OCTOBER 2021

STATE SUPER
SAS Trustee Corporation

Keeping members super informed

pensionVIEWS

State Super Pension members

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State Super update

Keeping you informed on the latest news and updates at State Super

Healthcare members share their views

State Super has now completed two Member Advisory Forums and the feedback to date from members has been extremely positive. Late last year we spoke with members from the Department of Education and this year we hosted a group from the Healthcare professions.

CEO John Livanas said about the Forums, "This is a tremendous opportunity to hear directly from public sector employees. Bringing our members together with their peers, for an animated discussion about superannuation related issues. As each person shared, others contributed their thoughts, or asked questions. Members were also able to ask me their own questions directly during the Q&A. We've learned a great deal and will continue to bring members together before consolidating and sharing the results."

> *It's an event that brings like-minded people together; workers from the same industry who had never met before, who were able to enjoy a robust conversation and express their own opinions.*

Nada Siratkov, General Manager, Member Engagement added, "We've realised that this Forum is more than a vehicle for seeking member views. It's an event that brings like-minded people together; workers from the same industry who had never met before, who were able to enjoy a robust conversation and express their own opinions. It is a success for our members and for State Super."

Both Forums were virtual events and demonstrated State Super's commitment to connect with members. The event provides members with a platform to discuss two important superannuation related topics; 1. The impact of public sector super on career and retirement and 2. Responsible investment.

Some key insights include –

- Superannuation did not play a role in choosing their career path or deciding to enter the public service but once members became aware of the benefits of their scheme and began taking a deeper interest in superannuation more generally, they were incentivised to remain in the public service.
- They believe there is value in younger people engaging early with super instead of it becoming a focus later in one's career.
- Forum attendees who were eligible for a pension believe their defined benefit pension provides comfort in times of uncertainty, and they have been able to reliably plan and adjust their lifestyle accordingly.
- Members told us that it is vital to receive accurate information at crucial junctures, like at the start of your career as well as when transitioning into retirement.
- Our members told us that super funds should take a more strategic approach to future-proofing our economy, such as investing in our national research and development sector and investing in Australian companies.
- Members say there is a need to balance returns with social, environmental, and national sustainability. They know that some of these investments are long-term and this focus should include engagement with younger fund members to help them make the best decisions for their future.

There are likely to be further Forums in 2022, followed by the completion of a White Paper that summarises all member discussion themes that will be published on our website.

If you are interested in participating in a future Member Advisory Forum, email your full name, and current or previous job title to info@statesuper.nsw.gov.au and we will respond with the event details. Places are limited, so be sure to contact us as soon as possible.

Protecting yourself against scams

At State Super, we take the protection of our member's personal and financial information very seriously, and you can play a key part by keeping your account information safe and secure.

Personal and financial details

Have you been contacted and asked for your bank account details so that a payment of a benefit or payment of a pension can be processed? If so, you may have been targeted by scammers.

To ensure you are speaking to a State Super customer service team member be aware that;

- We will always advise you that the call is being recorded for training and coaching purposes
- We willingly provide our names and where we are calling from
- If we're unable to get in touch, we will leave a telephone number (which you can verify by checking the State Super "Contact us" website page) and a reference number for you to quote when you call us back

The basic guideline is, if in any doubt, refuse to provide personal details over the phone or via email or simply disconnect the call/do not reply to the suspicious email. You can always request something in writing or contact us via the details on the website www.statesuper.nsw.gov.au/help-centre/contact-us

Scammers can also try to obtain information via email/SMS or provide you with genuine looking documentation. If you receive an unexpected message that asks you to click a link, **DO NOT click on the link.** Always sign into your financial accounts by typing the address directly into your browser.

If you have already passed on personal information, either over the phone or via email, that has you concerned, please get in touch so we can place additional security measures on your account.

SCAM Alert: Self-Managed Super Fund rollovers

Be wary if you are cold called or emailed to set-up a self-managed superannuation fund (SMSF), particularly with the promises of high returns. The scheme can include being asked to transfer funds to a new SMSF, but instead the rollover is transferred to bank accounts controlled by scammers.

If you have been contacted by any person or company encouraging you to open an SMSF always undertake your own independent enquiries via the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) asic.gov.au/

Or, to learn more about how to spot the latest superannuation scams and where to report them, visit the ASIC moneysmart government website moneysmart.gov.au/how-super-works/superannuation-scams

> *Always sign into your financial accounts by typing the address directly into your browser.*

Annual Member Satisfaction Survey - have your say

Our annual Member Satisfaction Survey is coming up and we will be contacting members by phone in the coming months to have their say.

Thanks to everyone who participated and provided feedback in our last survey, which again gave us very positive results in all areas of service delivery when compared to the broader superannuation industry.

This research has become an integral part of our future planning and will continue to identify ways to improve the services we provide to you.

We also welcome your feedback at any time via our online form at www.statesuper.nsw.gov.au/helpcentre/contact-us

Mid-year investment overview

A tumultuous time

The first half of the year was an eventful period as the impacts of COVID-19 continued to dominate headlines and reverberate throughout the world economy. While vaccine uptake has calmed the threat in many areas, outbreak spikes and the rise of new strains have hampered the efforts of health authorities and limited the ability for economic activity to return to normal.

Despite the challenges over the last six months, international institutions are upgrading their growth expectations with the IMF projecting 6 percent growth in 2021 – a dramatic shift from a contraction of -3.3 percent in 2020.

Markets forging ahead

Markets so far this year have continued their random activity amidst the pandemic chaos and fears of economic calamity. The S&P 500 index, for example, finished the first half of 2021 up by 14.4 percent, while the ASX200 rose by over 11 percent for the same period.

Global recovery exceeds expectations

Vaccine roll out has been the central focus in underpinning economic recovery so far and this will continue to be the case for the remainder of the year. Developed countries have largely seen good vaccination rates, although there are some notable exceptions including Japan and Australia. Developing economies in regions such as Africa and South America, however, are running behind with their programs and several are experiencing major infection spikes which will ultimately hamper the recovery process.

Monetary policy across most central banks has remained accommodative to support economic activity, although there are some rumblings over the prospects for rising inflation and volatility in bond yields. The US in particular has seen some inflation spikes recently, although this could be largely specific to pandemic related causes. Such rises are less evident in other economies. The US Federal Reserve has indicated the potential for rate rises earlier than previously forecast, though committees within the Reserve show a dispersion of views on the path of these rate projections.

Any tightening of monetary policy is more likely to be gradual and may not start occurring until 2023 in the US and Australia and may be even further away in Europe and East Asian economies such as China and Japan.

Australia bouncing back

Australian economic activity and GDP has bounced back from the pandemic more strongly than initially predicted and this has led to future expectations being revised upwards by the Reserve Bank. GDP growth is now forecast to be 4.75 percent over 2021 and 3.5 per cent over 2022. A lot of this recovery is due to businesses responding to pandemic related tax incentives on machinery and equipment investment, as well as higher commodity prices and persistently low interest rates.

Outlook for markets

While there are potential negative influences on market performance and the environment is still a volatile one, the general outlook is for markets to maintain constructive outcomes over the near-term.

This bodes well for State Super members, who have already experienced a pleasing improvement in returns over the last 12 months. We will continue to skilfully manage our funds to maximise outcomes for members, while retaining sophisticated and prudent risk management strategies.

Member investment choice strategies to 30 June 2021

	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year
Growth	14.3%	7.7%	7.7%	8.3%	8.6%
Balanced	8.9%	5.8%	5.8%	6.2%	7.2%
Conservative	5.6%	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%	5.6%
Cash	0.1%	0.5%	1.0%	1.3%	2.1%

Important: Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

The crediting rates shown have been rounded to one decimal point and are shown as an annual rate. Actual crediting rates are declared monthly to four decimal places. The annual rate is the compounded monthly rates.

Annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment of pensions

Learn more about the annual CPI and what it really means to you, and more specifically, in relation to your pension.

What is the CPI?

Simply defined, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the change in the price of a fixed basket of goods and services acquired by household consumers from one period to another. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) measures the cost of a set list of items in order to calculate a CPI rate for each of the eight State and Territory Capital Cities. They also calculate a weighted average of the eight Capital Cities, which is generally the CPI that we hear about in the media.

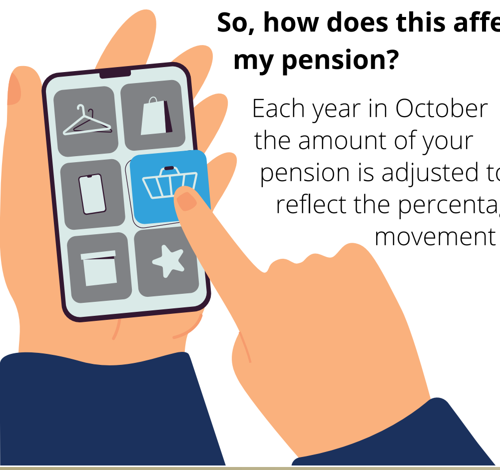
The CPI rate that is used to adjust your State Super pension each year is the All Groups Sydney Index which simply means it is a CPI rate based on Sydney prices and includes all the categories in the standard basket. A list of the 11 categories included in the standard basket is shown here.

What's in a CPI basket?

The 11 categories included in each of the All Groups Indexes are:

• Health • Transport • Communication
• Recreation and culture • Education
• Insurance and financial services
• Food and non-alcoholic beverages
• Alcohol and tobacco
• Clothing and footwear • Housing
• Furnishings, household equipment and services

So, how does this affect my pension?



Each year in October the amount of your pension is adjusted to reflect the percentage movement in CPI from one June quarter to the next June quarter.This adjustment most often results in an increase in your State Super pension, but your pension can be decreased if the CPI is a negative amount.

You may recall that last year no adjustment was made to State Super pensions. This was because the CPI from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (All Groups Sydney) was -1.0%. This would have resulted in a reduction to State Super pensions, however, legislation was enacted to protect members by ensuring that pensions are only reduced when a negative CPI rate is -1.1% or greater. **This meant that State Super pensions were not reduced last year by the negative CPI rate.**

Scheme legislation requires State Super to calculate an adjustment rate based on the CPI percentage change from 30 June in the year that pensions were last adjusted to 30 June of the current year. As there was no adjustment last year, the last adjustment point was 30 June 2019. The movement in the CPI from 30 June 2019 to 30 June 2021 was 3.0%. **The adjustment rate for State Super pensions is therefore 3.0% for this year**.

State Super pensions will be adjusted from the first pension payday in October 2021, which is on Thursday 7 October this year. Pensions commencing during the first three quarters in the financial year receive a partial CPI adjustment, while no adjustment is made to pensions commencing in the final quarter.

2020 - 2021 CPI highlights:

Australia recorded an annual rise of 3.8%

Sydney recorded an annual rise of 4.1%

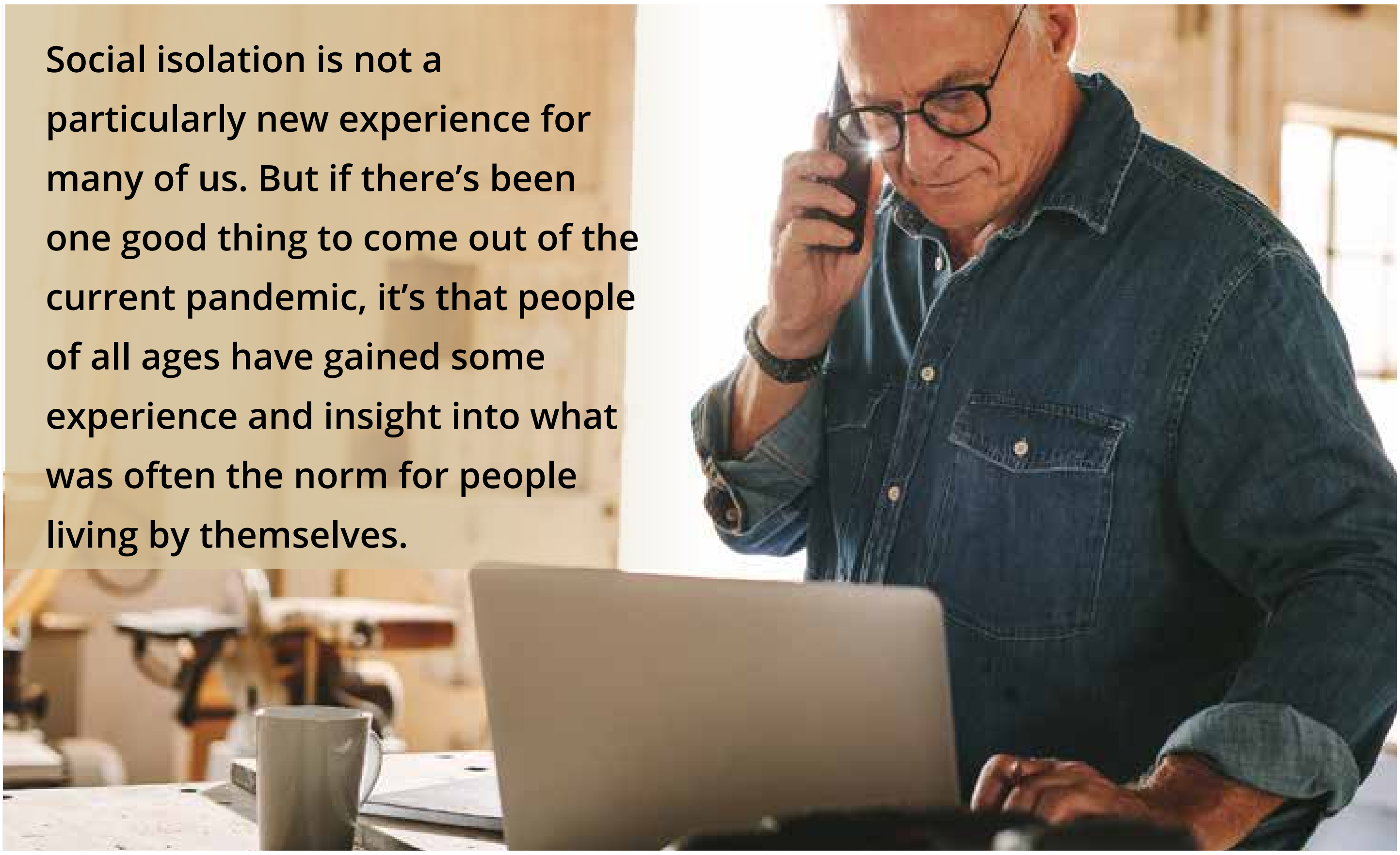
Sydney recorded a March-June quarter rise of 0.8% including:

- Automotive fuel +7.1%
- New dwelling purchase by owner occupiers +1.5%
- Restaurant meals (-2.3%) and Takeaway fast foods (-2.5%) both fell due to the NSW Government's "Dine and Discover" vouchers, which reduces out-of-pocket costs
- Rents (-0.6%) fell due to weak demand reflected in high vacancy rates, particularly in attached dwellings
- Fruit and vegetables rose (+6.3%) due to a shortage of pickers, extreme rainfall on the east coast of Australia and Cyclone Niran affecting banana crop yields

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

How to stay together from a distance

Social isolation is not a particularly new experience for many of us. But if there's been one good thing to come out of the current pandemic, it's that people of all ages have gained some experience and insight into what was often the norm for people living by themselves.



The crisis has led people to use online technologies to allow them to more or less continue their normal lives through work, education and social contact.

For some, however, adopting a digital life may not come so easily. So what technology options are available and how can you access them?

Social media and video calls

Social media platforms such as Facebook are fast becoming the cultural norm. Facebook has a user base that is equivalent to roughly one quarter of the world's population, or 1.8 billion users. With that reach and familiarity, the social network has the capability of connecting people in an instant whilst protecting your privacy. You select who can (and can't) see your profile. Plus, you can determine the type of content you are interested in seeing as well as joining local community and interest groups.

For this reason, Facebook is an ideal tool for people to use as they become dispersed or disconnected from friends and family for any reason. Interestingly, Facebook has become of more interest to people who enjoy the facility for sharing family photographs, videos and news. You of course can take your own pictures or make videos of what you're up to, making the posting of content on your preferred social media platform a two way street between yourself and your family and friends.

While often children and grandchildren can help their older relatives get set up on Facebook, those opportunities are currently limited. But there are useful instruction videos on YouTube and other websites that take you through the steps to get you started. Facebook also has a handy text messaging system called Messenger, which is also very easy to use. You can even use it without having to have a Facebook account. Set up groups within Messenger that will allow you to communicate with family and friends all at the same time and use it for video calls and for sharing photos or video.

...there are useful instruction videos on YouTube and other websites that take you through the steps to get you started.

Webcams

Webcams are small video cameras you can use to transmit your picture to somebody in an online conversation or meeting. They are relatively inexpensive but these days most laptops and mobile phones now come with webcams already built in. You can use a webcam with apps like Skype or FaceTime to make calls over the Internet, or other apps to have face-to-face live meetings with friends and relatives, such as Zoom or Whereby.

How to use Skype FaceTime or Zoom for video calls

Skype is a convenient, easy-to-use application that lets you connect with your loved ones using the camera on your computer, tablet or smartphone.

Skype is especially useful for talking to family members and friends from long distances and certainly these days, when you need to keep your distance, it's a more intimate - and more fun - way to connect and stay in touch.

To get the most out of your video calls, it's important check that your equipment is connected and working properly. It can also help to do a bit of video call practice. For example, is the lighting ok? Arrange your seating position so that viewers can see your face and upper body. This will allow them to appreciate your extra expression through hand gestures. And most importantly, look into the lens of your camera, not at yourself in the preview screen. This will ensure that you maintain good eye contact with the people you're talking to.

Similarly, if you have an Apple computer, iPad or iPhone, you can use Apple's FaceTime, to communicate with people in much the same way. To set up FaceTime on your Apple device, visit **support.apple.com**

Skype or FaceTime are both effective and easy to use. And the other good thing about making calls on either of them is that it's free!

Joining or setting up a group chat

COVID-19 has led to the increased popularity of "meeting" applications like Zoom, Whereby and Houseparty. Once again, these apps use the webcam on your device but this time, they can connect you to multiple people in multiple locations. This can be great for getting the whole family together for an event such as a birthday or anniversary, and all of these apps have a free usage option.

During a meeting, all the participants appear in individual windows on your screen, so you can both see and talk to all of them at the same time.

Check YouTube for videos showing a beginner's guide to all of these applications.

Keeping fit

Exercise and meditation are great ways to reduce stress, encouraging mindfulness and adding routine back into your lifestyle. But a lot of people - particularly older people - remain reluctant to return to their pre-COVID fitness regimes at the gym.

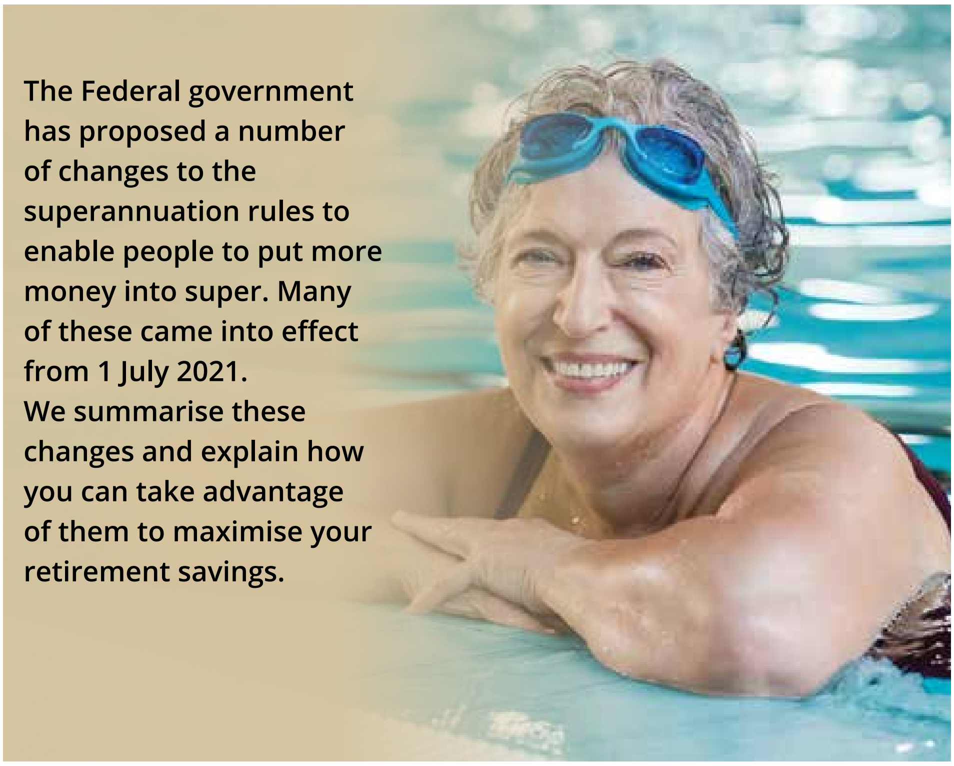
Luckily, a large number of fitness entrepreneurs are live-streaming their workouts or making them available online. If you have a favourite Pilates class, yoga studio or HIIT trainer, take a look on their social media pages to see if it's something they're offering. It may feel like a bit of a flashback to an 80's fitness video, but it's a great option for maintaining a peaceful mind. You can sign up with your friends, keep each other accountable and connect with people across Australia all while working out.

Be Connected

The COVID-19 situation is emotionally taxing so it's important to make the time to stay virtually connected to friends and family. The world will go back to normal at some stage, but for the time being, try to look for joy and company where you can.

"Be Connected" is an important service to assist senior Australians with the confidence and skills to use the internet and everyday technology. They have a network of over 3,000 community organisations across Australia who are ready to deliver this assistance.
To find out more go to **beconnected.esafety.gov.au/**

Taking advantage of changes to super laws to maximise your retirement savings



The Federal government has proposed a number of changes to the superannuation rules to enable people to put more money into super. Many of these came into effect from 1 July 2021. We summarise these changes and explain how you can take advantage of them to maximise your retirement savings.

It's important to note that for the most part these changes do not apply to your defined benefit pension, they will apply to other money you have in super or would like to contribute to super by opening an account with another super fund.

Proposal to remove the work test

Under the current rules, if you are between the ages of 67 and 74, you can only make after-tax (non-concessional) contributions or salary sacrifice contributions if:

- you pass a work test or
- you have less than $300,000 in super at 30 June and passed a work test in the previous financial year (you can do this once only).

To pass a work test you must work at least 40 hours within a 30-day period at some point during the financial year.

The Federal government is proposing to remove this work test requirement from 1 July 2022. If this happens, you'll be able to contribute to your super within the standard after-tax cap rules that apply before age 75, without needing to pass a work test.

Limit for pre-tax contributions raised to $27,500

The maximum pre-tax contribution (the 'concessional cap') has increased from $25,000 to $27,500. This is the maximum amount you and your employer can put into super in a year from your pre-tax income, while paying only 15% tax. Any amounts you contribute above $27,500 are taxed at your marginal tax rate.

Why this matters

If you are looking to add more to super then depending on your income, you may be paying more than 15% income tax. The more you can put into super within that $27,500 limit, the less tax you'll pay. As a pension member you can't make additional contributions. You would need to open an account with another super fund and make any future contributions to that fund.

Pre-tax contributions include:

- super guarantee contributions (SGC) from your employer
- personal deductible contributions
- any salary sacrifice contributions you make
- notional employer contributions to defined benefit schemes
- in some cases, employer-sponsored insurance cover paid for through super contributions.

Carrying forward unused caps

If you didn't reach your concessional cap from the last financial year, and or previous years since 2018/2019 you can carry this forward to increase your cap for this year. This applies if you had a Total Super Balance (TSB) of less than $500,000 as at the prior 30 June.

For example, let's say you have a super balance of $280,000 and you made a personal deductible contribution of $20,000 to super last year. You'd have $5,000 of the 'unused' cap to add to this year's cap, however no amounts from previous years to carry forward, you could put up to $32,500 into super this year while paying only 15% tax ($27,500 + $5,000 = $32,500). If you are aged between 67 to 74 you will also need to have met the work test requirements.

Limit for after-tax contributions raised to $110,000

The other way to add more money to your super is through 'non-concessional contributions' also referred to as 'after tax contributions'. This year the limit for these has increased from $100,000 to $110,000.

You can only make non-concessional contributions if:

- you had less than $1,700,000 in super on 30 June 2021 (up from $1,600,000 last year)
- you're under 75, and
- if you're 67 or older (up from age 65 last year), you will need to pass the work test (worked at least 40 hours within a 30-day period at some point during the financial year) or the work test exemption.

Why this matters

If you have money outside of super such as proceeds of the sale of an investment property, an inheritance, or a maturing term deposit, you may be able to use the non-concessional contribution limits to contribute this into the super environment.

Bringing forward future caps

You can also bring forward up to three years' worth of future non-concessional caps (i.e., $330,000). This enables you to put a significant lump sum into super in one year.

This applies if:

- you're under 67 for at least one day of this financial year, and
- you had less than $1,480,000 in super on 30 June 2021.

If you have more than $1,480,000 in super, your bring-forward amount will depend on your super balance but will be between zero and $220,000.

Tax benefits to non-dependents

If any non-dependent beneficiaries receive some or all of your super benefit if you die, non-concessional amounts won't be taxed when they receive the payment.

Limit on the amount in retirement phase of super

The limit you can roll over to the 'retirement income phase' of super is called the Transfer Balance Cap and from this year the general cap will increase from $1,600,000 to $1,700,000.

To calculate the value of your defined benefit pension toward the cap you multiply the annual pension amount by 16. As an example, a member that will receive a $60,000 annual lifetime indexed pension will have $960,000 (16 x $60,000) count toward their personal Transfer Balance Cap.

If you have other money in the accumulation phase of super, and room left within your personal Transfer Balance cap, then you can make use of these limits by rolling over your account to the retirement income phase and commencing a retirement income stream. The balance rolled over will also count toward the cap.

Why this matters

The retirement income phase of super has no tax on any earnings within the account unlike the accumulation phase of super where earnings within the super fund are taxed at a maximum of 15%.

Members with super accounts already transferred to the retirement income phase

If you've already started an income stream since 1 July 2017, your cap will be somewhere between $1,600,000 and $1,700,000. The ATO can tell you what your personal cap is.

Downsizer contribution – proposed age limit change

The federal government is considering lowering the minimum age for individuals to make a downsizer contribution to super from age 65 to age 60. This change is proposed to take effect from July 2022.

To be eligible to make a downsizer contribution:

- your home must be in Australia and not be a caravan, houseboat or other mobile home
- you and/or your spouse must have owned it for at least 10 years
- the money from the sale must be fully or partially exempt from capital gains tax (CGT) under the main residence exemption
- The contribution needs to be made within 90 days of settlement of the property

The maximum amount you can contribute as a downsizer contribution is the lesser of $300,000 or the sale proceeds of your home. The advantage of this type of contribution is that it does not count towards your annual concessional or non-concessional contributions caps. Also, when contributing, they aren't subject to the $1.7 million total super balance restriction or the work test, and there's no requirement to buy another home.

Search for 'downsizing' at **ato.gov.au** for more details about eligibility.

The value of good advice

In summary, these changes enable you to put more into super and get better tax concessions in retirement.

We realise that understanding the significance of these changes to your personal situation isn't easy. This is why we suggest you discuss these changes with your **Aware Super financial planner.** Your planner is an expert in retirement and can help you take full advantage of the revised limits so you can maximise your retirement income.

Call **1800 620 305** to speak to a financial planner from Aware Super (previously known as StatePlus).

Ask an Expert

Q: I am a Pensioner member and my wife has an account-based pension. As we expected, we have been drawing down on her money to pay for home improvements and to supplement our living costs. We weren't entitled to any Age Pension when I first retired at age 60, but we are now wondering whether we may be entitled to a part age pension?

We find many retirees may not be entitled to the age pension at the outset of their retirement, but may become entitled to a part or full age pension later in retirement as they draw down on their own savings to fund their lifestyle, or through changes in aged pension eligibility criteria and limits, so it's a good idea to keep up to date with the latest rules and thresholds.

You can apply for an age pension once you reach age pension age which is determined by your date of birth. The qualifying age has been increasing from 65 to 67 years since 1 July 2017. The amount of age pension entitlement will then be determined based on the asset and income test, you and your wife will be assessed as a couple. The test that results in the lowest amount of age pension is the one that will apply.

Age pension age

NEW PENSION AGE FOR MEN AND WOMEN	
Date Born	Age eligible for age pension
Before 1 July 1952	65
1 July 1952 to 31 Dec 1953	65 and 6 months
1 Jan 1954 to 30 June 1955	66
1 July 1955 to 31 Dec 1956	66 and 6 months
After 1 January 1957	67

Asset test

The assets test is based on how much you and your partners assets are worth. It includes the market value of most assets you own such as a car, business assets, investment properties and financial assets such as the account based pension, cash, shares and term deposits. Total value of the assets will determine whether you are entitled to full or part age pension under the asset tests. There are different limits that apply to homeowners and non-homeowners and these are included in the table below.

Importantly the market value of the family home is not included and your defined benefit pension will generally not have a value assessable under this test.

If you have assets that are above the full pension entitlement level your age pension is reduced by $3 per fortnight for every $1,000 of assets above that level. You have no entitlement to the age pension once they reach the No pension level.

Current Assets Test Thresholds - effective 1 July 2021				
	Situation	Full Age Pension Assest less than:	Part Age Pension Assets between:	No Age Pension Assets exceeding:
Single	Homeowner	$270,500	$270,500 and $588,250	$588,250
	Non-homeowner	$487,000	$487,000 and $804,750	$804,750
Couple (combined)	Homeowner	$405,000	$405,000 and $884,000	$884,000
	Non-homeowner	$621,500	$621,500 and $1,100,500	$1,100,500

Income test

Your age pension entitlement under the income test is determined by the other income you receive. Most types of income are taken into account when determining your age pension entitlement including financial

Current Income Test Thresholds - effective1 July 2021 (fortnightly income figures)			
	Full Age Pension	Part Age Pension	No Age Pension
Single	Income up to $180	Income between $180 and $2,085.40	Income more than $2,085.40
Couple (combined)	Income up to $320	Income between $320 and $3,192.40	Income more than $3,192.40
Couple (combined) separated through illness	Income up to $320	Income between $320 and $4,130.80	Income more than $4,130.80

Maximise your retirement savings

Are you familiar with the new super laws? Speak to an Aware Super planner to maximise your retirement income

Government changes to the centrelink rules and super can have an impact on your retirement income depending on your situation.

At Aware Super, our financial planners can work closely with you to ensure you are taking advantage of all benefits and sources of income in retirement.

Maximise your situation.

Call us on **1800 620 305** today or visit **aware.com.au** to ensure you get the most of your superannuation.

1800 620 305 | aware.com.au

aware SUPER

Personal advice requires the provider to act in the client's best interests and take into account the client's circumstances. These rules do not apply to general advice. All content provided by Aware Super and published in this newsletter contains general advice only and no personal advice. We have not taken into consideration any of your objectives, financial situation or needs or any information we hold about you when providing this general advice. Further this communication does not contain, and should not be read as containing, any recommendations to you in relation to your product. Before taking any action, you should consider whether the general advice contained in this communication is appropriate to you having regard to your circumstances and needs, and seek appropriate professional advice if you think you need it. Contact us to make an appointment to see one of our representatives. You should also read our product disclosure statement before making a decision about Aware Super. Call us or visit our website for a copy. Issued by Aware Super Pty Ltd ABN 11 118 202 672, AFSL 293340, the trustee of Aware Super ABN 53 226 460 365. Financial planning services are provided by our wholly owned financial planning business Aware Financial Services Australia Limited, ABN 86 003 742 756, AFSL No. 238430. You should read their Financial Services Guide before making a decision.

investments, employment income, income from sole trader or partnership business, net rental income from investment properties as well as income from outside Australia. Your gross defined benefit fortnightly pension payment will also count toward this test with the tax free component deductible up to a maximum of 10% of the gross pension.

For every $1 you earn per fortnight above the full pension limit, your pension is reduced by $0.50 until you reach the no pension limit at which point you have no pension entitlement.

Importantly, the first $300 in income per fortnight earned by an individual pensioner from personal exertion is not counted toward the income test under the "Work Bonus" rules.

Some financial investments including term deposits, shares and managed funds are "deemed" to earn a set percentage of income based on their current value, regardless of what actual income they earn, and this is how your wife's account based pension will be assessed.

Current Deeming Thresholds and Rates - effective 1 July 2021

Single	Couple	Rate
Value of first $53,600 of financial assets	Value of first $89,000 of financial assets	Deemed to earn 0.25%
Value of financial assets over $53,600	Value of financial assets over $89,000	Deemed to earn 2.25%

The Centrelink website on **www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink** is a good source for step by step assistance.

Full or part age pension entitlements either at the start of retirement or through retirement can be an important part of a financial plan. Partnering with an Aware Super financial planner can help you to understand and make the most of all sources of income available to you as well as other benefits throughout your retirement

The amount of age pension entitlement will be determined based on the asset and income test.

Your member benefits

Member interviews - now on Zoom (video call)

Interview Services using the Zoom video call platform are available by appointment from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

State Super's free Interview Service is available to all current and deferred benefit members as well as pension members.

Customer service staff can meet with you via a virtual face-to-face video call. They can assist with general advice about your scheme, superannuation information, even completing administrative forms or other paperwork. Easy-to-follow instructions will be supplied to help you join your video interview.

Call to make an appointment -

1300 652 113

Of course, you can contact us by phone for assistance any time during business hours.

There is also a myriad of information available on our website. Details about the rules, benefit entitlements and membership conditions of each of the State Super schemes are provided in a series of fact sheets.

To download a form or fact sheet, go to **www.statesuper.nsw.gov.au/help-centre/forms-and-factsheets** and search for the name or document number or scroll through your scheme's documents to find what you need.

Update your contact details

Do we have your current contact details including email? So we can communicate important information regarding your benefit and keep you abreast of any changes that could affect you, it is important that we have your current contact details. Many of our members now also prefer to receive information via email. Please make sure we have your up-to-date email address, so we can keep in touch.

How to update your contact details:

Call State Super Customer Service on 1300 652 113.

Complete STC Form 207 (available on our website) and mail it to us.

Contact us

1300 652 113

State Super, PO Box 1229
Wollongong, NSW 2500

www.statesuper.nsw.gov.au

enquiries@stc.nsw.gov.au

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