

1 December 2020

**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

ATO's confirmation of JobKeeper eligibility deadlines will be a relief to members

Tax & Super Australia (TSA) has welcomed the ATO's announcement that employers will be given until 28 January 2021 to complete their JobKeeper December reporting. The ATO has said employers must complete the December business monthly declaration between 4 January 2021 and 28 January 2021. This is an extension of two weeks past the usual due date of the 14th day of each month.

New and existing employers enrolling in JobKeeper from 4 January 2021 will be given until 31 January 2021 to meet the wage condition for fortnights starting on 4 January and 18 January 2021.

TSA was concerned that a deadline of 14 January 2021 may have been imposed on businesses for this work, meaning many tax agents and accountants would have to cut their well-deserved summer leave short to help their business clients to satisfy their eligibility for the final payment of the scheme.

Tax counsel John Jeffreys said TSA and other professional bodies had raised this potential timing issue with the ATO and that members would be very pleased about today's announcement.

"JobKeeper remains an important support for those businesses that are still operating at reduced capacity," Mr Jeffreys said. "It's vital that businesses, tax agents and accountants have enough time to determine if a business is eligible for this support and to complete the necessary reporting."

"Tax agents and accountants have been under extraordinary pressure for most of this year. Late December and early January is usually a period that offers some respite for our members. We know that taking time out this year is very important for their mental health, as it is for any Australian who has faced ongoing stress and pressure this year."

"We welcome the ATO's confirmation of these dates. We trust the news will give our members, and other professionals who have played a critical part in keeping the economy moving, enough time to re-group and connect with friends and family."

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Tax & Super Australia (TSA) is a not-for-profit organisation that educates and empowers more than 3,500 members who are tax and superannuation practitioners and a broader community of 15,000 across Australia.