

2 April 2020

Dear Principal

I write to encourage you to participate in the Federal Government's recently announced Jobkeeper Payment Scheme if your business is eligible to do so.

The Independent Education Union (the IEU) is aware that in many ELICOS Colleges, a significant number of staff have been dismissed since 1 March 2020. Many of these staff have the requisite 12 months' service to their employer to qualify for the scheme.

The IEU welcomes the Jobkeeper Payment Scheme as one way to keep Australian workers employed and we believe the scheme also offers a great opportunity for Colleges to maintain quality service in these trying times.

It allows eligible employers to be subsidised \$1500 per employee for keeping staff employed or to rehire staff who have lost their jobs due to the Coronavirus crisis. The Jobkeeper Payment Scheme should help Colleges to maintain small class sizes as well as to employ adequate support staff to tackle the many additional tasks that need to be undertaken to ensure a smooth transition to online delivery.

IEU members are anxious to learn whether there is a possibility for them to regain employment and benefit from the scheme. We will be asking our members in ELICOS Colleges to ask their employers directly whether they have registered to participate however we would appreciate it if you could let us know whether your business is eligible to participate in the scheme and whether you have registered or intend to do so.

I know that this is a very difficult time for everyone in the international student market and we look forward to working with you to get through this.

Please see the following link for information on the subsidy and eligibility for businesses:
<https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper>

We look forward to hearing from you.

Your sincerely



Debra James
General Secretary