



Australian Government



Disability Support Pension and JobKeeper

Answers to questions you might have

Easy Read version

Updated September 2020



How to use this document



The Australian Government wrote this document.
When you see the word 'we',
it means the Australian Government.



We have written this information in an easy
to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



You can ask for help to read this document.
A friend, family member or support person
may be able to help you.

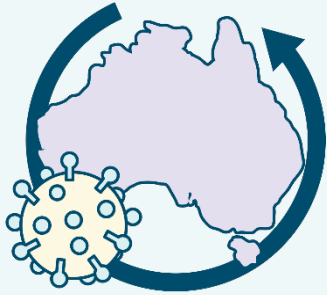
Some acronyms we use

In this document, we have shortened some names to just the letters at the start of each word. This is called an acronym.

Here is a list of the acronyms we use.

ADE	Australian Disability Enterprises
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
CRA	Commonwealth Rent Assistance
DSP	Disability Support Pension
FTB	Family Tax Benefit
PCC	Pensioner Concession Card
SDA	Specialist Disability Accommodation
SIL	Supported Independent Living

What is the JobKeeper Payment?



Coronavirus is affecting many people around Australia.



Some people around Australia need to stay at home.

Some of us need to work from home.



Many businesses have lost their income.



We are helping these businesses keep paying the people who work for them.



The payment is called a JobKeeper Payment.



It helps people keep their jobs.



We wrote this document to answer questions you might have.



You can find more information about the [JobKeeper Payment online](#).

Who will get the JobKeeper Payment?



The JobKeeper Payment is for businesses who have lost income to help pay their workers.



If you work in one of these businesses, you may get the JobKeeper Payment.



This includes people who work in Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs).



ADEs are businesses that employ and support people with disability.



The JobKeeper Payment will affect your Disability Support Pension (DSP).



We explain how this will happen on the following pages.



Please visit the [Australian Taxation Office \(ATO\) website](#) to find out how to apply for the JobKeeper Payment.

How much is the JobKeeper Payment?



The amount of the JobKeeper Payment will change over time.



The first set of changes will happen on 28 September 2020.



If you were working an average of 20 hours or more per week, you will get \$1,200 per fortnight.



To get this amount, you need to have worked at least 80 hours in the 4 weeks leading up to these dates:

- 1 March 2020

OR

- 1 July 2020.



If you were working less than 20 hours, you will get \$750 per fortnight.



These rates will change again on 4 January 2021.



If you were working 20 hours or more per week, you will get \$1,000 per fortnight.



To get this amount, you need to have worked at least 80 hours in the 4 weeks leading up to these dates:

- 1 March 2020

OR

- 1 July 2020.



If you were working less than 20 hours, you will get \$650 per fortnight.



These payments will end on 28 March 2021.

Will the JobKeeper Payment affect your Disability Support Pension?



Yes, the JobKeeper Payment will affect your DSP.



You might get less money in your DSP.



But you might get more money in total each fortnight.



Your DSP might stop while you get the JobKeeper Payment.



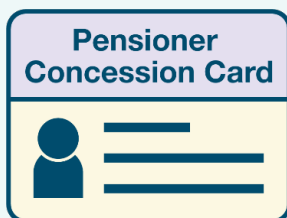
Your DSP might stop if you were on the youth rate.



If you live with your partner, their income can affect your DSP.



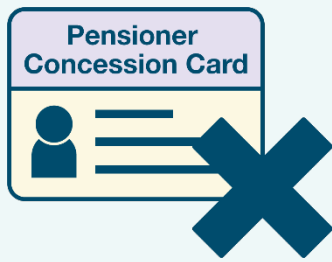
This includes if they receive the JobKeeper Payment.



You can keep using your Pensioner Concession Card (PCC).



But, if your DSP stops you can only do this for 1 year (52 weeks).



If your DSP stops because of your partner's income, your PCC might stop too.



If this happens, your PCC might stop:

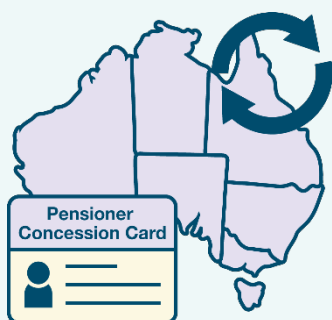
- on 16 November 2020
- after 12 weeks.

This will be on the date that comes later.



When you have a PCC, you get support when you need:

- health care
- medicine.



Your PCC will only change if the rules about concession cards change in your state or territory.



If you get the JobKeeper Payment, you or your nominee need to tell Services Australia.



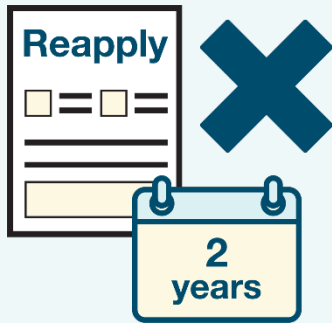
A nominee is a person who supports you.
They might help you to make decisions,
including decisions about money.



You or your nominee need to tell Services Australia when the JobKeeper Payment stops.



Your DSP is likely to go back to what it was before
unless your circumstances have changed.



If you are working and your DSP stops, you won't have to reapply for the DSP for 2 years.



When the JobKeeper Payments stop, you can call Services Australia to ask for your DSP to start again.



You won't need to give us new evidence of your disability.



You can call Services Australia on **132 717** or the Multilingual Phone Service on **131 202**.



These lines are open from Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Will the JobKeeper Payment affect your rent?

Commonwealth Rent Assistance



Some people live in private rental homes.



They might get Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA).



This is money from the government to help you pay your rent.



If your DSP stops, CRA stops too.



When your DSP starts again, your CRA will start again too.



At that time, the amount you get in your CRA won't change unless something about your life or your rent has changed.



If you have questions about CRA, you can visit Services Australia's [Rent Assistance](#) web page for more information.

Specialist Disability Accommodation



Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) is accessible housing for people with disability.



You might live in an SDA home.



If you get JobKeeper, your rent won't change unless your DSP stops.



You might also receive Supported Independent Living (SIL) services.



This is when you get support with daily tasks to help you live independently.



Your SIL support won't change if:

- you get JobKeeper
- your DSP stops.

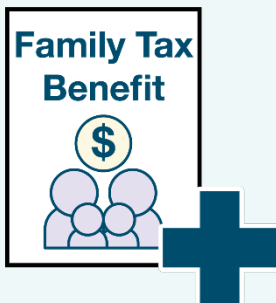
What if you have children?



If you have 1 or more children, you may receive money from the government.



This is called the Family Tax Benefit, or FTB.



If you start getting the JobKeeper Payment, the amount of FTB you receive may change.



It's important to tell Services Australia about any changes to your income.



If you start getting the JobKeeper Payment, this is a change to your income.

Will you have to pay tax if you get the JobKeeper Payment?



If you get the JobKeeper Payment, you may have to pay tax.

If you need more information about paying tax, you can talk to your:



- employer
- family
- carer or support person
- accountant.



You can also get more information about paying tax from the [Australian Taxation Office's \(ATO\) website](#).

More information



You can call the Disability Information Helpline on **1800 643 787**.

The Disability Information Helpline has been set up to support people with disability during the coronavirus pandemic.

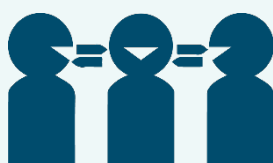


The Helpline can help families, carers, support workers and support services, too.

The Helpline is free, private and fact-checked.

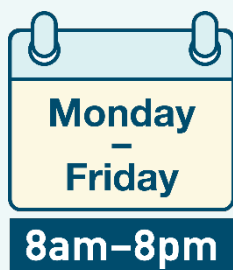


If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can also call the National Relay Service on **133 677**.



If you need to talk to someone in a language other than English, you can call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on **131 450**.

Ask to talk to the Disability Information Hotline give the number – **1800 643 787**.



You can call the Disability Information Helpline from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday.

It is not available on national public holidays.



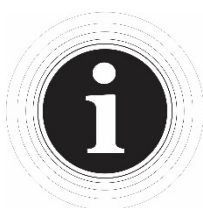
Visit the [Disability Information Helpline](#) web page for more information.



You can also visit Services Australia's [Disability Support Pension](#) web page.



You can also get advice from the Australian Taxation Office's Emergency Support Hotline on **1800 806 218**.



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