

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

2020 - 2021

Division: JobKeeper Division
Topic: JobKeeper extension
Reference: Written Question from Senator Gallagher – 17 August, IQ20-000235

Question:

Under the Government's proposed JobKeeper extension, what degree of flexibility will there be to include businesses who fall just below the relevant turnover test threshold for the September quarter, but meet the relevant threshold over period of April to September?

Answer:

From 28 September 2020, businesses and not-for-profits seeking to claim the JobKeeper Payment will be required to assess their eligibility for the JobKeeper extension with reference to their actual turnover in the September quarter 2020. Businesses and not-for-profits will need to demonstrate that they have met the relevant decline in turnover test in this quarter to be continue to be eligible for JobKeeper from 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021.

The Commissioner of Taxation will have discretion to set out alternative tests that would establish eligibility in specific circumstances where it is not appropriate to compare actual turnover in a quarter in 2020 with actual turnover in a quarter in 2019, in line with the Commissioner's existing discretion.

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Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

2020 - 2021

Division: Macroeconomic Conditions Division
Topic: Adjustments to fiscal forecasts due to Stage 4 Restrictions in Victoria
Reference: Written Question from Senator Gallagher – 17 August, IQ20-000236

Question:

What adjustments are being made to economic and fiscal forecasts as a result of Stage 4 Restrictions in Victoria? What does Treasury forecast if the Victorian Restrictions are extended to Christmas as has been suggested?

Answer:

As published in the Government's July Economic and Fiscal Update, the Stage 3 restrictions in Victoria are estimated to lower real GDP growth by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a percentage point in the September quarter 2020. Based on the additional restrictions announced by the Victorian Government on 2 and 3 August, Stage 4 restrictions are estimated to lower real GDP growth by $1\frac{3}{4}$ percentage points in the September quarter 2020, taking the total combined detraction in growth to $2\frac{1}{2}$ percentage points, which is in the order of \$10 billion to \$12 billion.

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Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

2020 - 2021

Division: Markets Conduct Division
Topic: Assistance for SMEs
Reference: Written Question from Senator Gallagher – 17 August, IQ20-000237

Question:

Has the Government sought advice from Treasury about forms of assistance for SMEs to access professional service advice, including accountants and tax agents?

Answer:

The Government is supporting SMEs directly through measures such as JobKeeper, the SME Guarantee Scheme and the Boosting Cash Flow for Employers payments. These supports provide direct assistance to businesses, which can be used for a range of purposes, including paying for professional service advice.