

The Australian Government has released a range of measures to assist people whose employment has been badly affected by the COVID – 19 emergency. This fact sheet is designed to summarise the main financial assistance available to professional drivers whose income has reduced due to the COVID-19 emergency. This information is relevant to owner/operators as well as employee drivers and others in the road transport industry. The information was as accurate as possible at the time of publication but may change without notice. E&OE.

What’s happened:

The **Jobseeker payment**, along with other income and household support schemes, has been temporarily varied to allow access to:

- a permanent employee who has been stood down or lost their job;
- a sole trader, self employed, a casual or contract worker whose income has reduced;
- a person caring for someone who’s affected by COVID-19.

Eligibility:

Australian residency and income tests apply. However, for six months from 25 March 2020 the normal waiting period, residency waiting period, asset test, liquid asset waiting period, and seasonal employment preclusion period will be waived. You may still be eligible if you are earning some income.

You can not use leave entitlements or income protection insurance payments and receive the Jobseeker and associated payments at the same time.

Main Benefits:

Jobseeker payments: These vary according to age, family size, and income.

Status	Maximum Payment
Single, no children	\$565.70
Single, with a dependent child or children	\$612.00
Single, aged 60 or over, after 9 continuous months on payment	\$612.00
Partnered	\$510.80 each
Single principal carer granted an exemption from mutual obligation requirements for any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • foster caring • non-parent relative caring under a court order • home schooling • distance education • large family 	\$790.10

Coronavirus Supplement: \$550 per fortnight extra if you receive the Jobseeker payment.

Other Benefits:

Economic Support Payment (ESP): There are currently two ESPs scheduled. The first of \$750 will be paid automatically to you if receive an eligible payment between 12 March and 13 April 2020. The list of eligible payments is at: [One Off ESP](#). A second ESP of \$750 may be paid if you receive an eligible payment as of 13 July 2020. However, this second payment will not be made if you are receiving the Coronavirus Supplement at that time.

One Off Crisis Payment: If you are in severe financial hardship and either:

- need to self-isolate
- are caring for someone self isolating.

You may be eligible for a crisis payment of one week of your base income support payment rate.

Other Payments & Services: Depending on your circumstances, you may be eligible for other payments and services. Check the [Payment & Service Finder](#).

More Information:

[How To Register Your Intention To Claim A Centrelink Payment Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Factsheet – Income Support For Individuals](#)

[Factsheet – Payments To Support Households](#)

[Australian Government – Economic Response To The Coronavirus](#)

[Services Australia: Affected By Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information & Services To Help](#)