

s22

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 10:45 PM
To: Codina, Martin; Kennedy, Steven; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Subject: Draft statement on JobKeeper [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: Draft Statement.docx

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Martin/Steven/Jeremy

Pls find attached a draft statement in relation to the issues with JobKeeper.

Jenny

Jenny Wilkinson

*Deputy Secretary, Fiscal Group
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600*

Phone: +61 2 6263 3745 | Mobile: s22

www.treasury.gov.au

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

PRESS RELEASE – JOINT TREASURY AND ATO

Yesterday, the ATO became aware of an error in the widely reported estimates of the number of employees likely to be covered by the JobKeeper program. The enrolment forms completed by 910,055 businesses who have been assessed as eligible under the scheme had suggested that this program would cover around 6.5 million eligible employees. The ATO has uncovered that around 1200 of those businesses, however, appear to have unintentionally made a mistake when completing their forms. Instead of reporting the number of employees they expected to be eligible, they reported the amount of assistance they expected to receive. For example, in a small number of cases, a business with 2 eligible employees appears to have reported 6000 (which is the amount of JobKeeper they would expect to receive for the first two fortnights of the scheme). This materially increased estimates of the number of employees who would be covered under the scheme.

This error has come to light as the ATO and Treasury have been analysing the amounts being paid out under the scheme and reconciling these with the estimates of the likely number of employees covered.

Importantly this error has had no consequences for the JobKeeper payments to eligible businesses and has no reflection on the integrity of the program. The actual payments under the scheme depend on the subsequent declaration that an eligible business makes in relation to their eligible employees.

To date, 910,055 businesses have been assessed as eligible under the program, and 759,654 of these businesses have made declarations in relation to their eligible employees and had their applications processed. This has resulted in \$8.7 billion of payments to businesses, covering around 2.9 million employees. Around 150,000 businesses are yet to complete their employee declarations, which is required before payments can be made. Given this information, and assuming these additional businesses complete their employee declarations, a more accurate estimate of the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program is currently around 3.5 million.

This is a demand driven program, and the total cost of the program will ultimately depend on the number of eligible employees working in businesses that meet the turnover threshold and elect to participate in the program. [These data suggest, however, that the total cost of this program is likely to be significantly lower than \$130b initially estimated.]

The enrolments of businesses in the JobKeeper program to date suggest that a significantly lower number of employees are employed by businesses that are meeting the turnover thresholds than Treasury had initially estimated would be the case. This partly reflects genuine uncertainty associated with estimating the take-up of a program such as this in the current circumstances. It also reflects some improvements to the outlook for the economy since the time the estimate was first completed, in part because the restrictions have been able to be eased earlier than was initially expected.

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From: Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 7:32 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Cc: Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
Subject: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: Draft Statement (3).docx

Jenny, some thoughts on the draft media release.

James, could you please look over from a factual perspective (especially the comment that 97% of payments have been made in 3 business days of the claim)

Katherine & Sue, can you please cast your eye over with your media eyes?

Thanks very much,

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–Around 150 000 enrolled businesses are yet to complete their employee declarations, which is required before payments can be made. Given this information and assuming these additional businesses complete their employee declarations, a more accurate estimate of the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program is currently around 3.5 million.

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Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 7:49 AM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Wilkinson, Jenny
Cc: Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Thank you will do

James O'Halloran
Deputy Commissioner
JobKeeper Payment Program
Australian Taxation Office
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From: Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:07 AM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Wilkinson, Jenny; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne
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From: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:20 AM
To: Katherine Philp; Jeremy Hirschhorn; Wilkinson, Jenny
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: Draft Statement (3) DC JOH Review.docx

Dear Jeremy and Jenny

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Commented [J01]: Allows for overnight run of RB process

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~~The ATO reminds all eligible employers who have enrolled but not yet claimed to ensure that they complete their April declarations by 31 May 2020.~~

Commented [J02]: Organisations actually have until 31 May 2020 to enrol for JobKeeper to claim April and May payments!

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Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:22 AM
To: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Katherine Philp; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

James – great – confirmation of the 1200 will be really useful.

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

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Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Brown, Philippa; Robertson, Belinda
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: Draft Statement clean.docx; Draft Statement (KP)_JW.docx

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

All

Pls find attached a version of the statement incorporating all changes and some additional tweaks from me.

I have attached a clean and tracked version to assist.

Pls track any further changes through the clean version.

The main issue outstanding is the 1200 or 1000 estimate – we need to align these across the MS and statement.

Many thanks

Jenny

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Yesterday, the ATO became aware of an error in the widely reported estimates of the number of employees likely to be covered by the JobKeeper program. The enrolment forms completed by 910,055 businesses ~~who have been assessed as eligible under the scheme~~ had suggested that this program would cover around 6.5 million eligible employees. The ATO has ~~uncovered/identified~~ that around 1200 ~~[provenance?] of those businesses, however,~~ appear to have unintentionally made a material mistake when completing their enrolment forms. ~~instead~~ The most common error was that instead of reporting the number of employees they expected to be eligible, they reported the amount of assistance they expected to receive. For example, in a small number of cases, a business with two² eligible employees appears to have reported 6000-3000 (which is the amount of JobKeeper they would expect to receive for the first two each fortnight for those two employees of the scheme). This materially increased estimates of the number of employees who would be covered under the scheme.

This error has come to light as the ATO and Treasury ~~have been analysing~~ the amounts being paid out under the scheme, ~~and~~ reconciling these with the ~~earlier~~ estimates of the ~~likely~~ number of employees covered.

Importantly this error has ~~had~~ no consequences for ~~the~~ JobKeeper payments to eligible businesses and ~~has is~~ no reflection on the integrity of the program. The actual payments under the scheme depend on the subsequent declaration that an eligible business makes in relation to their eligible employees. ~~This declaration is made on an employee by employee basis and does not involve estimates~~ and requires a business to provide the tax file number for each eligible employee.

~~To date, 910,055 businesses have been assessed as eligible under the program, and 759,654 of these businesses have made declarations in relation to their eligible employees and had their applications processed. This has resulted in \$8.7 billion of payments to businesses, covering around 2.9 million employees. Around 150,000 businesses are yet to complete their employee declarations, which is required before payments can be made. Given this information, and assuming these additional~~

~~businesses complete their employee declarations, a more accurate estimate of the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program is currently around 3.5 million.~~

~~This JobKeeper~~ is a demand driven program, and the ~~ultimate coverage~~ of the program and the total cost of the program will ultimately depend on the number of eligible employees working in businesses that meet the turnover threshold and elect to participate in the program. ~~These data suggest, however,~~ that the total cost of this program is likely to be significantly lower than \$130b initially estimated.]

The enrolments of businesses in the JobKeeper program to date suggest ~~that~~ a significantly lower number of employees are employed by businesses that are meeting the turnover thresholds than Treasury had initially estimated ~~would be the case~~. This ~~partly~~ reflects ~~genuine the~~ uncertainty associated with estimating the take-up of a program such as this in the current circumstances. It also reflects some improvements to the outlook for the economy since ~~the time~~ the estimate was first completed, ~~in part because the with~~ restrictions ~~having less impact and have been able to being~~ eased earlier than ~~was~~ initially expected.

The ATO reminds all eligible employers who have enrolled but not yet claimed to ensure that they complete their April employee declarations by 31 May 2020. For eligible employers who have not yet enrolled, they are strongly encouraged to enrol for April and May by 31 May 2020, as otherwise they may lose their eligibility to JobKeeper for those months. The ATO also reminds employers that on an on-going basis they must declare their eligible employees monthly, with May declarations having to be made by the 14th of June.

s22

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:39 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Katherine Philp
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png

Hi, my computer is really playing up, I'll be heading into the office soon

Can we please include something along the lines that "The ATO's primary focus has been on ensuring that JK payments are paid promptly to those eligible for them, and are not paid to those who are ineligible. These self assessed estimates are not linked to payment, and so were not previously analysed to the same extent."

On 22 May 2020 at 8:22:12 am AEST, Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU> wrote:

~~DLM Only~~

~~Sensitive~~

James – great – confirmation of the 1200 will be really useful.

DLM Only

~~Sensitive~~

From: James O'Halloran <James.O'Halloran@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:20 AM
To: Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne <Thomas.O'Byrne@ato.gov.au>; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) <james.o'halloran@ato.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Dear Jeremy and Jenny

Appreciate little time – but I am just waiting for – 15 – 20 min realistically confirmation of the 1200 (though it seems right) but more to see if I can bring forward a subset of that to show of those that say are over 500 employees what was the main reason for the difference.

May not get in time.

In that case, I have only made two comments addition – re the payment processing and the April declaration as a comment in draft

Regards

James

James O'Halloran

Deputy Commissioner

JobKeeper Payment Program

Australian Taxation Office

ps22

[mid:ededcf702e1b9e576de7ee1a6547b573d4571ac8834b44487e3582196d66290c@getboxer.com/image003.png@01D4407A.335F7A30]<<https://www.facebook.com/ato.gov.au>>

[mid:ededcf702e1b9e576de7ee1a6547b573d4571ac8834b44487e3582196d66290c@getboxer.com/image004.png@01D4407A.335F7A30]<https://twitter.com/ato_gov_au>

[mid:ededcf702e1b9e576de7ee1a6547b573d4571ac8834b44487e3582196d66290c@getboxer.com/image005.png@01D4407A.335F7A30]<<https://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-taxation-office>>

[mid:ededcf702e1b9e576de7ee1a6547b573d4571ac8834b44487e3582196d66290c@getboxer.com/image006.png@01D4407A.335F7A30]<<https://community.ato.gov.au/>>

ATO. Working for all Australians

From: Katherine Philp
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:07 AM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi Jeremy

Some minor suggested edits are from me in the attached.

Cheers

Kath

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 7:32 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Cc: Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
Subject: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Jenny, some thoughts on the draft media release.

James, could you please look over from a factual perspective (especially the comment that 97% of payments have been made in 3 business days of the claim)

Katherine & Sue, can you please cast your eye over with your media eyes?

Thanks very much,

JH

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s22

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:56 AM
To: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Katherine Philp; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Brown, Philippa; Robertson, Belinda
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: Draft Statement clean.docx

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

Latest version incorporating James's comment about ATO primary focus.

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:34 AM
To: 'James O'Halloran'; Katherine Philp ; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair ; Media Unit ; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa ; Robertson, Belinda
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

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~~Sensitive~~

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The main issue outstanding is the 1200 or 1000 estimate – we need to align these across the MS and statement.

Many thanks

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PRESS RELEASE – JOINT TREASURY AND ATO – STATUS OF JOBKEEPER PROGRAM

As of 21 May 2020, 910,055 businesses have enrolled in the JobKeeper program. Of these, 759,654 have made claims in relation to their eligible employees and had their applications processed. This has resulted in \$8.7 billion of payments to those 759,654 businesses, covering around 2.9 million employees. Around 97% of claims have been paid to employers within three to four business days of making the employer declaration. [JOH TO CONFIRM]

Commented [WJ1]: employer or employee?

Around 150,000 enrolled businesses are yet to complete their employee declarations, which is required before payments can be made. Given this information, and assuming these additional businesses complete their employee declarations, a more accurate estimate of the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program is currently around 3.5 million.

Yesterday, the ATO became aware of an error in the reported estimates of the number of employees likely to be covered by the JobKeeper program. The enrolment forms completed by 910,055 businesses had suggested that this program would cover around 6.5 million eligible employees. The ATO has identified that around 1200 [provenance?] businesses appear to have unintentionally made a material mistake when completing their enrolment forms. The most common error was that instead of reporting the number of employees they expected to be eligible, they reported the amount of assistance they expected to receive. For example, a business with two eligible employees appears to have reported 3000 (which is the amount of JobKeeper they would expect to receive for each fortnight for those two employees). This materially increased estimates of the number of employees who would be covered under the scheme.

This error has come to light as the ATO and Treasury analyse the amounts being paid out under the scheme, reconciling these with the earlier estimates of the number of employees covered. It was not picked up by the ATO earlier as their primary focus has been on ensuring that JK payments are paid promptly to those eligible for them, and are not paid to those who are ineligible. These initial estimates from businesses are not linked to payments, and so were not previously analysed to the same extent.

Importantly this error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments to eligible businesses and is no reflection on the integrity of the program. The actual payments under the scheme depend on the subsequent declaration that an eligible business makes in relation to their eligible employees. This declaration does not involve estimates and requires a business to provide the tax file number for each eligible employee.

JobKeeper is a demand driven program, and the ultimate coverage of the program and the total cost of the program will depend on the number of eligible employees working in businesses that meet the turnover threshold and elect to participate in the program. These data suggest that the total cost of this program is likely to be significantly lower than \$130b initially estimated.

The enrolments of businesses in the JobKeeper program to date suggest a significantly lower number of employees are employed by businesses that are meeting the turnover thresholds than Treasury had initially estimated. This reflects the uncertainty associated with estimating the take-up of a program such as this in the current circumstances. It also reflects some improvements to the outlook for the economy since the estimate was first completed, with restrictions having less impact and being eased earlier than initially expected.

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s22

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 10:41 AM
To: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Katherine Philp; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Brown, Philippa; Robertson, Belinda
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: Draft Statement Final for clearance.docx; Draft Statement clean tracked.docx

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

All

Pls find attached the revised statement for final clearance. There have been significant changes from previous version, so pls read clean. Tracked version included FYI.

This needs to be cleared asap so it can be sent to the TO at 11 along with the final MS.

Release is planned for 11:30.

Many thanks

Jenny

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:56 AM
To: 'James O'Halloran'; 'Katherine Philp'; 'Jeremy Hirschhorn'
Cc: 'Suzanne Sinclair'; 'Media Unit'; 'Thomas O'Byrne'; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Brown, Philippa; Robertson, Belinda
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

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~~DLM Only~~
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To: 'James O'Halloran'; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
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Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:20 AM

To: Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>

Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)

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Ps22



ATO. Working for all Australians

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Commented [WJ1]: employer or employee?

~~Around 150,000 enrolled businesses are yet to complete their employee declarations, which is required before payments can be made. Given this information, and assuming these additional businesses complete their employee declarations, a more accurate estimate of the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program is currently around 3.5 million.~~

~~Yesterday declaration. [JOH TO CONFIRM]~~

~~Around 150,000 enrolled businesses are yet to complete their employee declarations, which is required before payments can be made. Given this information, and assuming these additional businesses complete their employee declarations, a more accurate estimate of the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program is currently around 3.5 million.~~

~~Late yesterday the ATO and Treasury became aware advised the Government of a reporting error in the reported estimates of the number of employees likely to be covered by access the JobKeeper program. The enrolment forms completed by 910,055 businesses who have been assessed as eligible under the scheme had suggested indicated that this program would cover around 6.5 million eligible employees. The ATO's review of these forms has identified found that around 1200 of those [provenance?] businesses appear to have unintentionally made a material mistake when completing their enrolment forms incorrectly. The most common error was that instead of reporting the number of employees they expected to be eligible, they reported the amount of assistance they expected to receive. For example, a some businesses with '2' two eligible employees appears to have reported a figure of '3000' (which is the amount of JobKeeper they would expect to receive for each fortnight for those two employees). This materially increased estimates of the number of employees who would be covered under the scheme.~~

Commented [WJ2]: Is this strictly correct?

This reporting error has come to light as the ATO and Treasury have been analysing the amounts being paid out under the scheme, reconciling these with the earlier estimates of the number of employees covered provided by enrolled businesses of the likely number of eligible employees. It was not picked up by the ATO earlier as their primary focus has been on ensuring that JobKeeper payments are paid promptly to those eligible for them, and are not paid to those who are ineligible. These initial estimates from businesses are not linked to payments, and so were not previously analysed to the same extent.

Commented [WJ3]: Is this an accurate example?

Importantly this reporting error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments that have already been made to eligible businesses and is no reflection on the integrity of the program. The actual payments under the scheme depend on the subsequent declaration that an eligible business makes in relation to their eligible employees. This employee declaration does not involve estimates and requires a business to provide the tax file number for each eligible employee. The only use of the information collected in respect of this reporting error is to provide an early estimate of the number of expected employees likely to access the JobKeeper program.

As of 21 May 2020 910 055 businesses have enrolled in the JobKeeper program. Of these 759 654 have made claims in relation to their eligible employees and had their applications processed. This has resulted in \$8.7 billion of approved payments to those 759 654 businesses covering around 2.9 million employees. Around 97% of claims have been paid to employers within three to four business days of making the employer declaration. ~~(DO NOT CONFIRM)~~.

Commented [W14]: employer or employee?

Around 150 000 enrolled businesses are yet to complete their employee declarations which is required before payments can be made. Given this Treasury now expects the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper ~~information~~ and assuming these additional businesses complete their employee declarations a more accurate estimate of the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program is currently around 3.5 million.

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The difference between Treasury's estimates at the time and the number of employees now accessing the JobKeeper program partly reflects the level of health restrictions not having been as severe as expected and their imposition not having been maintained for as long as expected at the time. This has been reflected in some improvements to the outlook for the economy since the original estimate was developed as a consequence of these and other factors. The variation in estimates also reflects inherent uncertainty associated with estimating the take-up of a demand driven program in the current circumstances.

Treasury's unemployment rate forecasts are unaffected by this reporting error. Those forecasts were prepared subsequent to the JobKeeper program being announced. Treasury continues to forecast that unemployment will reach around 10% in the June Quarter and that in the absence of the JobKeeper program, the unemployment rate would be expected to rise to around 15% in the same quarter.

Treasury's revised estimate of the cost of the JobKeeper program is around \$70 billion. Updated economic forecasts will be reported in the Government's June economic and fiscal update.

The enrolments of businesses in the JobKeeper program to date suggest a significantly lower number of employees are employed by businesses that are meeting the turnover thresholds than Treasury had initially estimated. This reflects the uncertainty associated with estimating the take-up of a program such as this in the current circumstances. It also reflects some improvements to the outlook for the economy since the estimate was first completed, with restrictions having less impact and being eased earlier than initially expected.

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s22

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:07 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny
Cc: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
Subject: Draft Statement Final for clearance [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: Draft Statement Final for clearance.docx

Jenny,

Updated with slight tweaks

Re the significant overstatements, I have suggested reverting to 1,000 – I think one significant figure is safer (there's a degree of judgement as to how bad the overstatement should be before it's an error)

Re the specific example, the team have worked out that about 550 of the claims were for exactly 1500 employees, so I have changed the example to that

It's also not as simple as 1500, 3000 etc, we have all sorts of rounded estimates in the population (1,000, 2,000, 750 etc etc), but 1500 is by far the most common and biggest effect through an employee misstatement lens

Hope this helps

JH

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PRESS RELEASE – JOINT TREASURY AND ATO – STATUS OF JOBKEEPER PROGRAM

Late yesterday, the ATO and Treasury advised the Government of a reporting error in estimates of the number of employees likely to access the JobKeeper program. The enrolment forms completed by 910,055 businesses who have been assessed as eligible under the scheme had indicated that this program would cover around 6.5 million eligible employees. The ATO's review of these forms has found that around ~~4200-1,000~~ of those businesses appear to have completed their enrolment forms ~~incorrectly~~ with significant overstatement of eligible employees. The most common error was that instead of reporting the number of employees they expected to be eligible, they reported the amount of assistance they expected to receive. For example, ~~some over 500~~ businesses with '21' eligible employees reported a figure of '3000-1,500' (which is the amount of JobKeeper they would expect to receive for each fortnight for those ~~two employees that employee~~).

Commented [WJ1]: Is this an accurate example?

This reporting error has come to light as the ATO and Treasury have been analysing the amounts being paid out under the scheme, reconciling these with the estimates provided by enrolled businesses of the likely number of eligible employees. It was not picked up by the ATO earlier as their primary focus ~~has been in the first fortnight of JobKeeper payments was~~ on ensuring that JobKeeper payments ~~are were~~ paid promptly to those eligible for them, and ~~are not~~ paid to those who are ineligible. These initial estimates from businesses are not linked to payments, and so were not previously analysed to the same extent.

Importantly this reporting error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments that have already been made to eligible businesses, as payments under the scheme depend on the subsequent declaration that an eligible business makes in relation to ~~their each and every~~ eligible employees. This employee declaration does not involve estimates and requires a business to provide the tax file number for each eligible employee. ~~The~~ By contrast, the only use of the information collected in respect of this reporting error is to provide an early estimate of the number of expected employees likely to access the JobKeeper program.

As of 21 May 2020, 910,055 businesses have enrolled in the JobKeeper program. Of these, 759,654 have made claims in relation to their eligible employees and had their applications processed. This has resulted in \$8.7 billion of approved payments to those 759,654 businesses, covering around 2.9 million employees. Around 97% of claims have been paid to employers within three ~~to four~~ business days ~~of after~~ making the ~~employee by employee employer~~ declaration.

Commented [WJ2]: employer or employee?

Around 150,000 enrolled businesses are yet to complete their employee declarations, which is required before payments can be made. Given this Treasury now expects the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program ~~is to be currently~~ around 3.5 million.

JobKeeper is a demand driven program which was designed to support eligible employees in businesses that have experienced a significant fall in their turnover. At the time the JobKeeper program was developed, Treasury estimated that around 6.5 million employees would access the program. This estimate was developed at a time when Coronavirus cases were growing significantly and restrictions were being tightened across Australia and much of the world.

The difference between Treasury's estimates at the time and the number of employees now accessing the JobKeeper program partly reflects the level of health restrictions not having been as severe as expected and their imposition not having been maintained for as long as expected at the time. This has been reflected in some improvements to the outlook for the economy since the original estimate was developed as a consequence of these and other factors. The variation in

estimates also reflects inherent uncertainty associated with estimating the take-up of a demand driven program in the current circumstances.

Treasury's unemployment rate forecasts are unaffected by this reporting error. Those forecasts were prepared subsequent to the JobKeeper program being announced. Treasury continues to forecast that unemployment will reach around 10% in the June Quarter and that in the absence of the JobKeeper program, the unemployment rate would be expected to rise to around 15% in the same quarter.

Treasury's revised estimate of the cost of the JobKeeper program is around \$70 billion. Updated economic forecasts will be reported in the Government's June economic and fiscal update.

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Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:36 AM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Robertson, Belinda; Wilkinson, Jenny; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Katherine Philp
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Media
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Philippa Brown
Division Head (A/g)

JobKeeper Division
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
phone: (02) 6263 4050
mobile: s22
email: philippa.brown@treasury.gov.au

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Belinda,

Given shortness of time some very quick observations:

- I would leave as about 1,000 in both (1,000 needles in a 900,000 haystack...)
- FYI it's about 550 claimed 1500, and then all sorts of semi-random round numbers by the look of things...) if you wanted to work that in somehow

Otherwise all seems fine

JH

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Regards
Belinda

Belinda Robertson

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P 02 6263 4657 | **M** s22
E Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au
Follow Treasury [@Treasury AU](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)

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Release is planned for 11:30.

Many thanks

Jenny

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From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:56 AM

To: 'James O'Halloran' ; 'Katherine Philp' <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; 'Jeremy Hirschhorn' <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>

Cc: 'Suzanne Sinclair' <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; 'Media Unit' <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; 'Thomas O'Byrne' ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>

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The main issue outstanding is the 1200 or 1000 estimate – we need to align these across the MS and statement.

Many thanks

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Australian Taxation Office
P s22



ATO. Working for all Australians

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Cheers
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James, could you please look over from a factual perspective (especially the comment that 97% of payments have been made in 3 business days of the claim)

Katherine & Sue, can you please cast your eye over with your media eyes?

Thanks very much,

JH

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This reporting error has come to light as the ATO and Treasury have been analysing the amounts being paid out under the scheme, reconciling these with the estimates provided by enrolled businesses of the likely number of eligible employees. It was not picked up by the ATO earlier as their primary focus in the first fortnight of JobKeeper payments was has been on ensuring that JobKeeper payments are-were paid promptly to those eligible for them, and are not paid to those who are ineligible. These initial estimates from businesses of employees covered are not linked to payments, and so were not previously analysed to the same extent.

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Around 150,000 enrolled businesses are yet to complete their employee-employee by employee declarations, which is required before payments can be made. Employers can still apply up to 31 May for payments made in April. Moreover the scheme will remain open to businesses that meet the eligibility criteria at any time over the 6 months it is in operation.

In light of the take-up of the scheme to date, remaining enrolments, and that the scheme remains open to new registrations, Treasury now expects the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program to be at around 3.5 million.

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s22

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Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:42 AM
To: Brown, Philippa; Jeremy Hirschhorn; Robertson, Belinda; Wilkinson, Jenny; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Media
Subject: RE: FINAL (almost) media release [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive] [DLM=Sensitive]

Thanks Philippa

The ATO media contact details for the MR are: ATO Media | mediaunit@ato.gov.au | 02 6216 1901

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Belinda Robertson
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Follow Treasury [@Treasury AU](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)

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ATO. Working for all Australians

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Attachments: 200522 JobKeeper Update (003).docx

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Australian Government

The Treasury

Australian Taxation Office

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

JOBKEEPER UPDATE

Friday, 22 May 2020

Late yesterday, the ATO and Treasury advised the Government of a reporting error in estimates of the number of employees likely to access the JobKeeper program. The enrolment forms completed by 910,055 businesses who have been assessed as eligible under the scheme had indicated that this program would cover around 6.5 million eligible employees. The ATO's review of these forms has found that around 1000 of those businesses appear to have made significant errors when reporting the estimate of eligible employees on their enrolment form. The most common error was that instead of reporting the number of employees they expected to be eligible, they reported the amount of assistance they expected to receive. For example, over 500 businesses with '1' eligible employee reported a figure of '1500' (which is the amount of JobKeeper payment they would expect to receive for each fortnight for that employee).

This reporting error has come to light as the ATO and Treasury have been analysing the amounts being paid out under the scheme, reconciling these with the estimates provided by enrolled businesses of the likely number of eligible employees. It was not picked up by the ATO earlier as their primary focus in the first fortnight of JobKeeper payments was on ensuring that JobKeeper payments were paid promptly to those eligible for them, and not paid to those who are ineligible. These initial estimates from businesses of employees covered are not linked to payments, and so were not as carefully analysed.

Importantly this reporting error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments that have already been made to eligible businesses, as payments under the scheme depend on the subsequent declaration that an eligible business makes in relation to each and every eligible employee. This declaration does not involve estimates and requires an employer to provide the tax file number for each eligible employee. By contrast, the only use of the information collected in respect of the reporting error was to provide an early estimate of the number of expected employees likely to access the JobKeeper program.

As of 21 May 2020, 910,055 businesses have enrolled in the JobKeeper program. Of these, 759,654 have made claims in relation to their eligible employees and had their applications processed. This has resulted in \$8.7 billion of approved payments to those 759,654 businesses,

covering around 2.9 million employees. Around 97% of claims have been paid to employers within three business days of making the employee declaration.

Around 150,000 enrolled businesses are yet to complete their employee declaration, which is required before payments can be made. Employers can still apply up to 31 May for payments made in April. Moreover the program will remain open to businesses that meet the eligibility criteria at any time over the 6 months it is in operation.

In light of the take-up of the scheme to date, remaining enrolments, and that the scheme remains open to new registrations, Treasury now expects the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program to be around 3.5 million.

JobKeeper is a demand driven program which was designed to support eligible employees in businesses that have experienced a significant fall in their turnover. At the time the JobKeeper program was developed, Treasury estimated that around 6.5 million employees would access the program. This estimate was developed at a time when Coronavirus cases were growing significantly in Australia and restrictions were being tightened across Australia and much of the world.

The difference between Treasury's estimates at the time and the number of employees now accessing the JobKeeper program partly reflects the level and impact of health restrictions not having been as severe as expected and their imposition not having been maintained for as long as expected at the time. This has been reflected in some improvement to the outlook for the economy since the original estimate was developed as a consequence of these and other factors. The variation in estimates also reflects the inherent uncertainty associated with estimating the take-up of a demand driven program in the current circumstances.

Treasury's overall view of the labour market is unaffected by this reporting error. The JobKeeper program is providing important support to firms and workers through these unprecedented economic times. It remains the case that in the absence of the JobKeeper program, Treasury expects the unemployment rate would have been around 5 percentage points higher. Treasury continues to expect the unemployment rate to reach around 10 per cent, although as indicated by last week's Labour Force survey, the measured level of the unemployment is highly uncertain given the impact of social distancing restrictions on participation rate.

Treasury's revised estimate of the cost of the JobKeeper program is around \$70 billion. Updated economic forecasts will be reported in the Government's June economic and fiscal update.

Finally, the ATO reminds all eligible employers who have enrolled but not yet made their employee declaration to ensure that they complete their April declaration by 31 May 2020. The ATO also reminds employers that on an on-going basis they must declare their eligible employees monthly, with May declarations having to be made by the 14th of June.

Contact: Media Unit

Telephone: (02) 6263 2300
media@treasury.gov.au

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Good afternoon

How is the Treasury media team planning on distributing this release? We intend to publish it on our media centre www.ato.gov.au/media but want to confirm this works with your plans too.

Thanks
Emily

Emily Stephan

Director | Media Unit
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P s22 | M s22
[Media line 02 6216 1901](tel:0262161901)

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To: Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne

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Regards
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Belinda Robertson

Principal Advisor | JobKeeper Division

[The Treasury](#), 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT 2603

P 02 6263 4657 | M s22

E Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au

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Many thanks

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Cc: 'Suzanne Sinclair' <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; 'Media Unit' <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; 'Thomas O'Byrne' ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
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James O'Halloran

Deputy Commissioner

JobKeeper Payment Program

Australian Taxation Office

ps22



ATO. Working for all Australians

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Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne

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Katherine & Sue, can you please cast your eye over with your media eyes?

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- FYI it's about 550 claimed 1500, and then all sorts of semi-random round numbers by the look of things... if you wanted to work that in somehow

Otherwise all seems fine

JH

From: Robertson, Belinda [<mailto:Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>]
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:08 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; James O'Halloran; Brown, Philippa
Subject: URGENT - FOR ATO REVIEW: Ministerial Submission - JobKeeper [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Hi ATO

Attached please find the final draft of the Ministerial Submission on JobKeeper for your urgent review. I have also included the 2 proposed attachments.

Can we please have your urgent comments by 11:15am. Please call me if you have any questions. **Note: ATO is to confirm the estimate of actual enrolments where employee estimates were incorrectly entered by employers – Min Sub currently says 100, press statement says 1200.** this should say 1000 not 100

Attachment A – Screenshot of JK system view

Attachment B – Overview of JK Process Steps (note we are currently producing a clearer version of the image)

Regards
Belinda

Belinda Robertson

Principal Advisor | JobKeeper Division
[The Treasury](#), 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT 2603
P 02 6263 4657 | **M** s22
E Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au
Follow Treasury [@Treasury AU](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 10:41 AM
To: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

All

Pls find attached the revised statement for final clearance. There have been significant changes from previous version, so pls read clean. Tracked version included FYI.

This needs to be cleared asap so it can be sent to the TO at 11 along with the final MS.

Release is planned for 11:30.

Many thanks

Jenny

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:56 AM
To: 'James O'Halloran' ; 'Katherine Philp' <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; 'Jeremy Hirschhorn' <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Cc: 'Suzanne Sinclair' <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; 'Media Unit' <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; 'Thomas O'Byrne' ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
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Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
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Many thanks

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Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:20 AM
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May not get in time.

In that case, I have only made two comments addition – re the payment processing and the April declaration as a comment in draft

Regards

James

James O'Halloran
Deputy Commissioner
JobKeeper Payment Program
Australian Taxation Office
P s22



ATO. Working for all Australians

From: Katherine Philp
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:07 AM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi Jeremy

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Cheers
Kath

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Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 7:32 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Cc: Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
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Jenny, some thoughts on the draft media release.

James, could you please look over from a factual perspective (especially the comment that 97% of payments have been made in 3 business days of the claim)

Katherine & Sue, can you please cast your eye over with your media eyes?

Thanks very much,

JH

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s22

From: Media
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 1:14 PM
To: 'Media Unit'; Brown, Philippa; Jeremy Hirschhorn; Robertson, Belinda; Wilkinson, Jenny; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Katherine Philp
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Media
Subject: [SEC=OFFICIAL]RE: FINAL (almost) media release [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

~~DLM Only~~
~~For Official Use Only~~

Hi Emily,

We don't distribute media releases, so this one will be published to our website and we'll put out a subscription notice to anyone registered for our distribution list.

Kindest regards,

s22

s22

Media adviser
Media and Speeches Unit | Communications Division | Corporate and Foreign Investment Group
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
Phone: s22 | Mobile: s22

s22

~~DLM Only~~
~~For Official Use Only~~

From: Media Unit
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 12:55 PM
To: Brown, Philippa ; Jeremy Hirschhorn ; Robertson, Belinda ; Wilkinson, Jenny ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Katherine Philp
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair ; Media Unit ; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Media
Subject: RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]RE: FINAL (almost) media release [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Good afternoon

How is the Treasury media team planning on distributing this release? We intend to publish it on our media centre www.ato.gov.au/media but want to confirm this works with your plans too.

Thanks
Emily

Emily Stephan

Director | Media Unit
Australian Taxation Office
P s22 | M s22
Media line 02 6216 1901

From: Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 12:39 PM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; James

O'Halloran ; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>

Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; James O'Halloran ; Media <media@treasury.gov.au>

Subject: [SEC=OFFICIAL]RE: FINAL (almost) media release [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

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~~For Official Use Only~~

Attached is the final statement. Some editorial changes have been made since the last version. This version is now being proofed and formatted for final release.

Pip

Philippa Brown
Division Head (A/g)

JobKeeper Division
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
phone: (02) 6263 4050
mobile: s22
email: philippa.brown@treasury.gov.au

~~DLM Only~~
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From: Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:45 AM

To: Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>

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Subject: RE: FINAL (almost) media release [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive] [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Pip,

One minor change please from me at the start

“who have been assessed as eligible” to “who have self assessed as eligible”

From: Brown, Philippa [<mailto:Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>]

Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:36 AM

To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Robertson, Belinda; Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp

Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; James O'Halloran; Media

Subject: FINAL (almost) media release [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

All,

Attached is a near final version of the media statement. It incorporates Jeremy's comments, Maryanne's comments and some minor factual and stylistic comments. We are considering this text to be final and cleared.

If there are any concerns with this version, please let Bel or I know ASAP.

We are working with our media team to put the document into an appropriate template for release as a joint Treasury/ATO statement.

Philippa Brown
Division Head (A/g)

JobKeeper Division
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
phone: (02) 6263 4050
mobile: s22
email: philippa.brown@treasury.gov.au

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From: Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:16 AM
To: Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>
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James O'Halloran

Deputy Commissioner

JobKeeper Payment Program



ATO. Working for all Australians

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s22

From: Fiona Payne <Fiona.Payne@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 1:15 PM
To: Connor, Lucy; Hudgson, Andrew
Cc: Mudiyanselage, Viraji; Media Unit; Katherine Philp; Thomas O'Byrne
Subject: For Awareness: Jobkeeper statement [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: 200522 JobKeeper Update (003).docx

Good afternoon Lucy

For Awareness: Please find attached the final statement which is set for imminent release via Treasury and ATO media.

I understand the statement is being proofed and formatted for final release.

Regards

Fiona Payne
Director,
Parliamentary Service, ATO Corporate
Australian Taxation Office
P s22 M s22

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Australian Government

The Treasury

Australian Taxation Office

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

JOBKEEPER UPDATE

Friday, 22 May 2020

Late yesterday, the ATO and Treasury advised the Government of a reporting error in estimates of the number of employees likely to access the JobKeeper program. The enrolment forms completed by 910,055 businesses who have been assessed as eligible under the scheme had indicated that this program would cover around 6.5 million eligible employees. The ATO's review of these forms has found that around 1000 of those businesses appear to have made significant errors when reporting the estimate of eligible employees on their enrolment form. The most common error was that instead of reporting the number of employees they expected to be eligible, they reported the amount of assistance they expected to receive. For example, over 500 businesses with '1' eligible employee reported a figure of '1500' (which is the amount of JobKeeper payment they would expect to receive for each fortnight for that employee).

This reporting error has come to light as the ATO and Treasury have been analysing the amounts being paid out under the scheme, reconciling these with the estimates provided by enrolled businesses of the likely number of eligible employees. It was not picked up by the ATO earlier as their primary focus in the first fortnight of JobKeeper payments was on ensuring that JobKeeper payments were paid promptly to those eligible for them, and not paid to those who are ineligible. These initial estimates from businesses of employees covered are not linked to payments, and so were not as carefully analysed.

Importantly this reporting error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments that have already been made to eligible businesses, as payments under the scheme depend on the subsequent declaration that an eligible business makes in relation to each and every eligible employee. This declaration does not involve estimates and requires an employer to provide the tax file number for each eligible employee. By contrast, the only use of the information collected in respect of the reporting error was to provide an early estimate of the number of expected employees likely to access the JobKeeper program.

As of 21 May 2020, 910,055 businesses have enrolled in the JobKeeper program. Of these, 759,654 have made claims in relation to their eligible employees and had their applications processed. This has resulted in \$8.7 billion of approved payments to those 759,654 businesses,

covering around 2.9 million employees. Around 97% of claims have been paid to employers within three business days of making the employee declaration.

Around 150,000 enrolled businesses are yet to complete their employee declaration, which is required before payments can be made. Employers can still apply up to 31 May for payments made in April. Moreover the program will remain open to businesses that meet the eligibility criteria at any time over the 6 months it is in operation.

In light of the take-up of the scheme to date, remaining enrolments, and that the scheme remains open to new registrations, Treasury now expects the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program to be around 3.5 million.

JobKeeper is a demand driven program which was designed to support eligible employees in businesses that have experienced a significant fall in their turnover. At the time the JobKeeper program was developed, Treasury estimated that around 6.5 million employees would access the program. This estimate was developed at a time when Coronavirus cases were growing significantly in Australia and restrictions were being tightened across Australia and much of the world.

The difference between Treasury's estimates at the time and the number of employees now accessing the JobKeeper program partly reflects the level and impact of health restrictions not having been as severe as expected and their imposition not having been maintained for as long as expected at the time. This has been reflected in some improvement to the outlook for the economy since the original estimate was developed as a consequence of these and other factors. The variation in estimates also reflects the inherent uncertainty associated with estimating the take-up of a demand driven program in the current circumstances.

Treasury's overall view of the labour market is unaffected by this reporting error. The JobKeeper program is providing important support to firms and workers through these unprecedented economic times. It remains the case that in the absence of the JobKeeper program, Treasury expects the unemployment rate would have been around 5 percentage points higher. Treasury continues to expect the unemployment rate to reach around 10 per cent, although as indicated by last week's Labour Force survey, the measured level of the unemployment is highly uncertain given the impact of social distancing restrictions on participation rate.

Treasury's revised estimate of the cost of the JobKeeper program is around \$70 billion. Updated economic forecasts will be reported in the Government's June economic and fiscal update.

Finally, the ATO reminds all eligible employers who have enrolled but not yet made their employee declaration to ensure that they complete their April declaration by 31 May 2020. The ATO also reminds employers that on an on-going basis they must declare their eligible employees monthly, with May declarations having to be made by the 14th of June.

Contact: Media Unit

Telephone: (02) 6263 2300

media@treasury.gov.au

Contact: Media Unit

Telephone: (02) 6216 1901

mediaunit@ato.gov.au

s22

From: Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 1:19 PM
To: Media; Media Unit; Brown, Philippa; Jeremy Hirschhorn; Robertson, Belinda; Wilkinson, Jenny; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Katherine Philp
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Subject: RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]RE: FINAL (almost) media release [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks s22, sounds good.

Emily Stephan

Director | Media Unit
Australian Taxation Office
P s22 | M s22
Media line 02 6216 1901

From: Media
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 1:14 PM
To: Media Unit ; Brown, Philippa ; Jeremy Hirschhorn ; Robertson, Belinda ; Wilkinson, Jenny ; James O'Halloran ; Katherine Philp
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair ; Thomas O'Byrne ; James O'Halloran ; Media
Subject: [SEC=OFFICIAL]RE: FINAL (almost) media release [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

~~**DLM Only**~~
~~**For Official Use Only**~~

Hi Emily,

We don't distribute media releases, so this one will be published to our website and we'll put out a subscription notice to anyone registered for our distribution list.

Kindest regards,
s22

s22
Media adviser
Media and Speeches Unit | Communications Division | Corporate and Foreign Investment Group
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
Phone: +s22 | Mobile: s22

s22

~~**DLM Only**~~
~~**For Official Use Only**~~

From: Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 12:55 PM
To: Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Media <media@treasury.gov.au>
Subject: RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]RE: FINAL (almost) media release [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Good afternoon

How is the Treasury media team planning on distributing this release? We intend to publish it on our media centre www.ato.gov.au/media but want to confirm this works with your plans too.

Thanks
Emily

Emily Stephan

Director | Media Unit

Australian Taxation Office

P s22 | M s22

Media line 02 6216 1901

From: Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 12:39 PM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; James O'Halloran ; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; James O'Halloran ; Media <media@treasury.gov.au>
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Attached is the final statement. Some editorial changes have been made since the last version. This version is now being proofed and formatted for final release.

Pip

Philippa Brown
Division Head (A/g)

JobKeeper Division
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
phone: (02) 6263 4050
mobile: s22
email: philippa.brown@treasury.gov.au

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Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:36 AM

To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Robertson, Belinda; Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp

Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; James O'Halloran; Media

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Division Head (A/g)

JobKeeper Division

The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600

phone: (02) 6263 4050

mobile: s22 [REDACTED]

email: philippa.brown@treasury.gov.au

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Subject: RE: URGENT - FOR ATO REVIEW: Ministerial Submission - JobKeeper [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive] [DLM=Sensitive]

Belinda,

Given shortness of time some very quick observations:

- I would leave as about 1,000 in both (1,000 needles in a 900,000 haystack...)
- FYI it's about 550 claimed 1500, and then all sorts of semi-random round numbers by the look of things...) if you wanted to work that in somehow

Otherwise all seems fine

JH

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To: Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; James O'Halloran; Brown, Philippa
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Can we please have your urgent comments by 11:15am. Please call me if you have any questions.

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Attachment A – Screenshot of JK system view

Attachment B – Overview of JK Process Steps (note we are currently producing a clearer version of the image)

Regards
Belinda

Belinda Robertson

Principal Advisor | JobKeeper Division

[The Treasury](#), 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT 2603

P 02 6263 4657 | M s22

E Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au

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~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

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Pls find attached the revised statement for final clearance. There have been significant changes from previous version, so pls read clean. Tracked version included FYI.

This needs to be cleared asap so it can be sent to the TO at 11 along with the final MS.

Release is planned for 11:30.

Many thanks

Jenny

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:56 AM
To: 'James O'Halloran' ; 'Katherine Philp' <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; 'Jeremy Hirschhorn' <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Cc: 'Suzanne Sinclair' <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; 'Media Unit' <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; 'Thomas O'Byrne' ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

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~~Sensitive~~

Latest version incorporating James's comment about ATO primary focus.

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:34 AM
To: 'James O'Halloran' ; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
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~~Sensitive~~

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I have attached a clean and tracked version to assist.

Pls track any further changes through the clean version.

The main issue outstanding is the 1200 or 1000 estimate – we need to align these across the MS and statement.

Many thanks

Jenny

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Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:20 AM
To: Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn

<Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
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Dear Jeremy and Jenny

Appreciate little time – but I am just waiting for – 15 – 20 min realistically confirmation of the 1200 (though it seems right) but more to see if I can bring forward a subset of that to show of those that say are over 500 employees what was the main reason for the difference.

May not get in time.

In that case, I have only made two comments addition – re the payment processing and the April declaration as a comment in draft

Regards

James

James O'Halloran
Deputy Commissioner
JobKeeper Payment Program
Australian Taxation Office
P s22



ATO. Working for all Australians

From: Katherine Philp
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:07 AM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi Jeremy

Some minor suggested edits are from me in the attached.

Cheers
Kath

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 7:32 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran

Cc: Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
Subject: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Jenny, some thoughts on the draft media release.

James, could you please look over from a factual perspective (especially the comment that 97% of payments have been made in 3 business days of the claim)

Katherine & Sue, can you please cast your eye over with your media eyes?

Thanks very much,

JH

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s22

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Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Media
Subject: FINAL VERSION: JobKeeper joint media release - ATO & Treasury [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 200522 Media Release - JobKeeper Update FINAL.docx

~~OFFICIAL~~

Hi All

Attached please find the final version of the ATO & Treasury joint media release on JobKeeper. **This HAS NOT YET BEEN RELEASED – we will advise when it is released by Treasury.**

Regards
Belinda

Belinda Robertson

Principal Advisor | JobKeeper Division
[The Treasury](#), 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT 2603
P 02 6263 4657 | M s22
E Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au
Follow Treasury [@Treasury AU](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)

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Deputy Commissioner
JobKeeper Payment Program



ATO. Working for all Australians

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Australian Government

The Treasury

Australian Taxation Office

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

JOBKEEPER UPDATE

Friday, 22 May 2020

Late yesterday, the ATO and Treasury advised the Government of a reporting error in estimates of the number of employees likely to access the JobKeeper program. The enrolment forms completed by 910,055 businesses who have self-assessed as eligible under the scheme had indicated that this program would cover around 6.5 million eligible employees. The ATO's review of these forms has found that around 1,000 of those businesses appear to have made significant errors when reporting the estimate of eligible employees on their enrolment form. The most common error was that instead of reporting the number of employees they expected to be eligible, they reported the amount of assistance they expected to receive. For example, over 500 businesses with '1' eligible employee reported a figure of '1,500' (which is the amount of JobKeeper payment they would expect to receive for each fortnight for that employee).

This reporting error has come to light as the ATO and Treasury have been analysing the amounts being paid out under the scheme, reconciling these with the estimates provided by enrolled businesses of the likely number of eligible employees. It was not picked up by the ATO earlier as their primary focus in the first fortnight of JobKeeper payments was on ensuring that JobKeeper payments were paid promptly to those eligible for them, and not paid to those who were ineligible. These initial estimates from businesses of employees covered are not linked to payments, and so were not as carefully analysed.

Importantly this reporting error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments that have already been made to eligible businesses, as payments under the scheme depend on the subsequent declaration that an eligible business makes in relation to each and every eligible employee. This declaration does not involve estimates and requires an employer to provide the tax file number for each eligible employee. By contrast, the only use of the information collected in respect of the reporting error was to provide an early estimate of the number of expected employees likely to access the JobKeeper program.

As of 20 May 2020, 910,055 businesses had enrolled in the JobKeeper program. Of these, 759,654 had made claims in relation to their eligible employees and had their applications processed. This resulted in \$8.7 billion of approved payments to those 759,654 businesses, covering around 2.9 million employees. Around 97 per cent of claims have been paid to employers within three business days of employers making the employee declaration.

Around 150,000 enrolled businesses are yet to complete their employee declaration, which is required before payments can be made. Employers can still apply up to 31 May for payments made in April. Moreover the program will remain open to businesses that meet the eligibility criteria at any time over the 6 months it is in operation.

In light of the take-up of the scheme to date, remaining enrolments, and that the scheme remains open to new registrations, Treasury now expects the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program to be around 3.5 million.

JobKeeper is a demand driven program which was designed to support eligible employees in businesses that have experienced a significant fall in their turnover. At the time the JobKeeper program was developed, Treasury estimated that around 6.5 million employees would access the program. This estimate was developed at a time when Coronavirus cases were growing significantly in Australia and restrictions were being tightened across Australia and much of the world.

The difference between Treasury's estimates at the time and the number of employees now accessing the JobKeeper program partly reflects the level and impact of health restrictions not having been as severe as expected and their imposition not having been maintained for as long as expected at the time. This has been reflected in some improvement to the outlook for the economy since the original estimate was developed as a consequence of these and other factors. The variation in estimates also reflects the inherent uncertainty associated with estimating the take-up of a demand driven program in the current circumstances.

Treasury's overall view of the labour market is unaffected by this reporting error. The JobKeeper program is providing important support to employers and employees through these unprecedented economic times. It remains the case that in the absence of the JobKeeper program, Treasury expects the unemployment rate would have been around 5 percentage points higher. Treasury continues to expect the unemployment rate to reach around 10 per cent, although as indicated by last week's Labour Force survey, the measured level of the unemployment is highly uncertain given the impact of social distancing restrictions on the participation rate.

Treasury's revised estimate of the cost of the JobKeeper program is around \$70 billion. Updated economic forecasts will be reported in the Government's June economic and fiscal update.

The ATO reminds all eligible employers who have enrolled but not yet made their employee declaration to ensure that they complete their April declaration by 31 May 2020. The ATO also reminds employers that on an on-going basis they must declare their eligible employees monthly, with May declarations having to be made by the 14th of June.

Department of the Treasury

Contact: Media Unit

Telephone: (02) 6263 2300
media@treasury.gov.au

Australian Taxation Office

Contact: Media Unit

Telephone: (02) 6216 1901
mediaunit@ato.gov.au

s22

From: Robertson, Belinda
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:16 PM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; Brown, Philippa; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Jeremy Hirschhorn; Katherine Philp
Subject: MEDIA RELEASE" JobKeeper Media Release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

~~OFFICIAL~~

Hi All

The media release has been sent out. It has been posted to the Treasury website and is at the attached link on <https://treasury.gov.au/media-release/jobkeeper-update>.

Thanks
Bel

Belinda Robertson

Principal Advisor| JobKeeper Division

[The Treasury](#), 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT 2603

P 02 6263 4657 | **M** s22

E Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au

Follow Treasury [@Treasury AU](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)

~~OFFICIAL~~

s22

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:36 PM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny
Subject: Fwd: RE: MEDIA RELEASE" JobKeeper Media Release [SEC=OFFICIAL] [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Ours up too!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Emily Stephan <Emily.Stephan@ato.gov.au>
Date: 22 May 2020 at 2:33:59 pm AEST
Subject: RE: MEDIA RELEASE" JobKeeper Media Release [SEC=OFFICIAL] [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
To: Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>,Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Cc: Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>,Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>

Now live - <https://www.ato.gov.au/Media-centre/Media-releases/Joint-Treasury-and-ATO-statement---JobKeeper-update/>

Thanks
Emily

Emily Stephan

Director | Media Unit
Australian Taxation Office
P s22 | M s22
Media line 02 6216 1901

From: Media Unit
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:26 PM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>

Cc: Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Emily Stephan <Emily.Stephan@ato.gov.au>

Subject: RE: MEDIA RELEASE" JobKeeper Media Release [SEC=OFFICIAL] [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Jeremy, that's correct. It's in the process of being urgently published to our media centre now. I'll confirm as soon as it's live.

Emily Stephan

Director | Media Unit
Australian Taxation Office
P §22 | M §22
Media line 02 6216 1901

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au<mailto:Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>>

Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:22 PM

To: Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au<mailto:mediaunit@ato.gov.au>>

Cc: Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au<mailto:Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>>; Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au<mailto:Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>>

Subject: FW: MEDIA RELEASE" JobKeeper Media Release [SEC=OFFICIAL] [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi, I think the plan is for us to also post it on our site(?)

Can you please let me know when it goes up

From: Robertson, Belinda [mailto:Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU]

Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:16 PM

To: Wilkinson, Jenny; Brown, Philippa; James O'Halloran; Jeremy Hirschhorn; Katherine Philp

Subject: MEDIA RELEASE" JobKeeper Media Release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

~~OFFICIAL~~

Hi All

The media release has been sent out. It has been posted to the Treasury website and is at the attached link on <https://treasury.gov.au/media-release/jobkeeper-update>.

Thanks

Bel

Belinda Robertson
Principal Advisor | JobKeeper Division
The Treasury<<http://www.treasury.gov.au/>>, 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT 2603 P 02 6263 4657 | M s22

E Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au<<mailto:Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au>>
Follow Treasury @Treasury_AU<http://www.twitter.com/Treasury_AU> and
LinkedIn<<https://www.linkedin.com/company/commonwealth-treasury/>> and
Facebook<<https://www.facebook.com/treasurygraduateprogram>>

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s22

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:41 PM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Subject: Re: MEDIA RELEASE" JobKeeper Media Release [SEC=OFFICIAL] [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Great — thx

Sent from my iPhone

> On 22 May 2020, at 2:35 pm, Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au> wrote:

>

> Ours up too!

>

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>

> ----- Forwarded message -----

> From: Emily Stephan <Emily.Stephan@ato.gov.au>

> Date: 22 May 2020 at 2:33:59 pm AEST

> Subject: RE: MEDIA RELEASE" JobKeeper Media Release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

> [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

> To: Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>,Jeremy Hirschhorn

> <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>

> Cc: Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>,Suzanne Sinclair

> <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>

>

>

> Now live -

> [https://www.ato.gov.au/Media-centre/Media-releases/Joint-Treasury-and-](https://www.ato.gov.au/Media-centre/Media-releases/Joint-Treasury-and-ATO-statement---JobKeeper-update/)

> ATO-statement---JobKeeper-update/

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> Thanks

> Emily

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> Emily Stephan

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> [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

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> Hi, I think the plan is for us to also post it on our site(?)

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> Can you please let me know when it goes up

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> From: Robertson, Belinda [mailto:Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU]

> Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:16 PM

> To: Wilkinson, Jenny; Brown, Philippa; James O'Halloran; Jeremy

> Hirschhorn; Katherine Philp

> Subject: MEDIA RELEASE" JobKeeper Media Release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

>

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> OFFICIAL

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> Hi All

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> The media release has been sent out. It has been posted to the Treasury website and is at the attached link on <https://treasury.gov.au/media-release/jobkeeper-update>.

>

>

>

> Thanks

>

> Bel

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>

>

> Belinda Robertson

> Principal Advisor | JobKeeper Division

> The Treasury<<http://www.treasury.gov.au/>>, 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT

> 2603 P 02 6263 4657 | M s22

>

> E

> Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au<mailto:Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov

> v.au> Follow Treasury @Treasury_AU<http://www.twitter.com/Treasury_AU>

> and LinkedIn<<https://www.linkedin.com/company/commonwealth-treasury/>>

> and Facebook<<https://www.facebook.com/treasurygraduateprogram>>

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> *****

s22

From: Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:48 PM
Subject: Public Affairs Radar - Friday 22 May 2020 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good evening,

We issued a joint ATO and Treasury [media statement](#) regarding a reporting error in estimates of the number of employees likely to access the JobKeeper program.

Second Commissioner Jeremy Hirschhorn held a doorstep interview outlining how the error occurred and was identified, highlighting that the self-assessed estimate was collected for analytical purposes only and that the reporting error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments. The doorstep was aired on [ABC News](#) and Sky News.

Expect further coverage this evening, however we saw significant coverage including:

- [ABC News](#) - JobKeeper numbers cut by 3 million after Federal Government reveals accounting bungle
- [ABC The Drum](#)
- [ABC News](#) (7pm news bulletin)
- [The Project](#) (Channel 10)
- [Seven News](#)
- [Sky News](#)
- [Nine News](#)
- [SBS News](#)
- [Ten News First](#)
- [ABC Radio Melbourne](#) (Drive with Rafael Epstein) (interview with Shane Wright)
- [AFR](#) (John Kehoe) - \$60b JobKeeper error discovered
- [AAP](#) (Rebecca Gredley) - Treasury revises JobKeeper to \$70 billion
- [Canberra Times](#) (Katie Burgess) - Coronavirus JobKeeper package revised down \$60b after 'reporting error'
- [Nine News](#) - Jobkeeper payment overestimated by \$60 billion
- [News Corp](#) (Tom Minear) - Fewer workers helped by JobKeeper, businesses blamed for claim errors
- [News.com.au](#) (Samantha Maiden) - Treasurer admits massive 'reporting error' for JobKeeper program
- [SMH/Age](#) (Shane Wright) - 'Significant error': Treasury reveals much lower JobKeeper use
- [The Guardian](#) (Katharine Murphy) - Jobkeeper to cost \$60bn less than originally forecast due to 'reporting error'

Further to our statement, we received written questions from the Canberra Times (Katie Burgess) and Sydney Morning Herald / The Age (Shane Wright).

The Canberra Times asked us about the fact that 500 businesses had input 1,500 instead of 1 on the JobKeeper form, specifically if this was an issue with the form design or whether the entities in question used a common tax agent. We responded noting only a small number of businesses put in incorrect numbers – about 1,000 out of a total number of more than 900,000 enrolments. We added that we're constantly refining our advice and processes to make it easier for people to understand and apply for these stimulus measures. We know businesses are doing it tough, and this is a process no one has gone through before, and while we expect some mistakes in applications, we're working hard to support people through this process. Coverage is expected tomorrow.

The Sydney Morning Herald / The Age asked us whether payments started being made under the JobKeeper program before we discovered the issue around the enrolment forms. He also asked when the issue was first discovered. We responded noting the reporting error came to light as a result of investigations commencing this week as the ATO and Treasury have been analysing the amounts being paid out under the scheme, reconciling these with the estimates provided by enrolled businesses of the likely number of eligible employees. We added that as soon as the ATO and Treasury became aware of the discrepancy, we advised the relevant Ministers. Importantly this reporting error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments that have already been made to eligible businesses. The second stage of enrolment required businesses to identify specific employees, meaning reimbursements are only made for identified and eligible employees. We confirmed that there was no money that was sent out that shouldn't have been sent out. There was no underpayments, there was no overpayments. Coverage is expected tomorrow.

s22





ATO Media

Australian Taxation Office

Media line 02 6216 1901

ato.gov.au/media

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s22

From: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 1:49 PM
To: Robertson, Belinda; Rak, Michelle; Brown, Philippa
Cc: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Jason Lucchese; Michelle Allen
Subject: Process and Community Feedback - Working Draft [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: s37(2)(b)

Dear Bel, Michelle and Pip,

Please see a **draft document** you will let later today – but thought I would send an early copy. As I am still clearing

s37(2)(b)

Happy to discuss and hope useful.

This is in a format for Treasury only

Regards

James

James O'Halloran
Deputy Commissioner
JobKeeper Payment Program
Australian Taxation Office
p s22



ATO. Working for all Australians

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From: Fiona Payne <Fiona.Payne@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 4:40 PM
To: Robertson, Belinda; Brown, Philippa
Cc: Parliamentary Services
Subject: Report to Treasury: JobKeeper Process and Community Feedback [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: s37(2)(b)

Good afternoon Belinda and Philippa

Please find attached as requested the s 37(2)(b) (information only) - this information has not been shared with the Office.

Regards

Fiona Payne

Director,
Parliamentary Service, ATO Corporate
Australian Taxation Office

P s22 M s22

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From: Robertson, Belinda
Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 10:31 PM
To: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Subject: Re: [DLM=Sensitive]

Thanks James.

Sent from my iPhone

On 21 May 2020, at 9:08 pm, James O'Halloran wrote:

As discussed updated Table 3.

- The base number of 159,370 does not change.
- I can confirm that the 9,1,3,3, (in column second from right) are companies that are actually of that size and had indicated they would have minimal employees.
- We have revised the enrolments estimate upwards - to align with the values we have forecast for these employers.

Forecast application							Grand
Enrol size	0	1-4	5-19	20-99	100-499	500++	Total
0	2,186	69,099	2,405	595	115	9	74,409
1-4	1,635	69,463	512	13	5		71,628
5-19	56	2,038	8,155	95	4	1	10,349
20-99	5	189	84	1,727	21	3	2,029
100-499		62	1	20	320	3	406
500++	12	452		1	6	78	549
Grand Total	3,894	141,303	11,157	2,451	471	94	159,370

James
James O'Halloran
 Deputy Commissioner
 JobKeeper Payment Program
 Australian Taxation Office
 p s22

ATO. s 22 for all Australians

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s22

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 11:14 PM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Subject: Fwd: MS on JobKeeper numbers [SEC=PROTECTED]
Attachments: Document1.docx; ATT00001.htm

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Brown, Philippa"
Date: 21 May 2020 at 9:33:41 pm AEST
To: "Wilkinson, Jenny"
Cc: "Robertson, Belinda"
Subject: MS on JobKeeper numbers [SEC=PROTECTED]

PROTECTED

Jenny – attached is a draft MS on JobKeeper numbers. Just give me a call if you would like to discuss. I have included some forward looking points in square brackets, so you can think about if you want to include that.

Cheers,
Pip

PROTECTED

~~PROTECTED~~~~SENSITIVE~~**TREASURY MINISTERIAL SUBMISSION**

22 May 2020

PDR No. tbc

Treasurer

JOBKEEPER PAYMENT - NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES COVERED**Timing:** For information**KEY POINTS**

- Analysis of applications processed for the JobKeeper payment indicates that the number of employees covered by the payment is significantly less than implied by enrolment data as entered by employers.
 - As at 20 May 2020 payments have been processed covering 2.9 million employees. Payments have been made to 760,000 organisations.
 - This contrasts with enrolments indicating coverage of 6.5 million employees. 910,000 organisation have enrolled for JobKeeper.
 - For those organisations that have now had payments processed, analysis suggests employee numbers at enrolment have been overestimated by around 3 million employees.
 - [Only around 16 per cent of enrolled organisations have not yet progressed to the application and payment phase of the process. We expect around 500,000 [to 650,000] additional employees will be covered by these organisations.
 - This indicates that total employees covered will be in the order of 3.3 to 3.5 million, dependent upon how many remaining enrolled organisation proceed to finalise their application and payment.]
- The discrepancy has arisen due to around 1,000 enrolled organisations entering incorrect estimated employee data in to the enrolment form. It is likely this was generally an inadvertent error, possibly where they misunderstood the information being requested.
 - This element of the enrolment form is a free text field that asks organisations to estimate the number of employees likely to be nominated for JobKeeper.
 - The organisation, when completing their claim for JobKeeper, is asked to enter details of all eligible employees, and this is the information used to process payments.
- This means that there are fewer employees than is implied by the enrolment figures working in organisations that have met the requirements for eligibility for the JobKeeper payment, including the decline in turnover test.
- This discrepancy does not impact on the number of organisations covered by JobKeeper, nor does it suggest any problems with payments made under the program.
 - Of the 910,000 organisations enrolled for JobKeeper, we expect most of these businesses to progress to the application and payment phase of the process.

~~SENSITIVE~~~~PROTECTED~~

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~~SENSITIVE~~

- It does imply that the total cost of the JobKeeper program will be significantly less.
 - We consider the cost is likely to be in the order of \$70 billion rather than the \$130 billion originally estimated, though this may increase over time if additional organisations enter the program.

Jenny Wilkinson
Deputy Secretary
Fiscal Group
Treasury
Phone: 6263 3745

Jeremy Hirschorn
Second Commissioner
Client Engagement Group
Australian Taxation Office
Phone: s22

Consultation: Tax analysis division

~~SENSITIVE~~

~~PROTECTED~~

s22

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 7:09 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Subject: Draft Minsub with tweaks [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: Document1 (3).docx

Jenny,

Hi, I have suggested some tweaks to the draft joint MinSub. Will separately send through some thoughts on the draft Media Release.

James, can I please ask you to look over and revert urgently with any further tweaks / concerns (especially if numbers don't link to your understanding).

JH

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~~PROTECTED~~
~~SENSITIVE~~

TREASURY MINISTERIAL SUBMISSION

22 May 2020

PDR No. tbc

Treasurer

JOBKEEPER PAYMENT - NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES COVERED

Timing: For information

KEY POINTS

- Analysis of applications processed for the JobKeeper payment indicates that the number of employees covered by the payment is significantly less than implied by enrolment data as entered by employers.
 - As at 20 May 2020 payments have been processed covering 2.9 million employees. Payments have been made to 760,000 organisations.
 - This contrasts with enrolments indicating coverage of 6.5 million employees. 910,000 organisation have enrolled for JobKeeper.
 - For those organisations that have now had payments processed, analysis suggests employee numbers at enrolment have been overestimated by around 3-2.4 million employees (5.3m estimated employees converted to 2.9m actual claims).
 - Only around 16 per cent of enrolled organisations have not yet progressed to the application and payment phase of the process. We expect around 500,000 [to 650,000] additional employees will be covered by these organisations (as compared with 1.2m estimated employees).
 - This indicates that total employees covered by existing enrolments will be in the order of 3.3 to 3.5-6 million, dependent upon how many remaining enrolled organisation proceed to finalise their application and payment.
 - Given the 31 May deadline for April claims, it is anticipated that there may also be some further enrolments and claims not covered above. There may also be employers who only meet the tests and claim for later months, and so who have not yet enrolled.
- The discrepancy has arisen due to around 1,000 enrolled organisations [NOT SURE PROVENANCE?] entering incorrect estimated employee data in to the enrolment form. It is likely this was generally an inadvertent error, possibly where they misunderstood the information being requested.
 - This element of the enrolment form is a free text field that asks organisations to estimate the number of employees likely to be nominated for JobKeeper.
 - The organisation, when completing their claim for JobKeeper, is asked to enter details of all eligible employees, and this is the information used to process payments.
 - Some more obvious incorrect entries had been manually excluded from estimated employee counts, but further classes of error became apparent on review.

~~SENSITIVE~~
~~PROTECTED~~

- This means that there are fewer employees than is implied by the enrolment figures working in organisations that have met the requirements for eligibility for the JobKeeper payment, including the decline in turnover test.
- This discrepancy does not impact on the number of organisations covered by JobKeeper, nor does it suggest any problems with payments made under the program.
 - Of the 910,000 organisations enrolled for JobKeeper, we expect most of these businesses to progress to the application and payment phase of the process.
 - [Actual claims and payments of JobKeeper require employee by employee disclosure, including TFNs, and so are not liable to estimation type errors.](#)
- It does imply that the total cost of the JobKeeper program will be significantly less.
 - We consider the cost is likely to be in the order of \$70 billion [\[MAKES SENSE, PRESUMABLY TAD NUMBER?\]](#) rather than the \$130 billion originally estimated, though this may increase over time if additional organisations enter the program.

Jenny Wilkinson
Deputy Secretary
Fiscal Group
Treasury
Phone: 6263 3745

Jeremy Hirschhorn
Second Commissioner
Client Engagement Group
Australian Taxation Office
Phone: s 22

Consultation: Tax analysis division

s22

From: Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 6:51 AM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: James O'Halloran; Brown, Philippa
Subject: Re: Draft Minsub with tweaks [DLM=Sensitive]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Many thanks. I think that, on average, estimated employees for these 1000 or so businesses with material errors were out by a factor of around 3000. So a better example is that a business with 2 employees reported 3000, and 1 employee reported 1500 Etc This also makes sense given people are focussed on the 1500 payment.

Can we also have a clean screen shot of the enrolment screen to show which field we are talking about.

And, as an attachment to the MS we may want to include an overview of the process. Step 1 (once off) enrol if a business assesses it is eligible, step 2 (every month) declare number of eligible employees to whom have paid at least 1500 per fortnight. Step 3 — ATO compliance activities Payments made in the basis of 2 not 1.

Sent from my iPhone

On 22 May 2020, at 7:09 am, Jeremy Hirschhorn wrote:

Jenny,
Hi, I have suggested some tweaks to the draft joint MinSub. Will separately send through some thoughts on the draft Media Release.
James, can I please ask you to look over and revert urgently with any further tweaks / concerns (especially if numbers don't link to your understanding).
JH

IMPORTANT

The information transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged material. Any review, re-transmission, disclosure, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may result in severe penalties. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the Privacy Hotline of the Australian Taxation Office, telephone 1300 661 542 and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.

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s22

From: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 7:26 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Robertson, Belinda; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Subject: FW: Draft Minsub with tweaks [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: Document1 (3).docx; JobKeeper-pathways-april-v1.1.pdf

Der Jeremy and Jenny

No corrections from me thank you

Belinda

I have attached the three step process (Bel) – **FYI**

I am just trying to get a copy of the enrolment screen for you as I see Jenny had asked.

James

James O'Halloran
Deputy Commissioner
JobKeeper Payment Program
Australian Taxation Office
p s22



ATO. Working for all Australians

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 7:09 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Subject: Draft Minsub with tweaks [DLM=Sensitive]

Jenny,

Hi, I have suggested some tweaks to the draft joint MinSub. Will separately send through some thoughts on the draft Media Release.

James, can I please ask you to look over and revert urgently with any further tweaks / concerns (especially if numbers don't link to your understanding).

JH

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~~SENSITIVE~~

TREASURY MINISTERIAL SUBMISSION

22 May 2020

PDR No. tbc

Treasurer

JOBKEEPER PAYMENT - NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES COVERED

Timing: For information

KEY POINTS

- Analysis of applications processed for the JobKeeper payment indicates that the number of employees covered by the payment is significantly less than implied by enrolment data as entered by employers.
 - As at 20 May 2020 payments have been processed covering 2.9 million employees. Payments have been made to 760,000 organisations.
 - This contrasts with enrolments indicating coverage of 6.5 million employees. 910,000 organisation have enrolled for JobKeeper.
 - For those organisations that have now had payments processed, analysis suggests employee numbers at enrolment have been overestimated by around 3-2.4 million employees (5.3m estimated employees converted to 2.9m actual claims).
 - Only around 16 per cent of enrolled organisations have not yet progressed to the application and payment phase of the process. We expect around 500,000 to 650,000 additional employees will be covered by these organisations (as compared with 1.2m estimated employees).
 - This indicates that total employees covered by existing enrolments will be in the order of 3.3 to 3.5-6 million, dependent upon how many remaining enrolled organisation proceed to finalise their application and payment.
 - Given the 31 May deadline for April claims, it is anticipated that there may also be some further enrolments and claims not covered above. There may also be employers who only meet the tests and claim for later months, and so who have not yet enrolled.
- The discrepancy has arisen due to around 1,000 enrolled organisations [NOT SURE PROVENANCE?] entering incorrect estimated employee data in to the enrolment form. It is likely this was generally an inadvertent error, possibly where they misunderstood the information being requested.
 - This element of the enrolment form is a free text field that asks organisations to estimate the number of employees likely to be nominated for JobKeeper.
 - The organisation, when completing their claim for JobKeeper, is asked to enter details of all eligible employees, and this is the information used to process payments.
 - Some more obvious incorrect entries had been manually excluded from estimated employee counts, but further classes of error became apparent on review.

~~SENSITIVE~~
~~PROTECTED~~

- This means that there are fewer employees than is implied by the enrolment figures working in organisations that have met the requirements for eligibility for the JobKeeper payment, including the decline in turnover test.
- This discrepancy does not impact on the number of organisations covered by JobKeeper, nor does it suggest any problems with payments made under the program.
 - Of the 910,000 organisations enrolled for JobKeeper, we expect most of these businesses to progress to the application and payment phase of the process.
 - [Actual claims and payments of JobKeeper require employee by employee disclosure, including TFNs, and so are not liable to estimation type errors.](#)
- It does imply that the total cost of the JobKeeper program will be significantly less.
 - We consider the cost is likely to be in the order of \$70 billion [\[MAKES SENSE, PRESUMABLY TAD NUMBER?\]](#) rather than the \$130 billion originally estimated, though this may increase over time if additional organisations enter the program.

Jenny Wilkinson
Deputy Secretary
Fiscal Group
Treasury
Phone: 6263 3745

Jeremy Hirschhorn
Second Commissioner
Client Engagement Group
Australian Taxation Office
Phone: s 22

Consultation: Tax analysis division

JobKeeper | Pathway patterns | April declaration

Step 1

Enrol business for JobKeeper wage subsidies

Login

Eligibility information

- > Turnover threshold
- > Month/quarter experienced/likely experience reduction in turnover

Number of eligible employees

- > Estimate employee count for each FN
- > Eligible Business Participant Y/N

Financial Institution Details (BSB & Acc)

Submit

Confirmation and receipt of successful lodgment
(print friendly version available)

Step 2

Identify and maintain eligible employees

Before you start / Eligibility criteria

Add Business participant Y/N
(Sole trader details prefilled)
> Update JK status for period

STP / BDE

JK codes

2A

- > Pre-fill employee count for each FN (editable)
- > Cannot manually add employees online (only via STP software/BDE)

– OR –

STP <200

No JK codes

2B

- > Pre-fill list of employee details
- > Update JK status per employee for period
- > Can manually add employees up to 40 (TFN/DOB) and JK status

– OR –

No STP <40

No JK codes

2C

- > Can manually add employees up to 40 (TFN/DOB)
- > Update JK status per employee for period

– OR –

STP >200 / No STP >40

No JK codes

2D

For this scenario, if no JK codes employer cannot lodge until employee details provided. Form is rejected and the employer is instructed to go through pathway 2a.

Step 3

Business monthly declaration

View wage subsidy summary

GST turnover

- > Enter current month turnover
- > Enter projected month turnover

Financial Institution Details (able to edit)

Declaration textbox

Submit

Confirmation and receipt of successful lodgment
(print friendly version available)

s22

From: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:04 AM
To: Robertson, Belinda
Cc: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Wilkinson, Jenny; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Subject: RE: Draft Minsub with tweaks [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: JobKeeper-v12.9-SummaryPrint.pdf

Dear Bel

See copy of the enrolment receipt which shows the questions answered on page 2 of the 'receipt'

I am just trying to get a clean copy of the actual enrolment screen

There is a disaggregated one at this link;

<https://www.ato.gov.au/General/JobKeeper-Payment/In-detail/JobKeeper-guide---employers-reporting-through-STP/#Step1EnrolfortheJobKeeperpayment>

James

James O'Halloran
Deputy Commissioner
JobKeeper Payment Program
Australian Taxation Office
p s22



ATO. Working for all Australians

From: James O'Halloran
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 7:26 AM
To: 'Wilkinson, Jenny'; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: James O'Halloran; 'Robertson, Belinda'; James O'Halloran
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JobKeeper Payment Program
Australian Taxation Office
p s22



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From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
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James, can I please ask you to look over and revert urgently with any further tweaks / concerns (especially if numbers don't link to your understanding).

JH

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Lodgments

Super

Business

JobKeeper

Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy



Your request has been successfully lodged

ATO receipt ID 23847398735

Based on the self-assessment against the eligibility information in accordance with the law that you have submitted, the ATO accepts your enrolment for the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

It is important that you continue to review your eligibility and obligations under the law to ensure your ongoing eligibility as an employer, and for the employees that you will confirm as eligible employees.

Open print friendly version to **print** or **save as a PDF** including:

- > Registered bank details
- > Receipt ID



Print friendly version

JobKeeper

Date submitted 01/04/2020
ATO receipt ID 23847398735

Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy

Eligibility information

Are you an entity that is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (but not a university or school)? No

Does your aggregated turnover exceed \$1 billion dollars per annum? Yes

For which month in 2020 have you experienced or likely to experience a reduction in turnover? March

Has your turnover for the entity fallen or is likely to fall 50% or more? Yes

Are you intending to register an eligible business participant? Yes

Does the employing entity's business participant meet all of the following? Yes

- > relevant individual actively engaged in the entity's business
- > relevant individual aged 16 or over (or 18 years if beneficiary in the case of the Trust)
- > had an ABN on 12 March 2020
- > had assessable income in 2018-2019 income year and provided notice to the Commissioner on or before 12 March 2020 OR made a supply in 1 July 2018 – 12 March 2020 and provided notice to the Commissioner on or before 12 March 2020
- > relevant individual is an Australian resident (within the meaning of section 7 of the Social Security Act 1991), or a resident for income tax purposes and was the holder of a special category (Subclass 444) visa.
- > you are not an employee (other than a casual employee) of another entity

Number of JobKeeper eligible employees paid during April

Number of eligible employees who have been or will be remunerated \$1,500 or more (this may include wages, tax and salary-sacrifice super) for JobKeeper fortnight one (30 March - 12 April) 285

Number of eligible employees who have been or will be remunerated \$1,500 or more (this may include wages, tax and salary-sacrifice super) for JobKeeper fortnight two (13 - 26 April) 285

Financial institution details for employing entity

Financial institution details



Contact details

Name § 47F

Phone/mobile number* § 47F

Email § 47F

From: [Wilkinson, Jenny](#)
To: [Brown, Philippa](#); [Robertson, Belinda](#); [O'Halloran, James \(ATO - Protected\)](#); [Jeremy Hirschhorn](#)
Subject: Draft MS [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:21:14 AM
Attachments: [Draft MS JKP.docx](#)

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

All

Pls see latest version including some additional amendments from me.

Jeremy/James – we need to agree on the 1000 firms claim – the stronger this claim can be made the better.

Pip/Bel can you pls include the additional info from James in the attachment. We should probably also include a statement at the end along the lines of what is in the statement about why these estimates are so much lower.

I am now about to look at statement and expecting a call from TO any minute.

Jenny

Jenny Wilkinson

Deputy Secretary, Fiscal Group

The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600

Phone: +61 2 6263 3745 | Mobile: S22

www.treasury.gov.au

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

~~PROTECTED~~
~~SENSITIVE~~

TREASURY MINISTERIAL SUBMISSION

22 May 2020

PDR No. tbc

Treasurer

JOBKEEPER PAYMENT - NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES COVERED

Timing: For information

KEY POINTS

- Analysis of applications processed for the JobKeeper payment indicates that the number of employees covered by the payment is significantly less than implied by enrolment data as initially entered by employers.
 - As at 20 May 2020 payments have been processed covering 2.9 million employees. Payments have been made to 760,000 organisations.
 - This contrasts with enrolments indicating coverage of 6.5 million employees for the 910,000 organisation that have enrolled for JobKeeper.
 - For these 760,000 organisations that have now had payments processed, analysis suggests employee numbers at enrolment have been overestimated by around 3-2.4 million employees (5.3m estimated employees converted to 2.9m actual claims).
 - {Only around 16 per cent of enrolled organisations have not yet progressed to the application and payment phase of the process. Assuming these enrolments progress to the application and payment phases of the process, We we expect around 500,000 {to 650,000}-additional employees will be covered by these organisations. (as compared with 1.2m estimated employees).
 - This indicates that total employees covered by existing enrolments will could be in the order of 3.3 to 3.5-6 million, dependent upon how many remaining enrolled organisation proceed to finalise their application and payment.}
 - Given the 31 May deadline for April claims, it is anticipated that there may also be some further enrolments and claims not covered above. There may also be employers who only meet the tests and claim for later months, and so who have not yet enrolled.
- The discrepancy has arisen due to around 1,000 enrolled organisations [NOT SURE PROVENANCE?] entering materially incorrect estimated employee data in to the enrolment form. It is likely this was generally an inadvertent error, possibly where they misunderstood the information being requested.
 - This element of the enrolment form is a free text field that asks organisations to estimate the number of employees likely to be nominated for JobKeeper. It was included in the enrolment form to get an early read on the likely number of employees covered by the program.
 - The organisation: w When completing their claim for JobKeeper, organisations subsequently have to is asked to enter details of all eligible employees, and this is the information used to process payments.

Commented [WJ1]: This is based on the very large number of errors in the 500+ category – ATO pls confirm that you consider this a reasonable estimate.

~~SENSITIVE~~
~~PROTECTED~~

~~PROTECTED~~
~~SENSITIVE~~

- Some more obvious incorrect entries had been manually excluded from estimated employee counts, but further classes of error became apparent on review.
- This means that there are fewer employees than is implied by the enrolment figures working in organisations that have met the requirements for eligibility for the JobKeeper payment, including the decline in turnover test.
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Treasury
Phone: 6263 3745

Jeremy Hirschhorn
Second Commissioner
Client Engagement Group
Australian Taxation Office
Phone: s47F

Consultation: Tax analysis division

~~SENSITIVE~~
~~PROTECTED~~

s22

From: Brown, Philippa
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:50 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; Robertson, Belinda; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Jeremy Hirschhorn; Di Marco, Katrina
Subject: RE: Draft MS [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Jenny – to close the loop on the \$70 billion number, I discussed this with Kat last night (now cc'ed) and she was comfortable that this was a reasonable approximation of the cost of a program covering around 3.5 million employees. The actual number is slightly below, but a round figure seems more appropriate in the context.

Philippa Brown
Division Head (A/g)

JobKeeper Division
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
phone: (02) 6263 4050
mobile: s22
email: philippa.brown@treasury.gov.au

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:21 AM
To: Brown, Philippa ; Robertson, Belinda ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Subject: Draft MS [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

All

Pls see latest version including some additional amendments from me.

Jeremy/James – we need to agree on the 1000 firms claim – the stronger this claim can be made the better.

Pip/Bel can you pls include the additional info from James in the attachment. We should probably also include a statement at the end along the lines of what is in the statement about why these estimates are so much lower.

I am now about to look at statement and expecting a call from TO any minute.

Jenny

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Deputy Secretary, Fiscal Group
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600

Phone: +61 2 6263 3745 | Mobile: s22
www.treasury.gov.au

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

s22

s22

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Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:50 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny ; Robertson, Belinda ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Jeremy Hirschhorn ; Di Marco, Katrina
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The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
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email: philippa.brown@treasury.gov.au

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From: Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:21 AM
To: Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Subject: Draft MS [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

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The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600

Phone: +61 2 6263 3745 | Mobile: S22

www.treasury.gov.au

~~OFFICIAL - Sensitive~~

s22

From: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:58 AM
To: Robertson, Belinda
Cc: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Wilkinson, Jenny; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Subject: Screen Short of enrolment [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: JobKeeper-v13.4-enrol-all-users_no comments.pdf

Dear Bel

Screen shot of enrolment

James O'Halloran
Deputy Commissioner
JobKeeper Payment Program
Australian Taxation Office
p s22



ATO. Working for all Australians

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JobKeeper

All fields marked with * are mandatory.

Businesses and not-for-profit organisations impacted by COVID-19 will be able to access a JobKeeper wage subsidy from the Government to continue paying their employees. Eligible employers are entitled to a JobKeeper wage subsidy of \$1,500 for each eligible employee for fortnights starting 30 March 2020. Employees will need to be paid prior to the employer receiving a JobKeeper wage subsidy. This form is for you to notify us of your intent to claim, and confirm the financial institution details for receiving the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy

Eligibility information

Ensure all information provided below complies with [legislation for receiving the JobKeeper](#) wage subsidy, and that you are an employer or business that qualifies for the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

Are you an entity that is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (but not a university or school)?*

Yes No

Does your aggregated turnover exceed \$1 billion dollars per annum?*

Yes No

You will work out your decline in turnover using GST concepts. You will need to work out current GST turnover and projected GST turnover. This may include using amounts reported on business activity statements. It includes all taxable supplies and GST-free supplies.

For which month have you experienced or are likely to experience a reduction in turnover of 50% or more?*

March

Has your turnover for the entity for the selected month (or the quarter including the selected month) fallen, or is it likely to fall, by 50% or more?*

Yes No

Number of JobKeeper eligible employees paid during April

Employees paid monthly
If an employee is paid for the full month and is an eligible employee for each fortnight, include them twice, once in each field.

Number of eligible employees who have been or will be remunerated \$1,500 or more (this may include wages, tax and salary-sacrificed super) for each JobKeeper fortnight:

JobKeeper fortnight one (30 March - 12 April)*

285 employees

JobKeeper fortnight two (13 - 26 April)*

285 employees

There will be an obligation on you to establish eligibility and that of your employees. This program will be subject to ATO compliance activities. **Penalties apply for making a false or misleading statement.** Note employees must provide you with a completed [nomination form](#) accepting JobKeeper payments.

In addition to eligible employees the JobKeeper wage subsidy allows enrolment of one eligible business participant. See [Help](#) for further information.

Are you intending to register an eligible business participant?*

Yes No

Does the entity's business participant meet all of the following?*

- > relevant individual is not employed by the entity at any time in the fortnight
- > relevant individual is actively engaged in the entity's business
- > relevant individual aged 16 or over (or 18 years if beneficiary in the case of the Trust)
- > relevant individual is not currently receiving parental leave pay, dad and partner pay
- > relevant individual is not currently totally incapacitated for work and receiving payments under an Australian workers' compensation law in respect of their total incapacity to work
- > relevant individual is an Australian resident (within the meaning of section 7 of the *Social Security Act 1991*), or a resident for income tax purposes and were the holder of a special category (Subclass 444) visa
- > relevant individual is not an employee (other than a casual employee) of another entity

Yes No

Financial institution details for employing entity

Do not provide agency trust account information
Ensure you enter the financial institution details for the employing entity.

Account name*

[Redacted account name input fields]

I have checked the account details are for the employing entity and confirmed these are correct.

Contact details

[Redacted contact details input fields]

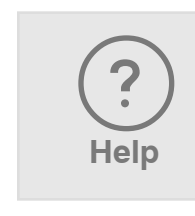
Declaration

- > I have prepared this document in accordance with the information supplied by the entity.
- > I have received a declaration from the entity stating that the information provided to me is true and correct.
- > I am authorised by the entity to give this document to the Commissioner.

Privacy: For important information about your privacy see our [Privacy Notice](#)

Tick this box to sign this declaration with the identification details you used to log-in.*

Submit



JobKeeper

All fields marked with * are mandatory.

Businesses impacted by COVID-19 will be able to access a JobKeeper wage subsidy from the Government to continue paying their employees. Eligible employers are entitled to a JobKeeper wage subsidy of \$1,500 for each eligible employee for fortnights starting 30 March 2020. Employees will need to be paid prior to the employer receiving a JobKeeper wage subsidy. This form is for you to notify us of your intent to claim, and confirm the financial institution details for receiving the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy

Eligibility information

Ensure all information provided below complies with [legislation for receiving the JobKeeper](#) wage subsidy, and that you are an employer or business that qualifies for the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

i You will work out your decline in turnover using GST concepts. You will need to work out current GST turnover and projected GST turnover. This may include using amounts reported on business activity statements. It includes all taxable supplies and GST-free supplies.

For which month have you experienced or are likely to experience a reduction in turnover of **30% or more**?

March

Has your turnover for the entity for the selected month (or the quarter including the selected month) fallen, or is it likely to fall, by **30% or more**?

Yes No

Number of JobKeeper eligible employees paid during April

i **Employees paid monthly**
If an employee is paid for the full month and is an eligible employee for each fortnight, include them twice, once in each field.

Do not include yourself in the count of eligible employees. You should enrol as a sole trader below.

Number of eligible employees who have been or will be remunerated \$1,500 or more (this may include wages, tax and salary-sacrificed super) for each JobKeeper fortnight:

JobKeeper fortnight one (30 March - 12 April)*

0 employees

JobKeeper fortnight two (13 - 26 April)*

0 employees

! There will be an obligation on you to establish eligibility and that of your employees. This program will be subject to ATO compliance activities. **Penalties apply for making a false or misleading statement.** Note employees must provide you with a completed [nomination form](#) accepting JobKeeper wage subsidy payments.

Are you enrolling as a sole trader?*

Yes No

Do you **meet all** of the following?*

- > you are actively engaged in the entity's business
- > you had an ABN on 12 March 2020
- > you are aged 16 or over
- > you are not currently receiving parental leave pay, dad and partner pay
- > you are not currently totally incapacitated for work and receiving payments under an Australian workers' compensation law in respect of their total incapacity to work
- > you are an Australian resident (within the meaning of section 7 of the *Social Security Act 1991*), or a resident for income tax purposes and were the holder of a special category (Subclass 444) visa
- > you are not an employee (other than a casual employee) of another entity
- > a trustee in bankruptcy has not been appointed to your property
- > you had assessable income in 2018-2019 income year and provided notice to the Commissioner on or before 12 March 2020 OR made a supply in 1 July 2018 – 12 March 2020 and provided notice to the Commissioner on or before 12 March 2020

Selecting yes informs the Commissioner of your nomination for the wage subsidy as a sole trader

Yes No

Financial institution details for employing entity

! **Do not provide agency trust account information**
Ensure you enter the financial institution details for the employing entity.

Account name*

[Redacted account name input fields]

I have checked the account details are for the employing entity and confirmed these are correct.

Contact details

[Redacted contact details input fields]

Declaration

> I declare the information I have provided is true and correct.

Privacy: For important information about your privacy see our [Privacy Notice](#)

Tick this box to sign this declaration with the identification details you used to log-in.*

Submit



847F

TFN
847FABN
847FAdd to
favourites
[Summary](#)
[Profile](#)
[Accounts and payments](#)
[Lodgments](#)
[Super](#)
[Business](#)

JobKeeper

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Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy

Eligibility information

Ensure all information provided below complies with [legislation for receiving the JobKeeper](#) wage subsidy, and that you are an employer or business that qualifies for the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

Are you an entity that is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (but not a university or school)?*

 Yes

 No


You will work out your decline in turnover using GST concepts. You will need to work out current GST turnover and projected GST turnover. This may include using amounts reported on business activity statements. It includes all taxable supplies and GST-free supplies. If you are an Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission registered charity you must take into account donations when measuring your decline in turnover.

For which month have you experienced or are likely to experience a reduction in turnover of **15% or more**?



Has your turnover for the entity for the selected month (or the quarter including the selected month) fallen, or is it likely to fall, by **15% or more**?

 Yes

 No

Number of JobKeeper eligible employees paid during April



Employees paid monthly

If an employee is paid for the full month and is an eligible employee for each fortnight, include them twice, once in each field.

Number of eligible employees who have been or will be remunerated \$1,500 or more (this may include wages, tax and salary-sacrificed super) for each JobKeeper fortnight:

JobKeeper fortnight one (30 March - 12 April)*

JobKeeper fortnight two (13 - 26 April)*



There will be an obligation on you to establish eligibility and that of your employees. This program will be subject to ATO compliance activities. **Penalties apply for making a false or misleading statement.** Note employees must provide you with a completed [nomination form](#) accepting JobKeeper payments.

Financial institution details for employing entity



Do not provide agency trust account information

Ensure you enter the financial institution details for the employing entity.

847F

I have checked the account details are for the employing entity and confirmed these are correct.

Contact details

847F

Declaration

- > I have prepared this document in accordance with the information supplied by the entity.
- > I have received a declaration from the entity stating that the information provided to me is true and correct.
- > I am authorised by the entity to give this document to the Commissioner.

Privacy: For important information about your privacy see our [Privacy Notice](#)

Tick this box to sign this declaration with the identification details you used to log-in.*



s47F

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Summary

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Lodgments

Super

Business

JobKeeper

Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy

Your request has been successfully lodged

ATO receipt ID 23847398735

Based on the self-assessment against the eligibility information in accordance with the law that you have submitted, the ATO accepts your enrolment for the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

It is important that you continue to review your eligibility and obligations under the law to ensure your ongoing eligibility as an employer, and for the employees that you will confirm as eligible employees.

Open print friendly version to **print** or **save as a PDF** including:

- > Registered bank details
- > Receipt ID

Print friendly version

s22

From: Robertson, Belinda
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 9:02 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; Brown, Philippa; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Jeremy Hirschhorn
Subject: ATO: FOR URGENT REVIEW - Estimate of employers who made an error in the estimate of eligible employees on JK enrolment form [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

James

I have reconciled the information on the total number of employers that incorrectly entered their estimate of employees in the enrolment phase as below. Can you please confirm this reconciles to the data and information you have provided to Treasury? I draw this analysis from the data provided by the ATO on 13 & 21 May and JK reporting as at midnight 18 May.

Source: ATO Analysis document provided 21 May, ATO analysis provided 13 May, ATO JobKeeper Reporting as at midnight 18 May 2020

1. Estimate of total **number of employers who entered 500++ eligible employees** in the enrolment form - 1458 (Source - Table 2 in 21 May document sent by the ATO)
2. Estimated total **number of employers who have completed the Jobkeeper Claim process with an actual Number of eligible employees in the category of 500++** - 224 (Source – JobKeeper Dashboard 2020-05-18 datasets – page 3)
3. ATO estimate of 159,370 enrolments still to complete the processed application phase of JK on number Of businesses that are likely to have over 500++ employees - 94 (Source – table 3 in 21 May document sent by the ATO)

SUM TOTAL OF ESTIMATED EMPLOYERS WHO ENTERED IN ERROR INCORRECT NUMBER OF ESTIMATED EMPLOYEES IN THE JOBKEEPER ENROLMENT FORM - BEST ESTIMATE IS: circa 1140 (1458 – (224+94))

Belinda Robertson

Principal Advisor| JobKeeper Division

[The Treasury](#), 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT 2603P 02 6263 4657 | M ^{s22}E Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.auFollow Treasury [@Treasury AU](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:21 AM
To: Brown, Philippa ; Robertson, Belinda ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Subject: Draft MS [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

All

Pls see latest version including some additional amendments from me.

Jeremy/James – we need to agree on the 1000 firms claim – the stronger this claim can be made the better.

Pip/Bel can you pls include the additional info from James in the attachment. We should probably also include a statement at the end along the lines of what is in the statement about why these estimates are so much lower.

I am now about to look at statement and expecting a call from TO any minute.

Jenny

Jenny Wilkinson

Deputy Secretary, Fiscal Group

The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600

Phone: +61 2 6263 3745 | Mobile: S22

www.treasury.gov.au

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s22

From: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 9:37 AM
To: Brown, Philippa
Subject: FW: Screen Short of enrolment [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: JobKeeper-v13.4-enrol-all-users_no comments.pdf

As discussed

James O'Halloran
Deputy Commissioner
JobKeeper Payment Program
Australian Taxation Office
p s22



ATO. Working for all Australians

From: James O'Halloran
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:58 AM
To: 'Robertson, Belinda'
Cc: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Subject: Screen Short of enrolment [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Dear Bel

Screen shot of enrolment

James O'Halloran
Deputy Commissioner
JobKeeper Payment Program
Australian Taxation Office
p s22



ATO. Working for all Australians

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transmission together with any attachments.

JobKeeper

All fields marked with * are mandatory.

Businesses and not-for-profit organisations impacted by COVID-19 will be able to access a JobKeeper wage subsidy from the Government to continue paying their employees. Eligible employers are entitled to a JobKeeper wage subsidy of \$1,500 for each eligible employee for fortnights starting 30 March 2020. Employees will need to be paid prior to the employer receiving a JobKeeper wage subsidy. This form is for you to notify us of your intent to claim, and confirm the financial institution details for receiving the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy

Eligibility information

Ensure all information provided below complies with [legislation for receiving the JobKeeper](#) wage subsidy, and that you are an employer or business that qualifies for the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

Are you an entity that is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (but not a university or school)?*

Yes No

Does your aggregated turnover exceed \$1 billion dollars per annum?*

Yes No

i You will work out your decline in turnover using GST concepts. You will need to work out current GST turnover and projected GST turnover. This may include using amounts reported on business activity statements. It includes all taxable supplies and GST-free supplies.

For which month have you experienced or are likely to experience a reduction in turnover of 50% or more?*

March

Has your turnover for the entity for the selected month (or the quarter including the selected month) fallen, or is it likely to fall, by 50% or more?*

Yes No

Number of JobKeeper eligible employees paid during April

i **Employees paid monthly**
If an employee is paid for the full month and is an eligible employee for each fortnight, include them twice, once in each field.

Number of eligible employees who have been or will be remunerated \$1,500 or more (this may include wages, tax and salary-sacrificed super) for each JobKeeper fortnight:

JobKeeper fortnight one (30 March - 12 April)*

285 employees

JobKeeper fortnight two (13 - 26 April)*

285 employees

! There will be an obligation on you to establish eligibility and that of your employees. This program will be subject to ATO compliance activities. **Penalties apply for making a false or misleading statement.** Note employees must provide you with a completed [nomination form](#) accepting JobKeeper payments.

i In addition to eligible employees the JobKeeper wage subsidy allows enrolment of one eligible business participant. See [Help](#) for further information.

Are you intending to register an eligible business participant?*

Yes No

Does the entity's business participant meet all of the following?*

- > relevant individual is not employed by the entity at any time in the fortnight
- > relevant individual is actively engaged in the entity's business
- > relevant individual aged 16 or over (or 18 years if beneficiary in the case of the Trust)
- > relevant individual is not currently receiving parental leave pay, dad and partner pay
- > relevant individual is not currently totally incapacitated for work and receiving payments under an Australian workers' compensation law in respect of their total incapacity to work
- > relevant individual is an Australian resident (within the meaning of section 7 of the *Social Security Act 1991*), or a resident for income tax purposes and were the holder of a special category (Subclass 444) visa
- > relevant individual is not an employee (other than a casual employee) of another entity

Yes No

Financial institution details for employing entity

! **Do not provide agency trust account information**
Ensure you enter the financial institution details for the employing entity.

Account name*

847F

I have checked the account details are for the employing entity and confirmed these are correct.

Contact details

847F

Declaration

- > I have prepared this document in accordance with the information supplied by the entity.
- > I have received a declaration from the entity stating that the information provided to me is true and correct.
- > I am authorised by the entity to give this document to the Commissioner.

Privacy: For important information about your privacy see our [Privacy Notice](#)

Tick this box to sign this declaration with the identification details you used to log-in.*

Submit



JobKeeper

All fields marked with * are mandatory.

Businesses impacted by COVID-19 will be able to access a JobKeeper wage subsidy from the Government to continue paying their employees. Eligible employers are entitled to a JobKeeper wage subsidy of \$1,500 for each eligible employee for fortnights starting 30 March 2020. Employees will need to be paid prior to the employer receiving a JobKeeper wage subsidy. This form is for you to notify us of your intent to claim, and confirm the financial institution details for receiving the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy

Eligibility information

Ensure all information provided below complies with [legislation for receiving the JobKeeper](#) wage subsidy, and that you are an employer or business that qualifies for the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

i You will work out your decline in turnover using GST concepts. You will need to work out current GST turnover and projected GST turnover. This may include using amounts reported on business activity statements. It includes all taxable supplies and GST-free supplies.

For which month have you experienced or are likely to experience a reduction in turnover of **30% or more**?

March

Has your turnover for the entity for the selected month (or the quarter including the selected month) fallen, or is it likely to fall, by **30% or more**?

Yes No

Number of JobKeeper eligible employees paid during April

i **Employees paid monthly**
If an employee is paid for the full month and is an eligible employee for each fortnight, include them twice, once in each field.

Do not include yourself in the count of eligible employees. You should enrol as a sole trader below.

Number of eligible employees who have been or will be remunerated \$1,500 or more (this may include wages, tax and salary-sacrificed super) for each JobKeeper fortnight:

JobKeeper fortnight one (30 March - 12 April)*

0 employees

JobKeeper fortnight two (13 - 26 April)*

0 employees

! There will be an obligation on you to establish eligibility and that of your employees. This program will be subject to ATO compliance activities. **Penalties apply for making a false or misleading statement.** Note employees must provide you with a completed [nomination form](#) accepting JobKeeper wage subsidy payments.

Are you enrolling as a sole trader?*

Yes No

Do you **meet all** of the following?*

- > you are actively engaged in the entity's business
- > you had an ABN on 12 March 2020
- > you are aged 16 or over
- > you are not currently receiving parental leave pay, dad and partner pay
- > you are not currently totally incapacitated for work and receiving payments under an Australian workers' compensation law in respect of their total incapacity to work
- > you are an Australian resident (within the meaning of section 7 of the *Social Security Act 1991*), or a resident for income tax purposes and were the holder of a special category (Subclass 444) visa
- > you are not an employee (other than a casual employee) of another entity
- > a trustee in bankruptcy has not been appointed to your property
- > you had assessable income in 2018-2019 income year and provided notice to the Commissioner on or before 12 March 2020 OR made a supply in 1 July 2018 – 12 March 2020 and provided notice to the Commissioner on or before 12 March 2020

Selecting yes informs the Commissioner of your nomination for the wage subsidy as a sole trader

Yes No

Financial institution details for employing entity

! **Do not provide agency trust account information**
Ensure you enter the financial institution details for the employing entity.

Account name*

I have checked the account details are for the employing entity and confirmed these are correct.

Contact details

Declaration

> I declare the information I have provided is true and correct.

Privacy: For important information about your privacy see our [Privacy Notice](#)

Tick this box to sign this declaration with the identification details you used to log-in.*

Submit



s47F

TFN
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favourites

JobKeeper

All fields marked with * are mandatory.

Businesses and not-for-profit organisations impacted by COVID-19 will be able to access a JobKeeper wage subsidy from the Government to continue paying their employees. Eligible employers are entitled to a JobKeeper wage subsidy of \$1,500 for each eligible employee for fortnights starting 30 March 2020. Employees will need to be paid prior to the employer receiving a JobKeeper wage subsidy. This form is for you to notify us of your intent to claim, and confirm the financial institution details for receiving the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

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Are you an entity that is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (but not a university or school)?*

 Yes

 No


You will work out your decline in turnover using GST concepts. You will need to work out current GST turnover and projected GST turnover. This may include using amounts reported on business activity statements. It includes all taxable supplies and GST-free supplies. If you are an Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission registered charity you must take into account donations when measuring your decline in turnover.

For which month have you experienced or are likely to experience a reduction in turnover of 15% or more?*



Has your turnover for the entity for the selected month (or the quarter including the selected month) fallen, or is it likely to fall, by 15% or more?*

 Yes

 No

Number of JobKeeper eligible employees paid during April



Employees paid monthly

If an employee is paid for the full month and is an eligible employee for each fortnight, include them twice, once in each field.

Number of eligible employees who have been or will be remunerated \$1,500 or more (this may include wages, tax and salary-sacrificed super) for each JobKeeper fortnight:

JobKeeper fortnight one (30 March - 12 April)*

JobKeeper fortnight two (13 - 26 April)*



There will be an obligation on you to establish eligibility and that of your employees. This program will be subject to ATO compliance activities. **Penalties apply for making a false or misleading statement.** Note employees must provide you with a completed [nomination form](#) accepting JobKeeper payments.

Financial institution details for employing entity



Do not provide agency trust account information

Ensure you enter the financial institution details for the employing entity.

Account name*

s47F

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Contact details

s47F

Declaration

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- > I have received a declaration from the entity stating that the information provided to me is true and correct.
- > I am authorised by the entity to give this document to the Commissioner.

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Summary

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Business

JobKeeper

Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy

 **Your request has been successfully lodged**

ATO receipt ID 23847398735

Based on the self-assessment against the eligibility information in accordance with the law that you have submitted, the ATO accepts your enrolment for the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

It is important that you continue to review your eligibility and obligations under the law to ensure your ongoing eligibility as an employer, and for the employees that you will confirm as eligible employees.

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[Print friendly version](#)

s22

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 10:38 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny
Cc: James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
Subject: RE: Draft Statement Final for clearance [DLM=Sensitive]

Jenny,

also re media contacts etc to put on the release, Katherine Philp attached should be able to help with details etc

JH

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:07 AM
To: 'Wilkinson, Jenny'
Cc: James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
Subject: Draft Statement Final for clearance [DLM=Sensitive]

Jenny,

Updated with slight tweaks

Re the significant overstatements, I have suggested reverting to 1,000 – I think one significant figure is safer (there's a degree of judgement as to how bad the overstatement should be before it's an error)

Re the specific example, the team have worked out that about 550 of the claims were for exactly 1500 employees, so I have changed the example to that

It's also not as simple as 1500, 3000 etc, we have all sorts of rounded estimates in the population (1,000, 2,000, 750 etc etc), but 1500 is by far the most common and biggest effect through an employee misstatement lens

Hope this helps

JH

s22

From: Robertson, Belinda
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:08 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Katherine Philp; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Brown, Philippa
Subject: URGENT - FOR ATO REVIEW: Ministerial Submission - JobKeeper [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: MS20-001007_v0.4.docx; Screenshot of document form.docx; Annotated JK Process.pub

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Hi ATO

Attached please find the final draft of the Ministerial Submission on JobKeeper for your urgent review. I have also included the 2 proposed attachments.

Can we please have your urgent comments by 11:15am. Please call me if you have any questions. **Note: ATO is to confirm the estimate of actual enrolments where employee estimates were incorrectly entered by employers – Min Sub currently says 100, press statement says 1200.**

This should say 1000 not 100

Attachment A – Screenshot of JK system view

Attachment B – Overview of JK Process Steps (note we are currently producing a clearer version of the image)

Regards
Belinda

Belinda Robertson

Principal Advisor | JobKeeper Division
[The Treasury](#), 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT 2603

P 02 6263 4657 | M ^{s22}

E Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au

Follow Treasury [@Treasury AU](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 10:41 AM
To: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Katherine Philp ; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair ; Media Unit ; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa ; Robertson, Belinda
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

All

Pls find attached the revised statement for final clearance. There have been significant changes from previous version, so pls read clean. Tracked version included FYI.

This needs to be cleared asap so it can be sent to the TO at 11 along with the final MS.

Release is planned for 11:30.

Many thanks

Jenny

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:56 AM
To: 'James O'Halloran'; 'Katherine Philp' <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; 'Jeremy Hirschhorn' <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Cc: 'Suzanne Sinclair' <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; 'Media Unit' <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; 'Thomas O'Byrne'; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

Latest version incorporating James's comment about ATO primary focus.

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:34 AM
To: 'James O'Halloran'; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

All

Pls find attached a version of the statement incorporating all changes and some additional tweaks from me.

I have attached a clean and tracked version to assist.

Pls track any further changes through the clean version.

The main issue outstanding is the 1200 or 1000 estimate – we need to align these across the MS and statement.

Many thanks

Jenny

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

From: James O'Halloran
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:20 AM
To: Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Dear Jeremy and Jenny

Appreciate little time – but I am just waiting for – 15 – 20 min realistically confirmation of the 1200 (though it seems right) but more to see if I can bring forward a subset of that to show of those that say are over 500 employees what was the main reason for the difference.

May not get in time.

In that case, I have only made two comments addition – re the payment processing and the April declaration as a comment in draft

Regards

James

James O'Halloran
Deputy Commissioner
JobKeeper Payment Program
Australian Taxation Office

 P s22



ATO. Working for all Australians

From: Katherine Philp
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:07 AM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi Jeremy

Some minor suggested edits are from me in the attached.

Cheers

Kath

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 7:32 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Cc: Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
Subject: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Jenny, some thoughts on the draft media release.

James, could you please look over from a factual perspective (especially the comment that 97% of payments have been made in 3 business days of the claim)

Katherine & Sue, can you please cast your eye over with your media eyes?

Thanks very much,

JH

IMPORTANT

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TREASURY MINISTERIAL SUBMISSION

22 May 2020

PDR No. MS20-001007

Treasurer

JOBKEEPER PAYMENT - NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES COVERED

TIMING: For information

KEY POINTS

- Analysis of applications processed for the JobKeeper payment indicates that the number of employees covered by the payment is significantly less than implied by enrolment data as initially entered by employers.
 - As at 20 May 2020, payments have been processed covering 2.9 million employees. Payments have been made to 760,000 organisations.
 - This contrasts with enrolments indicating coverage of 6.5 million employees for the 910,000 organisation that have enrolled for JobKeeper.
 - For 760,000 organisations that have now had payments processed, analysis suggests employee numbers at enrolment were overestimated by around 2.4 million employees (5.3m estimated employees converted to 2.9m actual claims).
 - Only around 16 per cent of enrolled organisations have not yet progressed to the application and payment phase of the process. Assuming these enrolments progress to the application and payment phases of the process, we expect around 500,000 to 650,000 additional employees will be covered by these organisations.
 - This indicates that total employees covered by existing enrolments could be in the order of 3.3 to 3.6 million, dependent upon how many remaining enrolled organisations proceed to finalise their application and payment.
 - Given the 31 May deadline for April claims, it is anticipated that there may also be some further enrolments and claims not covered above. There may also be employers who only meet the tests and claim for later months, and so who have not yet enrolled.
- The discrepancy has arisen due to around 1,000 enrolled organisations entering materially incorrect estimated employee data in to the enrolment form. It is likely this was generally an inadvertent error, possibly where they misunderstood the information being requested.
 - This element of the enrolment form is a free text field that asks organisations to estimate the number of employees likely to be nominated for JobKeeper. It was included in the enrolment form to get an early read on the likely number of employees covered by the program ([see Attachment A – Screenshots of the JobKeeper systems view](#)).
 - When completing their claim for JobKeeper, organisations subsequently have to enter details of all eligible employees, and this is the information used to process payments ([see Attachment B – Overview of JobKeeper process steps](#)).
 - Some more obvious incorrect entries had been manually excluded from estimated employee counts, but further classes of error became apparent on review.

Commented [RB1]: Still awaiting on confirmation from the ATO on this number?

~~PROTECTED CONTENT~~

~~PROTECTED SENSITIVE~~

- This means that there are fewer employees than is implied by the enrolment figures working in organisations that have met the requirements for eligibility for the JobKeeper payment, including the decline in turnover test.
- This discrepancy does not impact on the number of organisations covered by JobKeeper, nor does it suggest any problems with payments made under the program.
 - Of the 910,000 organisations enrolled for JobKeeper, we expect most of these businesses to progress to the application and payment phase of the process.
 - Actual claims and payments of JobKeeper require employee by employee disclosure, including TFNs, and so are not liable to the estimation type errors discussed above.
- It does imply that the total cost of the JobKeeper program will be significantly less.
 - We consider the cost is likely to be in the order of \$70 billion rather than the \$130 billion originally estimated, though this may increase over time if additional organisations enter the program.
- Treasury's unemployment rate forecasts are unaffected by this reporting error. Those forecasts were prepared subsequent to the JobKeeper program being announced. Treasury continues to forecast that unemployment will reach around 10% in the June Quarter and that in the absence of the JobKeeper program, the unemployment rate would be expected to rise to around 15% in the same quarter.

Formatted: Bullet

Jenny Wilkinson
Deputy Secretary
Fiscal Group
Treasury
Phone: 6263 3745

Jeremy Hirschhorn
Second Commissioner
Client Engagement Group
Australian Taxation Office
Phone: s22

Consultation: Tax Analysis Division

~~PROTECTED SENSITIVE~~


JobKeeper


All fields marked with * are mandatory.

Businesses and not-for-profit organisations impacted by COVID-19 will be able to access a JobKeeper wage subsidy from the Government to continue paying their employees. Eligible employers are entitled to a JobKeeper wage subsidy of \$1,500 for each eligible employee for fortnights starting 30 March 2020. Employees will need to be paid prior to the employer receiving a JobKeeper wage subsidy. This form is for you to notify us of your intent to claim, and confirm the financial institution details for receiving the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy

Eligibility information


Ensure all information provided below complies with [legislation for receiving the JobKeeper](#)  wage subsidy, and that you are an employer or business that qualifies for the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

Are you an entity that is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (but not a university or school)?* 

Yes No

Does your aggregated turnover exceed \$1 billion dollars per annum?*

Yes No

 You will work out your decline in turnover using GST concepts. You will need to work out current GST turnover and projected GST turnover. This may include using amounts reported on business activity statements. It includes all taxable supplies and GST-free supplies.


For which month have you experienced or are likely to experience a reduction in turnover of 50% or more?*

March 

Has your turnover for the entity for the selected month (or the quarter including the selected month) fallen, or is it likely to fall, by 50% or more?*

Yes No

Number of JobKeeper eligible employees paid during April

 **Employees paid monthly**
If an employee is paid for the full month and is an eligible employee for each fortnight, include them twice, once in each field.



Number of eligible employees who have been or will be remunerated \$1,500 or more (this may include wages, tax and salary-sacrificed super) for each JobKeeper fortnight:


JobKeeper fortnight one (30 March - 12 April)*

285 employees

JobKeeper fortnight two (13 - 26 April)*

285 employees

 There will be an obligation on you to establish eligibility and that of your employees. This program will be subject to ATO compliance activities. Penalties apply for making a false or misleading statement. Note employees must provide you with a completed [nomination form](#)  accepting JobKeeper payments.

 In addition to eligible employees the JobKeeper wage subsidy allows enrolment of one eligible business participant. See [Help](#) for further information.

Are you intending to register an eligible business participant?*

Yes No

Does the entity's business participant meet all of the following?*

- > relevant individual is not employed by the entity at any time in the fortnight
- > relevant individual is actively engaged in the entity's business
- > relevant individual aged 18 or over (or 18 years if beneficiary in the case of the Trust)
- > relevant individual is not currently receiving parental leave pay, dad and partner pay
- > relevant individual is not currently totally incapacitated for work and receiving payments under an Australian workers' compensation law in respect of their total incapacity to work
- > relevant individual is an Australian resident (within the meaning of section 7 of the Social Security Act 1991), or a resident for income tax purposes and were the holder of a special category (Subclass 444) visa
- > relevant individual is not an employee (other than a casual employee) of another entity

Yes No

Financial institution details for employing entity

! Do not provide agency trust account information
Ensure you enter the financial institution details for the employing entity.

s47F

I have checked the account details are for the employing entity and confirmed these are correct.

Contact details

s47F

Declaration


- > I have prepared this document in accordance with the information supplied by the entity.
- > I have received a declaration from the entity stating that the information provided to me is true and correct.
- > I am authorised by the entity to give this document to the Commissioner.

Privacy: For important information about your privacy see our [Privacy Notice](#)

Tick this box to sign this declaration with the identification details you used to log-in.*

JobKeeper

Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy


 **Your request has been successfully lodged**
ATO receipt ID 23847398735

Based on the self-assessment against the eligibility information in accordance with the law that you have submitted, the ATO accepts your enrolment for the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

It is important that you continue to review your eligibility and obligations under the law to ensure your ongoing eligibility as an employer, and for the employees that you will confirm as eligible employees.

Open print friendly version to **print** or **save as a PDF** including:

- > Registered bank details
- > Receipt ID

 [Print friendly version](#)

JobKeeper | Pathway patterns | April declaration

Step 1 Enrol

Enrol business for JobKeeper wage subsidies

Login

Eligibility information

- > Turnover threshold
- > Month/quarter experienced/likely experience reduction in turnover

Number of eligible employees

- > Estimate employee count for each FN
- > Eligible Business Participant Y/N

Financial Institution Details (BSB & Acc)

Submit

Confirmation and receipt of successful lodgment (print friendly version available)

PROCESS NOTE: When **enrolling** for JobKeeper, employers provide an **estimate only** of their expected number of eligible employees.

Step 2 Claim

Identify and maintain eligible employees

Before you start / Eligibility criteria

- Add Business participant Y/N (Sole trader details prefilled)
- > Update JK status for period

STP / BDE

JK codes

2A

- > Pre-fill employee count for each FN (editable)
- > Cannot manually add employees online (only via STP software/BDE)

- OR -

STP < 200

No JK codes

2B

- > Pre-fill list of employee details
- > Update JK status per employee for period
- > Can manually add employees up to 40 (TFN/DOB) and JK status

- OR -

No STP < 40

No JK codes

2C

- > Can manually add employees up to 40 (TFN/DOB)
- > Update JK status per employee for period

- OR -

STP > 200 / No STP > 40

No JK codes

2D

- For this scenario, if no JK codes employer cannot lodge until employee details provided. Form is rejected and the employer is instructed to go through pathway 2a.

PROCESS NOTE: When **claiming** for JobKeeper, employers provide the details of the **actual eligible** employees.

Step 3 Declare

Business monthly declaration

View wage subsidy summary

GST turnover

- > Enter current month turnover
- > Enter projected month turnover

Financial Institution Details (able to edit)

Declaration tickbox

Submit

Confirmation and receipt of successful lodgment (print friendly version available)

PROCESS NOTE: The final step of the process is employers complete a **declaration** to finalise their monthly claim. Receipt of submittal is provided to the employer and then the ATO processes the claim for payment for all **eligible employees** identified in Step 2.

s22

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 10:40 AM
To: belinda.robertson@treasury.gov.au
Subject: FW: Draft Statement Final for clearance [DLM=Sensitive]

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:08 AM
To: 'Wilkinson, Jenny'
Cc: James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
Subject: RE: Draft Statement Final for clearance [DLM=Sensitive]

Jenny,

also re media contacts etc to put on the release, Katherine Philp attached should be able to help with details etc

JH

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:07 AM
To: 'Wilkinson, Jenny'
Cc: James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
Subject: Draft Statement Final for clearance [DLM=Sensitive]

Jenny,

Updated with slight tweaks

Re the significant overstatements, I have suggested reverting to 1,000 – I think one significant figure is safer (there's a degree of judgement as to how bad the overstatement should be before it's an error)

Re the specific example, the team have worked out that about 550 of the claims were for exactly 1500 employees, so I have changed the example to that

It's also not as simple as 1500, 3000 etc, we have all sorts of rounded estimates in the population (1,000, 2,000, 750 etc etc), but 1500 is by far the most common and biggest effect through an employee misstatement lens

Hope this helps

JH

s22

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 10:43 AM
To: James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp; Jeremy Hirschhorn; Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; James O'Halloran; Brown, Philippa; Robertson, Belinda
Subject: FW: Draft Statement Final for clearance [DLM=Sensitive]

Second go with full distribution, save and send meant I had to manually enter and didn't include everyone

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
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Hope this helps

JH

From: [Jeremy Hirschhorn](#)
To: [Robertson, Belinda](#); [Wilkinson, Jenny](#); [O'Halloran, James \(ATO - Protected\)](#); [Katherine Philp](#)
Cc: [Suzanne Sinclair](#); [Media Unit](#); [Thomas O'Byrne](#); [O'Halloran, James \(ATO - Protected\)](#); [Brown, Philippa](#)
Subject: RE: URGENT - FOR ATO REVIEW: Ministerial Submission - JobKeeper [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive] [DLM=Sensitive]
Date: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:16:25 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Belinda,

Given shortness of time some very quick observations:

- I would leave as about 1,000 in both (1,000 needles in a 900,000 haystack...)
- FYI it's about 550 claimed 1500, and then all sorts of semi-random round numbers by the look of things...) if you wanted to work that in somehow

Otherwise all seems fine

JH

From: Robertson, Belinda [mailto:Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU]
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:08 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; James O'Halloran; Brown, Philippa
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This should say 1000 not 100

Attachment A – Screenshot of JK system view

Attachment B – Overview of JK Process Steps (note we are currently producing a clearer version of the image)

Regards

Belinda

Belinda Robertson

Principal Advisor | JobKeeper Division

[The Treasury](#), 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT 2603

P 02 6263 4657 | M s22

E Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au

Follow Treasury [@Treasury_AU](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

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To: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Katherine Philp; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Brown, Philippa; Robertson, Belinda
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

All

Pls find attached the revised statement for final clearance. There have been significant changes from previous version, so pls read clean. Tracked version included FYI.

This needs to be cleared asap so it can be sent to the TO at 11 along with the final MS.

Release is planned for 11:30.

Many thanks

Jenny

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny

Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:56 AM

To: 'James O'Halloran' ; 'Katherine Philp' <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; 'Jeremy Hirschhorn' <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>

Cc: 'Suzanne Sinclair' <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; 'Media Unit' <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; 'Thomas O'Byrne' ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>

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Latest version incorporating James's comment about ATO primary focus.

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Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>

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The main issue outstanding is the 1200 or 1000 estimate – we need to align these across the MS and statement.

Many thanks

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Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:20 AM

To: Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)
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Dear Jeremy and Jenny

Appreciate little time – but I am just waiting for – 15 – 20 min realistically confirmation of the 1200 (though it seems right) but more to see if I can bring forward a subset of that to show of those that say are over 500 employees what was the main reason for the difference.

May not get in time.

In that case, I have only made two comments addition – re the payment processing and the April declaration as a comment in draft

Regards

James

James O'Halloran

Deputy Commissioner

JobKeeper Payment Program

Australian Taxation Office

PS22



ATO. Working for all Australians

From: Katherine Philp
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:07 AM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi Jeremy

Some minor suggested edits are from me in the attached.

Cheers

Kath

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 7:32 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Cc: Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
Subject: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Jenny, some thoughts on the draft media release.

James, could you please look over from a factual perspective (especially the comment that 97% of payments have been made in 3 business days of the claim)

Katherine & Sue, can you please cast your eye over with your media eyes?

Thanks very much,

JH

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s22

From: s22 [redacted]@ato.gov.au> on behalf of Jeremy Hirschhorn
<Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 12:21 PM
To: Robertson, Belinda; Brown, Philippa
Cc: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Subject: RE: URGENT - FOR ATO REVIEW: Ministerial Submission - JobKeeper
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive] [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: Signature_JH_digital.jpg

Good afternoon Belinda and Philippa

Please find attached Jeremy's electronic signature for inclusion in the min sub.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

s 22

A/g Executive Advisor to Jeremy Hirschhorn
Second Commissioner | Client Engagement Group
Australian Taxation Office

P s22 [redacted] M s22 [redacted]



ATO. Working for all Australians

From: Robertson, Belinda [mailto:Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU]
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:08 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; James O'Halloran; Brown, Philippa
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Attachment B – Overview of JK Process Steps (note we are currently producing a clearer version of the image)

Regards
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Belinda Robertson

Principal Advisor | JobKeeper Division

[The Treasury](#), 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT 2603

P 02 6263 4657 | M s22

E Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au

Follow Treasury [@Treasury AU](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)

~~OFFICIAL - Sensitive~~

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To: Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>

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ATO. Working for all Australians

From: Katherine Philp
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Thanks very much,

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s22

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 12:32 PM
To: Brown, Philippa
Subject: RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL]RE: FINAL (almost) media release [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
[DLM=Sensitive]

Pip,

Only two comments:

- Some weird font size things in the last few paras
- Would be great to change to "self assessed" as eligible

From: Brown, Philippa [mailto:Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU]
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 12:39 PM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Robertson, Belinda; Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; James O'Halloran; Media
Subject: [SEC=OFFICIAL]RE: FINAL (almost) media release [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

~~DLM Only~~
~~For Official Use Only~~

Attached is the final statement. Some editorial changes have been made since the last version. This version is now being proofed and formatted for final release.

Pip

Philippa Brown
Division Head (A/g)

JobKeeper Division
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
phone: (02) 6263 4050
mobile: s22
email: philippa.brown@treasury.gov.au

~~DLM Only~~
~~For Official Use Only~~

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:45 AM
To: Brown, Philippa ; Robertson, Belinda ; Wilkinson, Jenny ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Katherine Philp
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair ; Media Unit ; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Media
Subject: RE: FINAL (almost) media release [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive] [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Pip,

One minor change please from me at the start

"who have been assessed as eligible" to "who have self assessed as eligible"

From: Brown, Philippa [mailto:Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU]
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:36 AM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Robertson, Belinda; Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp

Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; James O'Halloran; Media
Subject: FINAL (almost) media release [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

All,

Attached is a near final version of the media statement. It incorporates Jeremy's comments, Maryanne's comments and some minor factual and stylistic comments. We are considering this text to be final and cleared.

If there are any concerns with this version, please let Bel or I know ASAP.

We are working with our media team to put the document into an appropriate template for release as a joint Treasury/ATO statement.

Philippa Brown
Division Head (A/g)

JobKeeper Division
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
phone: (02) 6263 4050
mobile: s22
email: philippa.brown@treasury.gov.au

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:16 AM
To: Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
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From: Robertson, Belinda [<mailto:Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>]
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 11:08 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran; Katherine Philp; Jeremy Hirschhorn
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne; James O'Halloran; Brown, Philippa
Subject: URGENT - FOR ATO REVIEW: Ministerial Submission - JobKeeper [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Hi ATO

Attached please find the final draft of the Ministerial Submission on JobKeeper for your urgent review. I have also included the 2 proposed attachments.

Can we please have your urgent comments by 11:15am. Please call me if you have any questions. **Note: ATO is to confirm the estimate of actual enrolments where employee estimates were incorrectly entered by employers – Min Sub currently says 100, press statement says 1200.**

This should say 1000 not 100

Attachment A – Screenshot of JK system view

Attachment B – Overview of JK Process Steps (note we are currently producing a clearer version of the image)

Regards
Belinda

Belinda Robertson

Principal Advisor | JobKeeper Division

[The Treasury](#), 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT 2603

P 02 6263 4657 | M s22

E Belinda.Robertson@treasury.gov.au

Follow Treasury [@Treasury AU](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)

~~OFFICIAL. Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>

Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 10:41 AM

To: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>

Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>

Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

All

Pls find attached the revised statement for final clearance. There have been significant changes from previous version, so pls read clean. Tracked version included FYI.

This needs to be cleared asap so it can be sent to the TO at 11 along with the final MS.

Release is planned for 11:30.

Many thanks

Jenny

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny

Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:56 AM

To: 'James O'Halloran' ; 'Katherine Philp' <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; 'Jeremy Hirschhorn' <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>

Cc: 'Suzanne Sinclair' <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; 'Media Unit' <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; 'Thomas O'Byrne' ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda

<Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>

Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

Latest version incorporating James's comment about ATO primary focus.

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

From: Wilkinson, Jenny

Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:34 AM

To: 'James O'Halloran'; Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn

<Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>

Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected) ; Brown, Philippa <Philippa.Brown@TREASURY.GOV.AU>; Robertson, Belinda <Belinda.Robertson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>

Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

All

Pls find attached a version of the statement incorporating all changes and some additional tweaks from me.

I have attached a clean and tracked version to assist.

Pls track any further changes through the clean version.

The main issue outstanding is the 1200 or 1000 estimate – we need to align these across the MS and statement.

Many thanks

Jenny

~~DLM Only~~
~~Sensitive~~

From: James O'Halloran

Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:20 AM

To: Katherine Philp <Katherine.Philp@ato.gov.au>; Jeremy Hirschhorn <Jeremy.Hirschhorn@ato.gov.au>; Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>

Cc: Suzanne Sinclair <Suzanne.Sinclair@ato.gov.au>; Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>; Thomas O'Byrne ; O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected)

Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Dear Jeremy and Jenny

Appreciate little time – but I am just waiting for – 15 – 20 min realistically confirmation of the 1200 (though it seems right) but more to see if I can bring forward a subset of that to show of those that say are over 500 employees what was the main reason for the difference.

May not get in time.

In that case, I have only made two comments addition – re the payment processing and the April declaration as a comment in draft

Regards

James

James O'Halloran
Deputy Commissioner
JobKeeper Payment Program
Australian Taxation Office

P s22



ATO. Working for all Australians

From: Katherine Philp
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:07 AM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn; Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Cc: Suzanne Sinclair; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne
Subject: RE: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi Jeremy

Some minor suggested edits are from me in the attached.

Cheers
Kath

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 7:32 AM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny; James O'Halloran
Cc: Katherine Philp; Suzanne Sinclair
Subject: Draft Statement (3) [DLM=Sensitive]

Jenny, some thoughts on the draft media release.

James, could you please look over from a factual perspective (especially the comment that 97% of payments have been made in 3 business days of the claim)

Katherine & Sue, can you please cast your eye over with your media eyes?

Thanks very much,

JH

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privileged material. Any review, re-transmission, disclosure, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may result in severe penalties. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the Privacy Hotline of the Australian Taxation Office, telephone 1300 661 542 and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.

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s22

From: Wilkinson, Jenny <Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 12:59 PM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Subject: FW: Ltr to Senator Gallagher - JobKeeper reporting.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 200522 - Ltr to Senator Gallagher - JobKeeper reporting.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

OFFICIAL

Happy with this draft?

OFFICIAL

From: Brown, Philippa
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 1:26 PM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny ; Rayner, Karla
Cc: Robertson, Belinda ; s22
Subject: Ltr to Senator Gallagher - JobKeeper reporting.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Jenny/Karla,

Attached is a draft letter for signature by the Secretary and Commissioner to Senator Gallagher. Let me know of any comments.

Cheers,
Pip

Philippa Brown
Division Head (A/g)

JobKeeper Division
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
phone: (02) 6263 4050
mobile: s22
email: philippa.brown@treasury.gov.au

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Australian Government

The Treasury

Australian Taxation Office

Senator Katy Gallagher
Chair
The Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Gallagher

We would like to draw the Committee's attention to a media release (attached) issued today by Treasury and the Australian Taxation Office regarding a reporting error in JobKeeper enrolment numbers.

The error was identified yesterday and is in respect of information provided by employers in providing an estimate of eligible employees on their enrolment form.

Importantly this reporting error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments that have already been made to eligible businesses, as payments under the scheme depend on the subsequent declaration that an eligible business makes in relation to each and every eligible employee. This declaration does not involve estimates and requires an employer to provide the tax file number for each eligible employee. By contrast, the only use of the information collected in respect of the reporting error was to provide an early estimate of the number of expected employees likely to access the JobKeeper program.

Treasury and the ATO would be happy to provide further information to the Committee through the ongoing Committee process.

Yours sincerely

Steven Kennedy

Chris Jordan

May 2020

s22

From: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 1:00 PM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny
Subject: RE: Ltr to Senator Gallagher - JobKeeper reporting.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL] [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Looks fine to me!

From: Wilkinson, Jenny [mailto:Jenny.Wilkinson@TREASURY.GOV.AU]
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 1:29 PM
To: Jeremy Hirschhorn
Subject: FW: Ltr to Senator Gallagher - JobKeeper reporting.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Happy with this draft?

OFFICIAL

From: Brown, Philippa
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 1:26 PM
To: Wilkinson, Jenny ; Rayner, Karla
Cc: Robertson, Belinda ; s22
Subject: Ltr to Senator Gallagher - JobKeeper reporting.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Jenny/Karla,

Attached is a draft letter for signature by the Secretary and Commissioner to Senator Gallagher. Let me know of any comments.

Cheers,
Pip

Philippa Brown
Division Head (A/g)

JobKeeper Division
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
phone: (02) 6263 4050
mobile: s22
email: philippa.brown@treasury.gov.au

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s22

From: s22
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 1:47 PM
To: s22
Cc: Rayner, Karla
Subject: Urgent letter for the Commissioner's signature [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: 200522- Ltr to Senator Gallagher - JobKeeper.docx

Importance: High

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Dear s22

Further to our telephone discussion, please see attached a copy of the letter for the Commissioner's approval and signature.

Kind regards,

s22

s22
Executive Officer | Office of the Secretary
The Treasury
Ph: s22 | M: s22
Email: s22 [@treasury.gov.au](mailto:s22@treasury.gov.au)

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~



Australian Government

The Treasury

Australian Taxation Office

Senator Katy Gallagher
Chair
The Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Gallagher

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Treasury and the ATO would be happy to provide further information to the Committee through the ongoing Committee process.

Yours sincerely

Dr Steven Kennedy PSM
Secretary to the Treasury

May 2020

Mr Chris Jordan AO
Commissioner of Taxation

May 2020

s22

From: s22
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:04 PM
To: Jordan, Chris (ATO - Protected)
Subject: RE: Urgent letter for the Commissioner's signature [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: 200522 Media Release - JobKeeper Update FINAL.docx

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Dear Commissioner / s22

Please find attached a copy of the media release as requested.

Kind regards,

s22

s22
Executive Officer | Office of the Secretary
The Treasury
Ph: +s22 | M: s22
Email: s22 @treasury.gov.au

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

From: s22 **On Behalf Of** Chris Jordan
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:01 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Urgent letter for the Commissioner's signature [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive] [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi s22

The media release does not appear to be attached. Do you have a copy in hand?

Thanks

s22

From: s22 @TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 1:47 PM
To: s22 @ato.gov.au>
Cc: Rayner, Karla <Karla.Rayner@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Subject: Urgent letter for the Commissioner's signature [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Importance: High

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Dear s22

Further to our telephone discussion, please see attached a copy of the letter for the Commissioner's approval and signature.

Kind regards,

s22

s22

Executive Officer | Office of the Secretary
The Treasury
Ph: s22 | M: s22
Email s22@treasury.gov.au

~~OFFICIAL. Sensitive~~

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s22

From: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@ato.gov.au> on behalf of Jordan, Chris (ATO - Protected)
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:23 PM
To: s22 [redacted]
Subject: FW: Urgent letter for the Commissioner's signature [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive] [DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: 200522- Ltr to Senator Gallagher - JobKeeper.docx
Importance: High

Hi s22 [redacted]

Commissioner Jordan has approved the letter and signature is attached.

I have not converted this to a PDF for you can affix Dr Kennedy's signature. Please delete word version when complete.

Thanks
s22 [redacted]

s22 [redacted]
Executive Adviser to Commissioner Chris Jordan
Australian Taxation Office
P s22 [redacted] M s22 [redacted]

From: s22 [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 1:47 PM
To: s22 [redacted]
Cc: Rayner, Karla
Subject: Urgent letter for the Commissioner's signature [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Importance: High

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear s22 [redacted]

Further to our telephone discussion, please see attached a copy of the letter for the Commissioner's approval and signature.

Kind regards,

s22 [redacted]

s22 [redacted]
Executive Officer | Office of the Secretary
The Treasury
Ph: +s22 [redacted] | M: s22 [redacted]
Email: s22 [redacted] @treasury.gov.au

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s22

From: Rayner, Karla
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:34 PM
To: Committee, COVID (SEN)
Cc: Office of the Secretary; miriam.bosser@ato.gov.au
Subject: Letter from Secretary Kennedy and Commissioner Jordan [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 20200522 Signed Letter to Senator Gallagher - JobKeeper.pdf

OFFICIAL

Dear Senator Gallagher

Please find attached a letter from Secretary Kennedy and Commissioner Jordan.

Kind regards

Karla

Karla Rayner

Chief of Staff to the Secretary

The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600

Phone: +61 2 6263 3093 | Mobile: +s22

Email: karla.rayner@treasury.gov.au

www.treasury.gov.au

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The Treasury acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to elders both past and present.

OFFICIAL

s22

From: Brown, Philippa
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:43 PM
To: O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); Robertson, Belinda
Cc: s22 ; s22 ; s22
Subject: FW: Final letter to Senator Gallagher and media release [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 20200522 Signed Letter to Senator Gallagher - JobKeeper.pdf

OFFICIAL

FYI all – the letter to the Senate Committee chair from the Secretary and the Commissioner.

s 22

Pip

Philippa Brown
Division Head (A/g)

JobKeeper Division
The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
phone: (02) 6263 4050
mobile: s22
email: philippa.brown@treasury.gov.au

OFFICIAL

From: Butler, Elizabeth
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:37 PM
To: Brown, Philippa ; Wilkinson, Jenny
Cc: Rayner, Karla ; s22 ; Office of the Secretary
Subject: Final letter to Senator Gallagher and media release [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Jenny and Pip

Please see attached a copy of the final letter to Senator Gallagher and media release for your records.

Kind regards,

s22

s22

Executive Officer | Office of the Secretary
The Treasury
Ph: +s22 | M: +s22
Email: s22 @treasury.gov.au

OFFICIAL



Australian Government

The Treasury

Australian Taxation Office

Senator Katy Gallagher
Chair
The Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Gallagher

We would like to draw the Committee's attention to a media release (attached) issued today by Treasury and the Australian Taxation Office regarding a reporting error in JobKeeper enrolment numbers.

The error was identified late yesterday and is in respect of information provided by employers in providing an estimate of eligible employees on their enrolment form.

Importantly this reporting error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments that have already been made to eligible businesses, as payments under the scheme depend on the subsequent declaration that an eligible business makes in relation to each and every eligible employee. This declaration does not involve estimates by the employer, it requires the employer to provide the name and tax file number for each eligible employee. By contrast, the only use of the information collected in respect of the reporting error was to provide an early estimate of the number of expected employees likely to access the JobKeeper program.

Treasury and the ATO would be happy to provide further information to the Committee through the ongoing Committee process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Kennedy'.

Dr Steven Kennedy PSM
Secretary to the Treasury

22 May 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Jordan'.

Mr Chris Jordan AO
Commissioner of Taxation

22 May 2020



Australian Government

The Treasury

Australian Taxation Office

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

JOBKEEPER UPDATE

Friday, 22 May 2020

Late yesterday, the ATO and Treasury advised the Government of a reporting error in estimates of the number of employees likely to access the JobKeeper program. The enrolment forms completed by 910,055 businesses who have self-assessed as eligible under the scheme had indicated that this program would cover around 6.5 million eligible employees. The ATO's review of these forms has found that around 1,000 of those businesses appear to have made significant errors when reporting the estimate of eligible employees on their enrolment form. The most common error was that instead of reporting the number of employees they expected to be eligible, they reported the amount of assistance they expected to receive. For example, over 500 businesses with '1' eligible employee reported a figure of '1,500' (which is the amount of JobKeeper payment they would expect to receive for each fortnight for that employee).

This reporting error has come to light as the ATO and Treasury have been analysing the amounts being paid out under the scheme, reconciling these with the estimates provided by enrolled businesses of the likely number of eligible employees. It was not picked up by the ATO earlier as their primary focus in the first fortnight of JobKeeper payments was on ensuring that JobKeeper payments were paid promptly to those eligible for them, and not paid to those who were ineligible. These initial estimates from businesses of employees covered are not linked to payments, and so were not as carefully analysed.

Importantly this reporting error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments that have already been made to eligible businesses, as payments under the scheme depend on the subsequent declaration that an eligible business makes in relation to each and every eligible employee. This declaration does not involve estimates and requires an employer to provide the tax file number for each eligible employee. By contrast, the only use of the information collected in respect of the reporting error was to provide an early estimate of the number of expected employees likely to access the JobKeeper program.

As of 20 May 2020, 910,055 businesses had enrolled in the JobKeeper program. Of these, 759,654 had made claims in relation to their eligible employees and had their applications processed. This resulted in \$8.7 billion of approved payments to those 759,654 businesses, covering around 2.9 million employees. Around 97 per cent of claims have been paid to employers within three business days of employers making the employee declaration.

Around 150,000 enrolled businesses are yet to complete their employee declaration, which is required before payments can be made. Employers can still apply up to 31 May for payments made in April. Moreover the program will remain open to businesses that meet the eligibility criteria at any time over the 6 months it is in operation.

In light of the take-up of the scheme to date, remaining enrolments, and that the scheme remains open to new registrations, Treasury now expects the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program to be around 3.5 million.

JobKeeper is a demand driven program which was designed to support eligible employees in businesses that have experienced a significant fall in their turnover. At the time the JobKeeper program was developed, Treasury estimated that around 6.5 million employees would access the program. This estimate was developed at a time when Coronavirus cases were growing significantly in Australia and restrictions were being tightened across Australia and much of the world.

The difference between Treasury's estimates at the time and the number of employees now accessing the JobKeeper program partly reflects the level and impact of health restrictions not having been as severe as expected and their imposition not having been maintained for as long as expected at the time. This has been reflected in some improvement to the outlook for the economy since the original estimate was developed as a consequence of these and other factors. The variation in estimates also reflects the inherent uncertainty associated with estimating the take-up of a demand driven program in the current circumstances.

Treasury's overall view of the labour market is unaffected by this reporting error. The JobKeeper program is providing important support to employers and employees through these unprecedented economic times. It remains the case that in the absence of the JobKeeper program, Treasury expects the unemployment rate would have been around 5 percentage points higher. Treasury continues to expect the unemployment rate to reach around 10 per cent, although as indicated by last week's Labour Force survey, the measured level of the unemployment is highly uncertain given the impact of social distancing restrictions on the participation rate.

Treasury's revised estimate of the cost of the JobKeeper program is around \$70 billion. Updated economic forecasts will be reported in the Government's June economic and fiscal update.

The ATO reminds all eligible employers who have enrolled but not yet made their employee declaration to ensure that they complete their April declaration by 31 May 2020. The ATO also reminds employers that on an on-going basis they must declare their eligible employees monthly, with May declarations having to be made by the 14th of June.

Department of the Treasury

Contact: Media Unit

Telephone: (02) 6263 2300
media@treasury.gov.au

Australian Taxation Office

Contact: Media Unit

Telephone: (02) 6216 1901
mediaunit@ato.gov.au

s22

From: JobKeeperIDC
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 2:43 PM
To: JobKeeperIDC; Brown, Philippa; Robertson, Belinda; Rak, Michelle; Durbin, Alison (AG - Protected); Pashley, Amanda; Hawkins, Adam; Parsons, Dan; Clarke, Louise (ATO - Protected); O'Halloran, James (ATO - Protected); 'Lydia.ROSS@dss.gov.au'; 'Robert.mckellar@servicesaustralia.gov.au'; 'Sharon.Huender@ag.gov.au'; 'Sandra.Parker@fwo.gov.au'; 'Bernadette.O'NEILL@fwc.gov.au'; 'janine.pitt@dese.gov.au'; 'benedikte.jensen@dese.gov.au'; 'Jeremy.OSullivan@fwo.gov.au'; 'Kath.PATON@dss.gov.au'; 'Mary.MCLARTY@dss.gov.au'; 'ty.emerson@dese.gov.au'; 'Murray.FURLONG@fwc.gov.au'; 'Ailsa.CARRUTHERS@fwc.gov.au'; 'Henry.jones@ag.gov.au'; 'Jason Lucchese'; 'O'REGAN,Carmel'; 'Mark.Burton@pmc.gov.au'; 'Mitchell, Debbie'; 'Ailsa.Borwick@servicesaustralia.gov.au'; 'Hollis, Ashlee'; 'Connell, Nicola'; 'Mark.scully@fwo.gov.au'; 'Kate.schaffner@fwc.gov.au'; 'Laura.Angus@dese.gov.au'; Mowbray, Nick
Cc: JobKeeperIDC
Subject: JobKeeper Program update for IDC members [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon all

Apologies again for the late cancellation of the IDC this morning.

JobKeeper Program Update

Late yesterday, the ATO and Treasury advised the Government of a reporting error in estimates of the number of employees likely to access the JobKeeper program. The enrolment forms completed by 910,055 businesses who have self-assessed as eligible under the scheme had indicated that this program would cover around 6.5 million eligible employees. The ATO's review of these forms has found that around 1,000 of those businesses appear to have made significant errors when reporting the estimate of eligible employees on their enrolment form. The most common error was that instead of reporting the number of employees they expected to be eligible, they reported the amount of assistance they expected to receive. For example, over 500 businesses with '1' eligible employee reported a figure of '1,500' (which is the amount of JobKeeper payment they would expect to receive for each fortnight for that employee).

Please find a link to the full media release below.

Media release: <https://treasury.gov.au/media-release/jobkeeper-update>

Update JobKeeper / JobSeeker Working Group

JobKeeper and JobSeeker working group is being organised for next Wednesday (27 May) with invites to be sent to nominated representatives later this afternoon.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Kind regards,

s22

s22

Analyst | JobKeeper Division

The Treasury, 1 Langton Cres, Parkes, ACT 2600

P s22 | M s22

E s22 [@treasury.gov.au](mailto:s22@treasury.gov.au)

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The Treasury acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to elders both past and present.

OFFICIAL

s22

From: Media Unit <mediaunit@ato.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:03 PM
To: s 22
Cc: MHAT DLO; s 22 Fiona Payne; Parliamentary Services; s 22
Subject: s 22 Media; Emily Stephan; Katherine Philp; Media Unit; Thomas O'Byrne
Media enquires - JobKeeper - SMH/The Age and Canberra Times
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Importance: High

Hi s 22

Following today's [joint statement](#), we've received enquiries from SMH/Age (s 47F) and the Canberra Times (s 47F)

I will be responding at **8:20pm AEST**

The Canberra Times asked Treasury a question which Treasury media will respond to:

Also can you tell me how Treasury arrived at the 6 million figure initially? Obviously the forecast is way better now but can you provide me with a breakdown of the previous forecast versus your expectations now?

SMH/Age enquiry

Had payments started being made under the JobKeeper program before the issue around the enrolment forms was discovered by the ATO?

And could you tell me when the issue was first discovered?

SMH/Age approved response

- This reporting error came to light as a result of investigations commencing this week as the ATO and Treasury have been analysing the amounts being paid out under the scheme, reconciling these with the estimates provided by enrolled businesses of the likely number of eligible employees.
- As soon as the ATO and Treasury became aware of the discrepancy, we advised the relevant Ministers.
- Importantly this reporting error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments that have already been made to eligible businesses. The second stage of enrolment required businesses to identify specific employees, meaning reimbursements are only made for identified and eligible employees.
- **There was no money that was sent out that shouldn't have been sent out. There was no underpayments, there was no overpayments.**

Canberra Times enquiry

Just wanted to probe that figure you gave in your statement saying 500 businesses had written 1500 instead of 1 in that form.

The form seems pretty straight forward - was it an issue with the form design or did they use a common tax agent or something? Or was it just a very easy mistake to make?

Canberra Times proposed response

- Only a small number of businesses put in incorrect numbers – about 1000 out of a total number of more than 900,000 enrolments.
- We're constantly refining our advice and processes to make it easier for people to understand and apply for these stimulus measures.

- We know businesses are doing it tough, and this is a process no one has gone through before, and while we expect some mistakes in applications, we're working hard to support people through this process.

Stuart Austin

Media Manager | Media Unit | Public Affairs

Australian Taxation Office

p s22 M s22 Media line 02 621 61901

ato.gov.au/media

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s22

From: s 22
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2020 8:33 PM
To: Media Unit
Cc: MHAT DLO; s 22; Fiona Payne; Parliamentary Services; s 22
Subject: Re: Media enquires - JobKeeper - SMH/The Age and Canberra Times [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

I think Treasury will have a view on this given they are included in the draft words. I believe they will be in contact.

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Please hold for a tick

On 22 May 2020, at 8:02 pm, Media Unit wrote:

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To: s 22
Cc: MHAT DLO; s 22; Fiona Payne; Parliamentary Services; s 22
Subject: s 22 Media; Emily Stephan; Katherine Philp; Thomas O'Byrne; Media Unit
RE: Media enquires - JobKeeper - SMH/The Age and Canberra Times
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s 22

I responded to both journalists at 8:20pm. I'll stand by and wait to hear from Treasury and send an updated response to the journalist/s if required

Stuart Austin
Media Manager | Media Unit | Public Affairs
Australian Taxation Office
P s22 M s22 Media line 02 621 61901
ato.gov.au/media

From: s 22
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~~PROTECTED SENSITIVE~~**TREASURY MINISTERIAL SUBMISSION**

22 May 2020

PDR No. MS20-001007

Treasurer

JOBKEEPER PAYMENT - NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES COVERED**TIMING:** For information**KEY POINTS**

- Analysis of applications processed for the JobKeeper payment indicates that the number of employees covered by the payment is significantly less than implied by enrolment data as initially entered by employers.
 - As at 20 May 2020, payments have been processed covering 2.9 million employees. Payments have been made to 760,000 organisations.
 - This contrasts with enrolments indicating coverage of 6.5 million employees for the 910,000 organisation that have enrolled for JobKeeper.
 - For 760,000 organisations that have now had payments processed, analysis suggests employee numbers at enrolment were overestimated by around 2.4 million employees (5.3m estimated employees converted to 2.9m actual claims).
 - Only around 16 per cent of enrolled organisations have not yet progressed to the application and payment phase of the process. Assuming these enrolments progress to the application and payment phases of the process, we expect around 500,000 to 650,000 additional employees will be covered by these organisations.
 - This indicates that total employees covered by existing enrolments could be in the order of 3.3 to 3.6 million, dependent upon how many remaining enrolled organisations proceed to finalise their application and payment.
 - Given the 31 May deadline for April claims, it is anticipated that there may also be some further enrolments and claims not covered above. There may also be employers who only meet the tests and claim for later months, and so who have not yet enrolled.
- The discrepancy has arisen due to around 1,000 enrolled organisations entering materially incorrect estimated employee data in to the enrolment form. It is likely this was generally an inadvertent error, possibly where they misunderstood the information being requested.
 - This element of the enrolment form is a free text field that asks organisations to estimate the number of employees likely to be nominated for JobKeeper. It was included in the enrolment form to get an early read on the likely number of employees covered by the program (see **Attachment A** – Screenshots of the JobKeeper systems view).
 - As an example, approximately 550 employers in step 1 of JobKeeper enrolment put 1500 in the free text field as their estimate of eligible employees, obviously in error. For the other identified errors in this field, there were a variety of other random employee numbers entered by employers, again in error.

~~PROTECTED SENSITIVE~~

- When completing their claim for JobKeeper, organisations subsequently have to enter details of all eligible employees, and this is the information used to process payments (see **Attachment B** – Overview of JobKeeper process steps).
- Some more obvious incorrect entries had been manually excluded from estimated employee counts, but further classes of error became apparent on review.
- This means that there are fewer employees than is implied by the enrolment figures working in organisations that have met the requirements for eligibility for the JobKeeper payment, including the decline in turnover test.
- This discrepancy does not impact on the number of organisations covered by JobKeeper, nor does it suggest any problems with payments made under the program.
 - Of the 910,000 organisations enrolled for JobKeeper, we expect most of these businesses to progress to the application and payment phase of the process.
 - Actual claims and payments of JobKeeper require employee by employee disclosure, including TFNs, and so are not liable to the estimation type errors discussed above.
- It does imply that the total cost of the JobKeeper program will be significantly less.
 - We consider the cost is likely to be in the order of \$70 billion rather than the \$130 billion originally estimated, though this may increase over time if additional organisations enter the program.
- JobKeeper is a demand driven program which was designed to support eligible employees in businesses that have experienced a significant fall in their turnover. At the time the JobKeeper program was developed, Treasury estimated that around 6.5 million employees would access the program. This estimate was developed at a time when Coronavirus cases were growing significantly in Australia and restrictions were being tightened across Australia and much of the world.
- The difference between Treasury’s estimates at the time and the number of employees now accessing the JobKeeper program partly reflects the level and impact of health restrictions not having been as severe as expected and their imposition not having been maintained for as long as expected at the time. This has been reflected in some improvement to the outlook for the economy since the original estimate was developed as a consequence of these and other factors. The variation in estimates also reflects the inherent uncertainty associated with estimating the take-up of a demand driven program in the current circumstances.
- Treasury’s overall view of the labour market is unaffected by this reporting error. The JobKeeper program is providing important support to employers and employees through these unprecedented economic times. It remains the case that in the absence of the JobKeeper program, Treasury expects the unemployment rate would have been around 5 percentage points higher. Treasury continues to expect the unemployment rate to reach around 10 per cent, although as indicated by last week’s Labour Force survey, the measured level of the unemployment is highly uncertain given the impact of social distancing restrictions on the participation rate.

- Given the profile of this program and the materiality of this reporting error, the Treasury and ATO will release a joint media statement to explain the situation (see **Attachment C**).
- The Secretary of the Treasury and the Tax Commissioner will also be writing to the Senate COVID-19 Committee to advise them of this matter.

s22



Jenny Wilkinson
Deputy Secretary
Fiscal Group
Treasury
Phone: 6263 3745

s22



Jeremy Hirschhorn
Second Commissioner
Client Engagement Group
Australian Taxation Office
Phone: s22

Consultation: Tax Analysis Division

Attachment A: Screenshots of the JobKeeper Systems View

JobKeeper

All fields marked with * are mandatory.

Businesses and not-for-profit organisations impacted by COVID-19 will be able to access a JobKeeper wage subsidy from the Government to continue paying their employees. Eligible employers are entitled to a JobKeeper wage subsidy of \$1,500 for each eligible employee for fortnights starting 30 March 2020. Employees will need to be paid prior to the employer receiving a JobKeeper wage subsidy. This form is for you to notify us of your intent to claim, and confirm the financial institution details for receiving the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy

Eligibility information


Ensure all information provided below complies with [legislation for receiving the JobKeeper](#)  wage subsidy, and that you are an employer or business that qualifies for the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

Are you an entity that is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (but not a university or school)?* 

Yes No

Does your aggregated turnover exceed \$1 billion dollars per annum?* 

Yes No

 You will work out your decline in turnover using GST concepts. You will need to work out current GST turnover and projected GST turnover. This may include using amounts reported on business activity statements. It includes all taxable supplies and GST-free supplies.

For which month have you experienced or are likely to experience a reduction in turnover of 50% or more?*

March 

Has your turnover for the entity for the selected month (or the quarter including the selected month) fallen, or is it likely to fall, by 50% or more?*

Yes No

Source of error

Number of JobKeeper eligible employees paid during April

Employees paid monthly

If an employee is paid for the full month and is an eligible employee for each fortnight, include them twice, once in each field.

Number of eligible employees who have been or will be remunerated \$1,500 or more (this may include wages, tax and salary-sacrificed super) for each JobKeeper fortnight:

JobKeeper fortnight one (30 March - 12 April)*

285 employees

JobKeeper fortnight two (13 - 26 April)*

285 employees

 There will be an obligation on you to establish eligibility and that of your employees. This program will be subject to ATO compliance activities. Penalties apply for making a false or misleading statement. Note employees must provide you with a completed [nomination form](#)  accepting JobKeeper payments.

 In addition to eligible employees the JobKeeper wage subsidy allows enrolment of one eligible business participant. See Help for further information.

Are you intending to register an eligible business participant?*

Yes No

Does the entity's business participant meet all of the following?*

- > relevant individual is not employed by the entity at any time in the fortnight
- > relevant individual is actively engaged in the entity's business
- > relevant individual aged 16 or over (or 16 years if beneficiary in the case of the Trust)
- > relevant individual is not currently receiving parental leave pay, dad and partner pay
- > relevant individual is not currently totally incapacitated for work and receiving payments under an Australian workers' compensation law in respect of their total incapacity to work
- > relevant individual is an Australian resident (within the meaning of section 7 of the Social Security Act 1991), or a resident for income tax purposes and were the holder of a special category (Subclass 444) visa
- > relevant individual is not an employee (other than a casual employee) of another entity

Yes No

Financial institution details for employing entity

! Do not provide agency trust account information
Ensure you enter the financial institution details for the employing entity.

s47F

I have checked the account details are for the employing entity and confirmed these are correct.

Contact details

s47F

Declaration

- > I have prepared this document in accordance with the information supplied by the entity.
- > I have received a declaration from the entity stating that the information provided to me is true and correct.
- > I am authorised by the entity to give this document to the Commissioner.

Privacy: For important information about your privacy see our [Privacy Notice](#)

Tick this box to sign this declaration with the identification details you used to log-in.*

JobKeeper

Business enrolment for JobKeeper wage subsidy



Your request has been successfully lodged

ATO receipt ID 23847398735

Based on the self-assessment against the eligibility information in accordance with the law that you have submitted, the ATO accepts your enrolment for the JobKeeper wage subsidy.

It is important that you continue to review your eligibility and obligations under the law to ensure your ongoing eligibility as an employer, and for the employees that you will confirm as eligible employees.

Open print friendly version to print or save as a PDF including:

- > Registered bank details
- > Receipt ID



Print friendly version

Attachment B: JobKeeper | Pathway patterns | April declaration

<p>Step 1: Enrol Enrol business for JobKeeper wage subsidies</p>	<p>Login</p> <p>Eligibility information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Turnover threshold > Month/quarter experienced/likely experience reduction in turnover <p>Number of eligible employees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Estimate employee count for each FN > Eligible Business Participant Y/N <p>Financial Institution Details (BSB & Acc)</p> <p>Submit</p> <p>Confirmation and receipt of successful lodgment (print friendly version available)</p> <p>PROCESS NOTE: When enrolling for JobKeeper, employers provide an estimated number only of their expected eligible JobKeeper employees.</p>
<p>Step 2: Claim Identify and maintain eligible employees</p>	<p>Before you start / Eligibility criteria</p> <p>Add Business participant Y/N (Sole trader details pre-filled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Update JK status for period <p>STP /BDE JK codes</p> <p>2A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Pre-fill employee count for each FN (editable) > Cannot manually add employees online (only via STP software/BDE) <p style="text-align: center;">- OR -</p> <p>STP < 2.00 No JK codes</p> <p>2B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Pre-fill list of employee details > Update JK status per employee for period > Can manually add employees up to 40 (TFN/DOB) and JK status <p style="text-align: center;">- OR -</p> <p>No STP < 40 No JK codes</p> <p>2C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Can manually add employees up to 40 (TFN/DOB) > Update JK status per employee for period <p style="text-align: center;">- OR -</p> <p>STP > 2.00 /No STP > 40 No JK codes</p> <p>2D</p> <p>For this scenario, if no JK codes employer cannot lodge until employee details provided. Form is rejected and the employer is instructed to go through pathway 2a.</p> <p>PROCESS NOTE: When claiming for JobKeeper, employers provide the details of the actual eligible employees including name and TFN's.</p>
<p>Step 3: Declare Business monthly declaration</p>	<p>View wage subsidy summary</p> <p>GST turnover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Enter current month turnover > Enter projected month turnover <p>Financial Institution Details (able to edit)</p> <p>Declaration tickbox</p> <p>Submit</p> <p>Confirmation and receipt of successful lodgment (print friendly version available)</p> <p>PROCESS NOTE: The final step of the process is employers complete a declaration to finalise their monthly claim. Receipt of submittal is provided to the employer and then the ATO processes the claim for payment for all eligible employees identified in Step 2. No money is paid to employers without completion of Steps 2 and 3.</p>

Attachment C -
subject to *final proofing & formatting



Australian Government

The Treasury

Australian Taxation Office

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

JOBKEEPER UPDATE

Friday, 22 May 2020

Late yesterday, the ATO and Treasury advised the Government of a reporting error in estimates of the number of employees likely to access the JobKeeper program. The enrolment forms completed by 910,055 businesses who have self-assessed as eligible under the scheme had indicated that this program would cover around 6.5 million eligible employees. The ATO's review of these forms has found that around 1,000 of those businesses appear to have made significant errors when reporting the estimate of eligible employees on their enrolment form. The most common error was that instead of reporting the number of employees they expected to be eligible, they reported the amount of assistance they expected to receive. For example, over 500 businesses with '1' eligible employee reported a figure of '1,500' (which is the amount of JobKeeper payment they would expect to receive for each fortnight for that employee).

This reporting error has come to light as the ATO and Treasury have been analysing the amounts being paid out under the scheme, reconciling these with the estimates provided by enrolled businesses of the likely number of eligible employees. It was not picked up by the ATO earlier as their primary focus in the first fortnight of JobKeeper payments was on ensuring that JobKeeper payments were paid promptly to those eligible for them, and not paid to those who were ineligible. These initial estimates from businesses of employees covered are not linked to payments, and so were not as carefully analysed.

Importantly this reporting error has no consequences for JobKeeper payments that have already been made to eligible businesses, as payments under the scheme depend on the subsequent declaration that an eligible business makes in relation to each and every eligible employee. This declaration does not involve estimates and requires an employer to provide the tax file number for each eligible employee. By contrast, the only use of the information collected in respect of the reporting error was to provide an early estimate of the number of expected employees likely to access the JobKeeper program.

As of 20 May 2020, 910,055 businesses had enrolled in the JobKeeper program. Of these, 759,654 had made claims in relation to their eligible employees and had their applications processed. This resulted in \$8.7 billion of approved payments to those 759,654 businesses, covering around 2.9

million employees. Around 97 per cent of claims have been paid to employers within three business days of employers making the employee declaration.

Around 150,000 enrolled businesses are yet to complete their employee declaration, which is required before payments can be made. Employers can still apply up to 31 May for payments made in April. Moreover the program will remain open to businesses that meet the eligibility criteria at any time over the 6 months it is in operation.

In light of the take-up of the scheme to date, remaining enrolments, and that the scheme remains open to new registrations, Treasury now expects the number of employees likely to be covered under the JobKeeper program to be around 3.5 million.

JobKeeper is a demand driven program which was designed to support eligible employees in businesses that have experienced a significant fall in their turnover. At the time the JobKeeper program was developed, Treasury estimated that around 6.5 million employees would access the program. This estimate was developed at a time when Coronavirus cases were growing significantly in Australia and restrictions were being tightened across Australia and much of the world.

The difference between Treasury's estimates at the time and the number of employees now accessing the JobKeeper program partly reflects the level and impact of health restrictions not having been as severe as expected and their imposition not having been maintained for as long as expected at the time. This has been reflected in some improvement to the outlook for the economy since the original estimate was developed as a consequence of these and other factors. The variation in estimates also reflects the inherent uncertainty associated with estimating the take-up of a demand driven program in the current circumstances.

Treasury's overall view of the labour market is unaffected by this reporting error. The JobKeeper program is providing important support to employers and employees through these unprecedented economic times. It remains the case that in the absence of the JobKeeper program, Treasury expects the unemployment rate would have been around 5 percentage points higher. Treasury continues to expect the unemployment rate to reach around 10 per cent, although as indicated by last week's Labour Force survey, the measured level of the unemployment is highly uncertain given the impact of social distancing restrictions on the participation rate.

Treasury's revised estimate of the cost of the JobKeeper program is around \$70 billion. Updated economic forecasts will be reported in the Government's June economic and fiscal update.

The ATO reminds all eligible employers who have enrolled but not yet made their employee declaration to ensure that they complete their April declaration by 31 May 2020. The ATO also

reminds employers that on an on-going basis they must declare their eligible employees monthly, with May declarations having to be made by the 14th of June.

Department of the Treasury

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Australian Taxation Office

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