



# How super works

**VicSuper FutureSaver Member Guide**

The information in this document forms part of the *VicSuper FutureSaver Product Disclosure Statement (PDS)* dated 1 July 2018.

**Note:** The information in this PDS may be impacted by the proposed changes announced in the May 2018 Federal Budget, which are not yet law. Visit our website or contact our Member Centre for more information.

A brief overview of how superannuation (or super) works is broken up into three sections below. More information about how super works is available at [vicsuper.com.au/super](http://vicsuper.com.au/super)

Contributions	Important contribution rules	Access to your super benefits
Super is a tax effective way to build your wealth for later life and there's a number of ways you can contribute to your account including rollovers, salary sacrifice and personal after-tax contributions.	There are important contribution rules and caps for super. It is important to understand these, as in some cases, you may have to pay additional tax at a higher rate if you breach rules or exceed caps.	It is important to understand that super is a preserved benefit. Generally, you cannot access your super until you reach your preservation age and permanently retire.

### 1. Contributions

The table below provides a summary of some of the many ways to add to your super account.

#### Before-tax/concessional contributions 2018/19

Contribution type	Description	Notes
Employer superannuation guarantee (SG) contributions	Your employer is generally required to contribute 9.5% of your Ordinary Time Earnings (OTE) (generally your gross salary) on your behalf to your super. This contribution is compulsory. <sup>1</sup>	<p><b>Contribution caps and tax:</b></p> <p><b>For the 2018/19 financial year</b> the concessional (before-tax) contributions cap is \$25,000 pa, regardless of your age.</p> <p>This is an annual cap per person across all super funds.</p> <p>You are taxed on the contributions above this cap at your marginal tax rate plus an interest charge. You receive a tax offset equal to 15% of the excess for the contributions tax already paid by the Fund. The excess contributions will be counted towards your non-concessional contributions cap, but will generally be reduced by any amount of the excess you choose to release from a super fund.</p> <p>Before-tax contributions are taxed at a rate of 15%. However, if your annual adjusted income exceeds \$250,000 pa, these contributions are generally taxed at an effective rate of 30%.</p> <p>From 1 July 2018, you can 'carry forward' up to five years of the unused portion of your concessional contributions cap. The first year you can use any amounts carried forward is the 2019/20 financial year, provided your total super balance is less than \$500,000.</p>
Additional employer contributions	These are additional contributions your employer can make in excess of the minimum 9.5% SG to your super. These contributions may arise from industrial awards, agreements or other terms of employment.	
Salary sacrifice contributions	These are contributions you can make out of your regular pay, before income tax has been deducted. These contributions may be tax effective for your situation.	
SG contributions paid by your employer to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO)	This is money held by the ATO for you if your employer did not make sufficient SG contributions to your super fund. If you receive a letter from the ATO about this, contact us on <b>1300 366 216</b> .	
Personal deductible contributions	<p>These are contributions you make into your own super, for which you can claim a tax deduction in your tax return.</p> <p>These contributions are subject to age eligibility and work tests.<sup>1</sup></p> <p><b>Note:</b> To claim a tax deduction you must give VicSuper a 'Notice of intent to claim or vary a deduction for personal super contributions' form before the earlier of when you submit your tax return and the end of the next financial year.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Refer to 'Superannuation Guarantee (SG)' on page 4 for proposed exemptions to these rules.

**After-tax/non-concessional (member) contributions 2018/19**

Contribution type	Description	Notes
Personal after-tax contributions	These are contributions you can make out of your regular pay, after income tax has been deducted – or as a one-off lump sum. These contributions are subject to age eligibility and work tests.	<p><b>Contribution caps and tax:</b></p> <p>Non-concessional (after-tax) contributions are tax-free up to a cap of \$100,000 pa.</p> <p>You will have a non-concessional contributions cap of \$0 if your total super balance at 30 June of the previous financial year is equal to or greater than the general transfer balance cap. A transfer balance cap applies to the amount of super you can transfer into your retirement income account/s without incurring additional tax. For the 2018/19 financial year the general transfer balance cap is \$1.6 million.</p> <p>Generally, if you are under age 65 you can bring forward two years of future entitlements, equaling a cap of \$300,000 over three years (if your balance is equal to or greater than \$1.4 million, your eligibility to bring forward is reduced).</p> <p>If you have triggered the bring-forward rule in the 2016/17 financial year, and you have not fully utilised the cap prior to 1 July 2017, then transitional arrangements may apply to your non-concessional cap from 1 July 2017.</p> <p><b>Exceeding the caps:</b></p> <p>These caps are per person across all super funds that you may have.</p> <p>If you exceed the cap and you do not elect for the excess and the related earnings to be refunded, if the contributions are still in a super fund, additional tax will be applied. Excess contributions are taxed at the top marginal tax rate plus Medicare levy.</p> <p>If you elect to refund the excess and the related earnings, you will be taxed on the earnings at your marginal tax rate. You will be entitled to a non-refundable tax offset equal to 15% of the earnings.</p> <p>Additional tax may apply.</p>
Spouse contributions	Contributions that you can make into your spouse's super account, or that your spouse can make into your super account. This may be an effective strategy to reduce the tax you pay as a couple. These contributions are subject to age eligibility and work tests.	
Rollovers	To roll over means moving money from one super fund to another.	
Government co-contribution	If you're eligible, the government will match your personal contributions with \$0.50 for every \$1 you contribute up to \$500. This is available if you have an assessable income below \$37,697 pa and reduces on a sliding scale up to \$52,697 pa. Eligibility conditions include any after-tax contributions you make not exceeding your cap and, as at 30 June of the previous financial year, your total super balance is less than the transfer balance cap (\$1.6 million for 2018/19).	
Super contributions splitting	You may be able to transfer some of your before-tax contributions into your spouse's super account after the end of the financial year.	
CGT exempt contributions	Contributions to super, which come from the sale of a small business, subject to limits. Contact your tax accountant for more information.	
Low income super tax offset	The Low Income Super Tax Offset (LISTO) can help eligible low-income earners save for their retirement. A LISTO is for members who earn \$37,000 or less per year (adjusted taxable income). Eligible members will receive a government super payment that is 15% of their before-tax super contributions – up to a maximum of \$500.	
Downsizer contribution	If you are aged 65 or over, you can contribute into your super up to \$300,000 (\$600,000 for couples) from the proceeds of selling your home. Your downsizer contribution is not an after-tax contribution and will not count towards your contributions caps. Conditions apply.	

### Rollovers

To roll over means transferring funds you have in one complying super fund into another.

Changing jobs can leave you with several accounts in different super funds. Having multiple accounts may mean you are paying unnecessary fees that are eating into your retirement savings.

Consolidating your money into one account may have several benefits, such as:

- reducing the fees and costs of investing your super
- cutting down paperwork
- reducing the likelihood that you'll lose track of where your super is invested.

You can roll over your super from other complying super funds at any time, although some super funds may limit the number of times you can roll out of their fund in a year.

It is also important to note that it is not possible to roll over an Employment Termination Payment (ETP) into super.

VicSuper does not charge you a fee to roll money in or out of your VicSuper account, however, some funds do charge exit fees.

Before you roll money over from another fund, you should check for exit fees, any tax implications and how any insurance cover or other benefits you may have with your other fund will be affected.

#### How do you roll over to VicSuper?

Head to our website at [vicsuper.com.au/forms](https://vicsuper.com.au/forms) and download the *Roll over your super to VicSuper* form (V303). Or call us on **1300 366 216** for a copy.

The fund you are rolling out of may ask for your Unique Superannuation Identifier (USI), which is **85977964496001**.

You may also need to quote VicSuper Fund's ABN which is **85 977 964 496**. We will arrange your rollover on your behalf, at no charge.

### Superannuation guarantee (SG)

Australian employers are currently required to pay 9.5% of your Ordinary Times Earnings or OTE (generally your gross salary) as SG contributions. Your employer is not obliged to pay SG contributions until your salary exceeds \$450 gross per calendar month.

If your employer is required to make contributions under an award or agreement, these contributions can be made regardless of your age.

If your employer chooses to make additional contributions which are not for the purpose of satisfying the employer's SG, award or agreement obligations, then these contributions can be made up until age 75 subject to you meeting work test requirements. Final applicable contributions must be received by VicSuper within 28 days from the end of the month in which you turn 75.

Under proposed draft legislation, from 1 July 2018, if your income exceeds \$263,157 and you have multiple employers, you may nominate wages from some of your employers to be exempt from the SG. This change is not final until legislation is passed.

#### Changing jobs? Take VicSuper with you!

Thanks to choice of fund legislation, it's likely that you can choose to have SG paid by your new employer into your VicSuper FutureSaver account.

This way, you can keep your super in one place, even if you change jobs.

To stay with VicSuper, complete a *Choice of superannuation fund Choice nomination* form (V1005) and give it to your employer, available at [vicsuper.com.au/forms](https://vicsuper.com.au/forms)

### Salary sacrifice

Salary sacrificing your super contributions involves paying some of your before-tax salary into your super account.

When you and your employer enter into a salary sacrifice arrangement, your employer pays contributions directly from your gross salary into your super account before you pay personal income tax. Salary sacrificing may lower your taxable income and marginal tax rate as more of your salary is being paid into your super fund instead of being taxed as income.

If you are between age 65 and 74 (inclusive), salary sacrifice contributions can only be made if you have been gainfully employed for a minimum of 40 hours in a period of not more than 30 consecutive days in the financial year in which the contributions are made. You cannot make salary sacrifice contributions after you turn age 75.

Once you turn age 75, the final salary sacrifice contribution must be received by VicSuper within 28 days from the end of the month in which you turn 75.

#### How do you start salary sacrificing?

You'll need to check with your employer first to ensure they can accommodate salary sacrifice contributions because contributions are arranged through your employer's payroll team. If they can, you can salary sacrifice from your future regular salary, bonuses and/or allowances.

#### How to set up salary sacrificing

1. Head to our website at [vicsuper.com.au/forms](https://vicsuper.com.au/forms) and download the *Make a personal and/or salary sacrifice contributions through your employer* form (V302). Or call us on **1300 366 216** for a copy.
2. Complete the form and then give it to your HR or payroll manager.
3. They will start making payments into your VicSuper account.

### Personal deductible contributions

These are contributions you make into your own super, for which you can claim a tax deduction in your tax return.

Most members under the age of 75 are able to claim tax deductions for personal super contributions. Eligibility to make these contributions is subject to the same age and work test as outlined in the 'Personal after-tax contributions' section that follows.

Personal deductible contributions will count towards your concessional (before-tax) contributions cap of \$25,000. The amount counted is based on the deduction claimed in your tax return.

After you've made an after-tax contribution into your VicSuper account, you have until the earlier of, before you lodge your tax return and the end of the following financial year, to claim your tax deduction. You have to let us know you intend to claim a deduction in your tax return by completing the *Notice of intent to claim or vary a deduction for personal super contributions* form before lodging your tax return.

You'll then get a letter back from us, which you'll need to use to claim your deduction in your tax return.

If you leave VicSuper, roll over to a VicSuper Flexible Income account or make a partial withdrawal from your account, you must provide this form to VicSuper prior to the withdrawal to ensure you are still able to claim a tax deduction.

For a copy of the form, call us on **1300 366 216** or download the form from the ATO website [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) or [vicsuper.com.au/forms](http://vicsuper.com.au/forms)

Contact our Member Centre on **1300 366 216** for more details.

### Personal after-tax contributions

Personal after-tax contributions are contributions you make using after-tax money. These are also known as non-concessional contributions.

The advantages of making a personal contribution, within the non-concessional (ie after-tax) cap are that they are not subject to tax when you contribute the money to super, or when you withdraw it, and you may also be eligible to receive a government co-contribution.

Additionally, investment returns in super are taxed up to a maximum of 15%, compared with up to the top marginal tax rate (plus the Medicare levy) income tax payable on earnings from other types of investments.

You are eligible to make personal contributions if:

- you are under age 65
- you are between age 65 and 74 (inclusive) and have been gainfully employed for at least 40 hours in a period of not more than 30 consecutive days in the financial year in which the contributions are made. You are not eligible to make personal contributions after you turn age 75

The final contribution must be received by VicSuper within 28 days from the end of the month in which you turn age 75.

If your after-tax contributions are in excess of the non-concessional contributions cap, additional tax may apply.

## Make personal deductible and personal after-tax contributions

There are lots of ways to make contributions to your VicSuper account. Select from these options to find the one that suits you best. Any of the forms you'll need can be downloaded from our website at [vicsuper.com.au/forms](http://vicsuper.com.au/forms)

Or you can call us on **1300 366 216** for a copy.

### Online via BPAY

1. Log in to MembersOnline.
2. Select 'Build my Super', and then select 'Add to my Super'.
3. Read and follow the prompts on screen.
4. You'll also be provided with a biller code and a reference number, so make a note of these.
5. Then, head to your financial institution's website (or use their phone banking services) to transfer your contribution, using your biller

code and reference number as provided.

### Cheque or money order

1. Head to our website and download the *Make a personal contribution directly to VicSuper (V301)* or *Make a personal deductible contribution to VicSuper form (V311)*.
2. Complete the form, and post it along with your cheque or money order for your contribution amount to: VicSuper, GPO Box 89, MELBOURNE VIC 3001

### Regular deductions from your salary

1. Check with your HR or payroll department if you can make personal contributions into your super directly from your salary.
2. Head to our website and download the *Make a personal and/or salary sacrifice contributions through your employer form (V302)*.

3. Complete the form and give it to your HR or payroll officer (do not give it to VicSuper). They'll arrange the rest with us directly. Your employer must send deductions from your pay to VicSuper by the 28th day of the month after the month of deduction.

### Direct Debit

1. Head to our website and download the *Personal contributions via direct debit (V307)* or *Personal deductible contributions via direct debit form (V312)*.
2. Complete the form – be sure to include the monthly amount you'd like us to direct debit from your nominated bank account – and post it to us: VicSuper, GPO Box 89, MELBOURNE VIC 3001

### First Home Super Saver Scheme (FHSSS)

The FHSSS is aimed at helping Australians boost their savings for their first home by allowing them to build a deposit inside super.

The FHSSS applies to voluntary super contributions of up to \$15,000 per year and \$30,000 in total made from 1 July 2017. These contributions, along with deemed earnings (at the rate of the Shortfall Interest Charge), can be withdrawn for a home deposit on your first home from 1 July 2018.

These contributions will be subject to existing caps.

This process will be administered by the ATO. Visit [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) for more information or speak to a VicSuper financial planner.

For tax implications, refer to [vicsuper.com.au/membersguide](http://vicsuper.com.au/membersguide) 'How super is taxed'.

### Government co-contribution

To encourage Australians to build their super, the government has a co-contribution initiative. If you're eligible, the government will contribute \$0.50 for every \$1 of personal (after-tax) contributions you make into super this financial year, up to a maximum of \$500.

To receive the maximum co-contribution of \$500, you have to earn less than \$37,697 this financial year and you need to make a personal contribution of \$1,000. The maximum contribution reduces for every dollar of income you earn over \$37,697 per annum, phasing out completely if your total income is \$52,697 per annum or greater.

To qualify for the co-contribution, you need to:

- make a personal (after-tax) contribution into your super fund by 30 June
- have a total income below \$52,697 pa (total income is defined below)
- earn at least 10% of your gross total income as an employee, from operating a business, or both
- not be a temporary resident of Australia at any time during the year
- be under age 71 at the end of the financial year
- not exceed your non-concessional contribution cap for the year
- have a total super balance as at 30 June of the previous financial year less than the general transfer balance cap (2018/19 \$1.6 million)
- lodge a tax return for the same financial year in which you made the contribution.

Your total income includes:

- your assessable income for the financial year
- your reportable fringe benefits for the fringe benefits tax year (1 April to 31 March)
- your reportable employer super contributions for the financial year (eg generally any salary sacrifice contributions).

Government co-contributions do not count towards either your concessional or non-concessional contribution caps. These criteria apply to both employees and self-employed people.

If you claim a tax deduction for your personal contribution, this amount won't be eligible for a co-contribution.

The ATO will automatically match information from your tax return with information provided by VicSuper. If you're eligible, the co-contribution will be paid into your super account during the following financial year and will be preserved until you meet a condition of release.

The co-contribution will generally be deposited into the super account with the most personal contributions this financial year, or which received a co-contribution previously (if applicable). To specify the super account your co-contribution will be paid to, download a *Superannuation Fund Nomination* form from [vicsuper.com.au/forms](http://vicsuper.com.au/forms)

To find out more about the government co-contribution initiative, contact the ATO Superannuation Infoline on **13 10 20**.

### Low income super tax offset

The Low Income Super Tax Offset (LISTO) can help eligible low income earners save for their retirement.

A LISTO is for members who earn \$37,000 or less per year (adjusted taxable income). Eligible members will receive a government super payment that is 15% of their before-tax super contributions – up to a maximum of \$500.

Members do not need to apply for a LISTO. The ATO will determine a member's eligibility using information on their income tax return and/or other available information. LISTO payments will be made within 14 months from the end of the financial year in which the before-tax contributions were made.

### Eligible spouse contributions

These are contributions paid by your spouse into your VicSuper account on your behalf. These contributions may reduce the tax your spouse pays.

Your spouse does not need to be a VicSuper Fund member to make eligible spouse contributions on your behalf. If your spouse has made eligible spouse contributions into your VicSuper account, they may be eligible for a tax offset of up to \$540 each financial year. The tax offset phases out completely when your adjusted income exceeds \$40,000.

Your spouse can make eligible spouse contributions on your behalf at any time if:

- they are your legal spouse, or
- they are a person living with you on a bona fide domestic basis as your partner (this includes same sex couples), and
- you (the account member) are under age 65, or between age 65 and 69 (inclusive) and have been gainfully employed for at least 40 hours in a period of not more than 30 consecutive days in the financial year in which the contributions are made.

Eligible spouse contributions cannot be accepted after you, the member, reach age 70 nor can they be made through salary sacrifice arrangements. The spouse receiving the contribution will need to provide their TFN to VicSuper on the contribution form.

Eligible spouse contributions are after-tax contributions and count towards the cap of the spouse receiving the contribution.

The spouse making the contribution will not be eligible for the tax offset if:

- the after-tax contributions of the spouse receiving the contribution are in excess of that spouse's non-concessional contributions cap, or
- the total super balance of the spouse receiving the contribution on 30 June of the previous financial year equals or exceeds the general transfer balance cap. For the 2018/19 financial year this cap is \$1.6 million.

### Downsizing contributions

If you are aged 65 or older and meet the eligibility requirements, you may be able to choose to make a downsizer contribution into your super of up to \$300,000 from the proceeds of selling your home.

This applies to the sale of your home, which was your main residence, where the exchange of contracts for the sale occurs on or after 1 July 2018.

It is not a non-concessional contribution and will not count towards your contributions caps.

It will count towards your transfer balance cap, currently set at \$1.6 million as well as the Age Pension means test. This cap applies when you move your super savings into retirement phase, eg if you move your super balance, including your downsizer contribution, to a VicSuper Flexible Income account. It also contributes to your overall total super balance the 30 June after you make the contribution.

Visit [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) for more information or speak to a VicSuper financial planner.

### How to make spouse contributions

You or your spouse can make eligible spouse contributions. Any of the forms you'll need can be downloaded from our website at [vicsuper.com.au/forms](http://vicsuper.com.au/forms)

Or you can call us on **1300 366 216** for a copy.

### Online via BPAY

1. Head to our website and download our *Eligible spouse contributions form (V306)*.
2. Send your completed form to us: VicSuper, GPO Box 89, MELBOURNE VIC 3001
3. Once we receive your form, we'll mail you the biller code and reference number – make a note of these as you'll need them to make your contribution.
4. Head to your financial institution's website (or use their phone banking services) to transfer your contribution, using the biller code and reference number we gave you.

### Direct Debit

1. Head to our website and download an *Eligible spouse contributions via direct debit form (V308)*.
2. Send your completed form to us: VicSuper, GPO Box 89, MELBOURNE VIC 3001

### Cheque or money order

1. Head to our website and download an *Eligible spouse contributions form (V306)*.
2. Complete the form, and post it along with your cheque or money order for your contribution amount to: VicSuper, GPO Box 89, MELBOURNE VIC 3001

### Super contributions splitting

You can transfer certain types of super contributions to the super account of your spouse.

You can split up to 85% of before-tax contributions (which includes SG, salary sacrifice and additional employer contributions) and, in any event, not more than the concessional contributions cap. You cannot split non-concessional contributions (eg after-tax personal and eligible spouse contributions).

Contributions can be split provided:

- each partner agrees to the split
- the eligible contributions were made during the previous financial year and/or the current financial year provided you are exiting your VicSuper account to roll into another VicSuper product
- the couple is married or in a de facto relationship (includes same sex couples)
- the 'receiving' spouse has not reached preservation age, or is between preservation age and age 65 and not yet permanently retired
- you, the member, have not already made an application in respect of the same financial year.

#### How do you apply to split your eligible contributions?

1. Head to our website and download a *Contributions splitting form (V310)*.
2. Send your completed form to us: VicSuper, GPO Box 89, MELBOURNE VIC 3001
3. VicSuper will notify you in writing when the contributions split amount has been debited from your VicSuper Fund account.

Split contributions are preserved until the receiving spouse reaches their preservation age and permanently retires, or turns age 65. Remember, the original amount before being split is counted towards the concessional contributions cap of the person making the split.

Split contributions are considered as rollovers and do not count towards the non-concessional contributions cap of the person receiving the split.

If a contributions split is made from a VicSuper Fund account to another fund, there must be a minimum balance of \$2,000 remaining in the VicSuper Fund account after the split.

#### What's the difference between eligible spouse contributions and contributions splitting?

Contributions splitting is used by people to transfer contributions such as SG contributions or salary sacrifice to their spouse. This may be beneficial if their spouse is approaching preservation age. It can also be tax-effective if both you and your partner are planning to receive a pension between preservation age and age 59 inclusive.

Eligible spouse contributions are made using after-tax savings. People use these to contribute to their spouse's super. A tax offset of up to \$540 per annum may be available on the contributions.

### 2. Important contribution rules

Before-tax contributions (eg SG, salary sacrifice and personal deductible contributions) and after-tax contributions (eg personal after-tax contributions) are subject to caps.

To find out more about the caps read the 'Tax contributions' section in Member Guide 'How is Super Taxed?' available at [vicsuper.com.au/memborguide](https://vicsuper.com.au/memborguide)

#### What happens if I exceed my contribution caps?

You are taxed on the before-tax contributions above the cap at your marginal tax rate plus an interest charge. You receive a tax offset equal to 15% of the excess for the contributions tax already paid by the fund. If you exceed the concessional contributions cap, the excess will be counted towards your non-concessional contribution cap, but will generally be reduced by any amount of the excess you choose to release from the super fund.

You have the option of withdrawing excess before-tax contributions from super funds. However, this does not alter the tax treatment outlined above.

If you exceed the non-concessional (after-tax) contributions cap and you do not elect for the excess and the related earnings to be refunded if the contributions are still in a super fund, then additional tax will be applied. The excess contributions are taxed at the top marginal tax rate plus Medicare levy. If you elect to refund the excess and the related earnings, you will be taxed on the earnings at your marginal rate. You will be entitled to a non-refundable tax offset equal to 15% of the earnings.

Additional tax may apply.



### 3. Access to your super benefits

Your super benefits are generally preserved until you reach your preservation age and permanently retire. Your preservation age depends on when you were born. Refer to the following table for details.

Date of birth	Preservation age
Before 1 July 1960	55 years
1 July 1960 to 30 June 1961	56 years
1 July 1961 to 30 June 1962	57 years
1 July 1962 to 30 June 1963	58 years
1 July 1963 to 30 June 1964	59 years
After 30 June 1964	60 years

You are considered permanently retired if your present intention is to never again become gainfully employed for 10 hours or more per week.

Super amounts are divided into three categories:

1. preserved
2. restricted non-preserved
3. unrestricted non-preserved.

Preserved amounts must remain in your VicSuper account until you meet a condition of release. Read the 'Conditions of release' section in this guide for more information.

Government rules require that any restricted non-preserved money remain in your VicSuper account until you:

- terminate employment with an employer who contributed to VicSuper Fund on your behalf, or
- meet one of the conditions of release for preserved amounts.

Unrestricted non-preserved funds can be withdrawn at any time from your VicSuper account. You can choose the investment options from which your partial withdrawal will be paid, provided you have money in those investment options (conditions apply if you are invested in the Term Deposit investment option).

#### Claiming a benefit

To claim a benefit, contact VicSuper for the appropriate form. You can access your super by taking a lump sum or by commencing an income stream. You may want to get advice from a VicSuper financial planner particularly if you are under age 60 and are making a withdrawal as there could be tax implications.

#### Conditions of release

Below are the Federal Government rules about accessing your super. Most super funds use the phrase 'conditions of release' to refer to these rules.

You can access the preserved money in your VicSuper account if you:

- reach your preservation age (at least 55, depending on your date of birth) and permanently retire from the workforce. You are considered permanently retired if you have a present intention to never again become gainfully employed for 10 hours or more each week
- reach your preservation age and access your super in the form of a transition to retirement income stream
- reach age 60 and you cease an employment arrangement with an employer
- cease employment with a VicSuper registered employer and have a preserved benefit that is less than \$200
- have a benefit that is less than \$200 and you were previously a lost member
- meet one of the early release conditions (see right)
- need to pay a release authority from the ATO
- have left Australia permanently after being here on an eligible temporary visa that has expired or been cancelled
- turn age 65
- become permanently incapacitated
- are diagnosed as having a terminal medical condition
- die.

#### Early release conditions

You may apply for early release of all or part of your benefit if:

- you meet the criteria for early release on the grounds of severe financial hardship
  - To access your super under this criterion, Commonwealth legislation requires you to have been in receipt of Commonwealth income support payments. If you have reached your preservation age, you must have been in receipt of these payments for at least a cumulative period of 39 weeks; if you are under your preservation age, you must have been in receipt of payments for at least 26 consecutive weeks.
  - Access limits apply and you must obtain a Centrelink Q230 or Q251 letter confirming you are in receipt of benefits.
- you apply to the ATO on compassionate grounds if you have not been in receipt of long-term Commonwealth income support for the required period. Generally, the grounds on which the ATO will release benefits for compassionate reasons include:
  - to pay for medical treatment or medical transport for yourself or a dependant where the treatment is not readily accessible through the public health system. The medical treatment must be necessary to treat a life threatening condition, alleviate acute or chronic pain, or alleviate an acute or chronic mental disturbance. Certificates to this effect, from two medical practitioners (one a specialist) are necessary.
  - to enable you to make a payment on a loan to prevent foreclosure on, or a mortgagee sale of, your principal place of residence (home).
  - to modify your family home and/or vehicle to meet special needs of a severely disabled member or their severely disabled dependant.
  - to pay for palliative care for yourself or a dependant.

- to pay for expenses associated with the death, funeral or burial of a dependant of you.
- to meet other expenses where the release is consistent with any of the above grounds.

If you have a benefit approved by the ATO to be released, you will be required to provide certified proof of identity, along with your letter of approval from the ATO.

If you are a temporary resident in Australia (ie not an Australian or New Zealand citizen, a permanent resident or the holder of certain retirement visas) you can only access your benefit if you have left Australia permanently after being in the country on an eligible temporary visa (as defined under the Migration Act 1958 Cwlth) that has expired or been cancelled, or are permanently incapacitated, die, or are diagnosed with a terminal medical condition.

For more information regarding the eligibility criteria, contact the VicSuper Member Centre on **1300 366 216**.

## Other conditions of release

### Transition to retirement

You can access your super in the form of a VicSuper Flexible Income (with transition to retirement feature) once you reach your preservation age, regardless of whether you have retired. This enables people who have reached their preservation age to remain employed and access their super benefits via an income stream while giving them the flexibility to reduce the hours they work.

### Resignation or retrenchment

If you resign or are retrenched, you may meet one of the conditions of release. If so, you may be able to access your super benefit.

### Permanent incapacity

You may apply for the early release of your account balance on the grounds of 'permanent incapacity'. Benefits can be paid if VicSuper is reasonably satisfied that you are unlikely to engage in gainful employment for which you are reasonably qualified by education, training and experience due to physical or mental ill-health.

### Terminal medical condition

You may apply for early release of your account balance should you be diagnosed with a terminal medical condition. A terminal medical condition exists if:

- two registered medical practitioners have certified, jointly or separately, that you are suffering from an illness, or have incurred an injury, that is likely to result in death within 24 months from the date of the certification, and
- at least one of the registered medical practitioners is a specialist practising in an area related to the condition, and
- the certification period of 24 months has not ended.

Benefits paid to terminally ill members with a life expectancy of less than 24 months are paid tax-free.

# Get in touch – we're here to help

## Call our Member Centre

**1300 366 216** and speak to a VicSuper super consultant between 8.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday

## Visit us

Bendigo | Blackburn | Geelong | Melbourne CBD | Traralgon

Monday to Friday  
8.30am to 5pm

To make an appointment to see a VicSuper financial planner call **(03) 9667 9200**

## Send us a fax

**(03) 9667 9610**

## Write to us

VicSuper  
GPO Box 89  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

## Browse our website

**[vicsuper.com.au](http://vicsuper.com.au)**

## Download our app

**[vicsuper.com.au/mobileapp](http://vicsuper.com.au/mobileapp)**

## Manage your account online

Simply visit our website to login

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