

JobKeeper 2.1 Update



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JobKeeper 2.1 Amendments

On 8 August, further amendments to JobKeeper 2.0 (which we now calling JobKeeper 2.1) were announced. These amendments mean that:

- The determining date for eligible employees will be reset from 1 March to 1 July.- bringing into the Job Keeper net from 3 August, any employees who are otherwise eligible but joined the business during the June 2020 quarter;
- For these employees, the calculation of their “hours worked” to ascertain the post September JobKeeper rate will be based on the actual hours in June 2020;
- For Job Keeper to be extended beyond September - into the second phase, the relevant turnover test will be based on the September 2020 quarter. The June quarter will no longer be included in the eligibility assessment.
- The turnover test for the third phase of JobKeeper – covering the period from January 2021 until March 2021 will be only the December 2020 quarter.
- The turnover decline is based upon actual turnover, no longer projected.

Our comment:

Whilst this has primarily been implemented to support Victorian businesses, the application of these further announcements will impact all businesses.

As only either the September quarter or the December quarter is to be assessed for the ongoing access to JobKeeper this may assist those sectors where the impact of the pandemic occurs later or on a more sustained basis.

Obviously we remain concerned about the Tourism and Hospitality sector which will continue to suffer with ongoing border restrictions – so this will be welcome news for that sector.

The changes announced in JobKeeper 2.0 insofar as they relate to the tapering of the entitlements and the lower rate for certain casuals remain unchanged in the most recent announcements.

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