate that it meets the 15% decline in GST Turnover Test in September (July, August and September) quarter of 2020 compared to the same quarter of the prior year (namely 2019) to be eligible for JobKeeper 2.0 (Extension 1) from 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021. **Download JobKeeper calculation of turnover template [here](#).**
- ▶ To be eligible for JobKeeper 2.0 (Extension 2) for the period 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021, the GST Turnover Test will have to meet the 15% decline in GST Turnover in the December (October, November and December) quarter of 2020.
- ▶ It is possible to be eligible for Extension 1 and not Extension 2 and vice versa, as well as being eligible for either, if not previously eligible for the original JobKeeper 1.0.
- ▶ *Note that this test is calculated on **actual** data (not forecast). Also, there is no longer the ability to choose whether to use the cash or accruals method for the turnover test. The test is to be based on the method your Business Activity Statement (BAS) is lodged. For example, if you report GST on a cash basis in your*

## PRESBYTERIES

CANBERRA REGION

FAR NORTH COAST

GEORGES RIVER

ILLAWARRA

KOREAN

MACQUARIE DARLING

MID NORTH COAST

NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST

PARRAMATTA NEPEAN

RIVERINA

SYDNEY CENTRAL COAST

SYDNEY

THE HUNTER

UAICC



# COVID-19

## GUIDANCE NOTE

congregation's BAS, the turnover test must be undertaken on a cash basis.

- ▶ An updated template (in Excel spreadsheet format) has been provided to assist you in assessing the turnover eligibility for your congregation. *Please note that the template has been designed to capture actuals, as this is the basis of eligibility going forward; however, it can be used for projections to determine whether your congregation is likely to be eligible.*

### Payment rates

**Extension 1** - from 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021, the payment rate will be:

- ▶ **Tier 1** - \$1,200 per fortnight for all eligible employees, who were on the payroll as at 1 July 2020, were working for 80 hours or more in the four weeks prior in June, or as at 1 March 2020, and were working for 80 hours or more for four weeks in February (as previously determined), whichever provides the more favourable outcome.
- ▶ **Tier 2** - \$750 per fortnight for all other eligible employees who were on the payroll as at 1 July 2020.

**Extension 2** - from 4 January to 28 March 2021, the payment rate will be:

- ▶ **Tier 1** - \$1,000 per fortnight for all eligible employees, who were on the payroll **as at 1 July 2020**, were working for 80 hours or more in the four weeks prior in June, or as at 1 March 2020, and were working for 80 hours or more for four weeks in February (as previously determined), whichever provides the more favourable outcome.
- ▶ **Tier 2** - \$650 per fortnight for all other eligible employees who were on the payroll **as at 1 July 2020**.

## PRESBYTERIES

CANBERRA REGION

FAR NORTH COAST

GEORGES RIVER

ILLAWARRA

KOREAN

MACQUARIE DARLING

MID NORTH COAST

NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST

PARRAMATTA NEPEAN

RIVERINA

SYDNEY CENTRAL COAST

SYDNEY

THE HUNTER

UAICC



# COVID-19

## GUIDANCE NOTE

### Religious Practitioners

- ▶ The same rates apply for religious practitioners who are not employees (i.e. ordained ministers), although this is payable to the entity and therefore no top-up is required to be paid to the minister to make up the full amount of the JobKeeper payment.
- ▶ As long as these religious practitioners, who are not employees, were on the payroll as at 1 March 2020, and were working for 80 hours or more for four weeks in February (as previously determined), the congregation will receive the higher rate of payment, being **Tier 1** (\$1,200 per fortnight from 28 September, stepped down to \$1,000 per fortnight from 4 Jan).

**Note:** the reference date for religious practitioners remains **1 March 2020**.

- ▶ All other religious practitioners, who are not employees would be eligible for **Tier 2** (\$750 per fortnight from 28 September, stepped down to \$650 per fortnight from 4 Jan)

### Nominate payment rates

- ▶ The congregation will need to declare which payment rate they are claiming for each of the employees (and religious practitioners).
- ▶ Payroll must advise the eligible employee of the Tier for which they are eligible within 7 days of being paid.
- ▶ The eligible religious practitioner must advise payroll in the approved form, stating that in the month of February 2020, they spent 80 hours or more doing relevant activities in that month.

### Additional information

- ▶ If the congregation does not meet the additional turnover tests for the Extension of JobKeeper, this does not affect its eligibility to claim for JobKeeper payments up to 27 September 2020.
- ▶ If the congregation has not previously qualified for JobKeeper payments but meets the existing eligibility requirements, they can apply for the JobKeeper extension, provided they meet the turnover test for the extension period.

## PRESBYTERIES

CANBERRA REGION

FAR NORTH COAST

GEORGES RIVER

ILLAWARRA

KOREAN

MACQUARIE DARLING

MID NORTH COAST

NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST

PARRAMATTA NEPEAN

RIVERINA

SYDNEY CENTRAL COAST

SYDNEY

THE HUNTER

UAICC



# COVID-19

## GUIDANCE NOTE

- ▶ Other eligibility rules remain in relation to employees and religious practitioners (ordained ministers).
  - Congregations will be required to continue making payments to employees equal to, or greater than, the amount of the JobKeeper payment (before tax), based on the payment rate that applies to each employee.
  - For religious practitioners (ordained ministers), congregations will be required to continue making payments to them based on their normal pay that applies to each of them.
- ▶ The ATO will continue to make JobKeeper payments to the congregations in arrears.
- ▶ If not previously enrolled for original JobKeeper 1.0, your congregation will need to enrol for JobKeeper Extension 1 or 2,

### Links for further information

- ▶ Turnover Eligibility Test Spreadsheet

### Contact information

If Congregations should have any difficulties in completing this task, support will be provided first of all by their Presbytery Representative; otherwise support from Synod Office is available by contacting Ling Luan on 0433 979 766 or Hubert Delgorge on 0400 966 752, otherwise Kingsley Murphy on 0408 411 830.

## PRESBYTERIES

CANBERRA REGION

FAR NORTH COAST

GEORGES RIVER

ILLAWARRA

KOREAN

MACQUARIE DARLING

MID NORTH COAST

NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST

PARRAMATTA NEPEAN

RIVERINA

SYDNEY CENTRAL COAST

SYDNEY

THE HUNTER

UAICC