

SuperViews

From the office of the
Employee Representative
SAS Trustee
Corporation Board



Ron Davis
Full-time Employee Representative

PO Box N259,
Grosvenor Place
NSW 1220

In this issue of Superviews we take a brief look at several topical super issues including the early response by SSS members to salary sacrificing their Scheme contributions. This follows solid take-up rates by SASS members who were offered the option to salary sacrifice their Scheme contributions earlier this year.

Good start for SSS salary sacrifice

At the time of writing, more than 30% of SSS members' compulsory personal contributions have been switched from after-tax contributions to pre-tax salary sacrifice contributions. And we expect this figure to continue to rise over the next few months.

A little less than three months ago, details were mailed to all contributory members of SSS about how salary sacrifice works and how to arrange it.

Remember, with your employer's approval you can arrange to start salary sacrificing your compulsory personal contributions at any time. However any adjustment in the total amount of contributions only takes effect from your Annual Adjustment Day which is either 21 October or 5 May.

If you haven't already determined whether salary sacrificing your compulsory personal contributions is in your best interests, we recommend you

familiarise yourself with the information sent to you and which is also available on our website.

You can also use the SSS Salary Sacrifice calculator on the website to see how salary sacrifice affects your personal circumstances.

As with any important decision regarding your superannuation, we recommend you obtain professional financial advice to determine your best course of action.

Have we got your TFN?

Scheme members who had **not** supplied a valid Tax File Number (TFN) to Pillar by 1 July 2007, were sent a letter in August requesting they re-consider the issue.

Almost 30% of members who received that letter have now sent their TFN to Pillar.

However there are still a number of members who are yet to supply their TFNs or have supplied an invalid TFN according to the ATO.

continued overleaf

The reason your TFN is so important is that where Pillar does not have your valid TFN on file, we expect your concessional contributions (which are employer and any salary sacrifice contributions) will have **extra tax of 31.5% deducted** from those contributions.

Those remaining members who wish to provide their TFN can download the TFN Collection Form from our website or call Customer service and follow the TFN prompts.

I would urge any member who has not supplied their TFN to Pillar to get some professional financial advice to avoid any nasty surprises in future.

| Check your Benefit Statement

By the time you read this, all STC Scheme members should have received their Benefit Statement and Report to Members in the mail.

It's important you take a few moments to check your Benefit Statement to ensure it accurately reflects your circumstances.

Some of the key things you should confirm include your:

- date of birth
- salary
- contribution rate
- Scheme entry date (the date you joined your Scheme or your Service Start Date)
- Tax File Number held (you may have supplied it previously but it may not be recorded correctly on your data file or be a valid TFN according to the ATO)
- Benefit Points (for SASS members)

- Eligible Retirement Age (for SSS members this is your normal retirement date of 55 or 60 or Maturity Age for deferred benefit members)
- Date of Deferral (for members with a deferred benefit in their Scheme)

Many of the details listed above affect the calculation of your benefits and therefore it's vital you check them. If you think something's not recorded accurately or doesn't make sense, you should contact Customer Service and raise your concerns with them.

SASS members also have Retirement Benefit projections on their statement showing estimated benefits at age 70. This gives you an opportunity to see whether you think you'll have enough super in retirement to do the things you want. But remember, it's only an estimate. This is another issue on which you should obtain professional financial advice.

SSS members over 65 can get their super without leaving their job

Members of SSS who continue working in their job past age 65 can access their full Scheme pension or a combination of lump sum/pension, without leaving their job. And under the new rules, the benefit payable to these members is tax free.

Pillar sends letters to SSS members six months before they turn 65 advising them of their benefit options.

If you are in this situation and have not made arrangements to access your tax free benefit, we strongly encourage you to seek professional financial advice.



Disclaimer: Reasonable care has been taken in producing the information in this newsletter, which gives a general interpretation of the issues. Relevant information is subject to the Acts that govern the Schemes mentioned in the newsletter and those Acts will prevail to the extent of any conflict.

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Visit us on the web at:

www.statesuper.nsw.gov.au

or phone Customer Service:

SASS 1300 1300 95; SSS 1300 1300 96; PSS 1300 1300 97