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ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS (HOUSEHOLDS)

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT – INCOME SUPPORT FOR HOUSEHOLDS

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

- Two separate \$750 payments to social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- For the first payment you must be residing in Australia and be receiving one of the following payments or hold one of the following concession cards.
 - Age Pension
 - Disability Support Pension
 - Carer Payment
 - Parenting Payment
 - Wife Pension
 - Widow Allowance
 - Family Tax Benefit, including Double Orphan Pension
 - Carer Allowance
 - Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holders
 - Widow B Pension
 - ABSTUDY (Living Allowance)
 - Austudy
 - Youth Allowance
 - Bereavement Allowance
 - Partner Allowance
 - Newstart Allowance
 - Sickness Allowance
 - JobSeeker Payment
 - Veteran Gold Card holders
 - Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders
 - Veteran Service Pension; Veteran Income Support Supplement; Veteran Compensation payments, including lump sum payments;
 - War Widow(er) Pension; and Veteran Payment.
 - DVA PCC holders; DVA Education Scheme recipients; Disability Pensioners at the temporary special rate; DVA Income support pensioners at \$0 rate.
 - Farm Household Allowance
 - Special Benefit
- For the second payment you must be residing in Australia and have been receiving one of the above payments or hold one of the above cards, except for those who are receiving Coronavirus support payments.
- The Coronavirus support payments that make you **ineligible** for the second household support payment are:
 - o JobSeeker Payment (and payments progressively transitioning into JobSeeker Payment)

- o Youth Allowance Jobseeker
- o Parenting Payment (Partnered and Single)
- o Farm Household Allowance
- o Special Benefit

HOW IT WORKS?

- If eligible, apply through MyGov and once successful, payments will be paid automatically to your nominated bank account.

Example — First and second payment

Kate and Angus are a couple and are both Age Pension recipients as at 12 March 2020. Kate and Angus will each receive \$750, so their household will receive \$1,500 in total. Payments to Kate and Angus will be made automatically from 31 March 2020.

As Kate and Angus remain both a couple and Age Pension recipients on 10 July 2020, they will each be eligible for a further \$750 as part of the second payment, so their household will receive \$1,500 in total for the second payment.

This will bring the total payment to their household to \$3,000, from the first and second payments.

Example — Interaction between Coronavirus supplement and second payment

Leanne is a single parent JobSeeker Payment recipient on 10 July 2020, receiving a single, with dependent child, rate of \$612 per fortnight, a further \$9.50 per fortnight for the Energy Supplement and an additional \$550 per fortnight Coronavirus supplement.

This brings Leanne's fortnightly income support payment to \$1,171.50.

Leanne was in receipt of the Jobseeker Payment on 30 March, so she was eligible for the first \$750 payment.

As Leanne already receives the \$550 per fortnight Coronavirus supplement, she will not be eligible for the second \$750 payment.

Source: treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/households

WHEN WILL THIS START?

- First payment due 31 March 2020.
- Second payment due 13 July 2020.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

- For more information visit treasury.gov.au/coronavirus

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT – INCREASED INCOME SUPPORT

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

- Coronavirus supplement paid fortnightly payments of \$550 for a limited time in addition to other social security payments.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Those income support payments eligible to receive the Coronavirus supplement support payments are:
 - o JobSeeker Payment (and payments progressively transitioning into JobSeeker Payment)
 - o Youth Allowance Jobseeker
 - o Parenting Payment (Partnered and Single)
 - o Farm Household Allowance
 - o Special Benefit
- In addition there will be expanded access to the Jobseeker Payment and Youth Jobseeker payment criteria to include permanent employees who are stood down or lose their employment; sole traders; the self-employed; casual workers; and contract workers who meet the income tests as a result of the economic downturn due to the Coronavirus.
- Asset testing for the two Jobseeker payments and parenting payment will be waived for the purposes of the Coronavirus supplement.

HOW IT WORKS?

- Apply through MyGov and once successful the supplement of \$550 per fortnight will be received at the full rate if eligible.

Example

Chris is a sole trader, running an architecture practice, specialising in home renovations. Chris' practice has been successful over the years, and he has been able to build up a reasonable amount of assets during his career, to a level that would ordinarily make him ineligible for an income support payment.

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.

Source: treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/households

WHEN WILL THIS START?

- The program will commence from **27 April 2020**.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

- For more information visit treasury.gov.au/coronavirus

Keep up to date by following us on Facebook for the latest on all government stimulus related news.



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