

# Understand your super



Superannuation – or ‘super’ – is a simple and compulsory way to save money while you work so that you and your family will have more money when you retire.

You get super on top of your wages and your employer puts this extra money away into a super account for you. Super is your money, so you can choose which super fund you want your employer to pay your money into.

## How much you get

In general, if you get paid at least \$450 a month in wages\*:

- › Your employer must pay you an additional 9.5% on top of your wage into your super account.
- › This extra 9.5% is your super contribution and is called the super guarantee.
- › If you are offered a ‘salary package’ by your employer, this may include your super which will be at least 9.5%, but could also be more.

## When you can get your super

Most people can only draw out their super when they stop working after age 60, or a bit earlier if born before 1 July 1964 and have permanently retired.

But sometimes you can access your super sooner if you:



Become seriously injured or face a terminal medical condition.



Meet eligibility requirements for severe financial hardship or specified compassionate grounds.



Begin a transition to retirement account-based pension.



If you are a temporary resident permanently leaving Australia.

### Your employer pays:



## How your super grows

When money goes into your super account, it doesn't just sit there. It gets invested by professional investment managers on your behalf so your balance can grow over time. How your super is invested depends on the fund you join and the investment options you choose.

Your super should also grow over the long term because your employer and/or you make regular contributions and because your fund gets tax concessions that boost your earnings.

## Your super, your choice

You don't have to use the super fund your employer recommends. Most Australians are allowed to decide who their super contributions are invested with, so it's important you choose the fund that is right for you.

When comparing super funds look for low fees and strong long-term investment performance over the last 5, 10 and even 15 years. Also consider additional benefits offered that could be valuable to you such as insurance which may come in handy if you become injured or unwell.



## Keep all your super in one fund

A lot of people have more than one super account, especially if they have worked in lots of different jobs. But that may not be a good thing. The more super accounts you have, the more sets of unnecessary fees you may be paying. Over a lifetime, these fees can really add up and reduce your super balance significantly.

The good news is, bringing all of your super into the one account is really easy. This is called 'consolidating your super', or 'rolling over your super'. If you change jobs, take your super with you by giving your account details to your employer and asking them to pay your super contributions into that account.

If you are an AustralianSuper member, we can:

- > help you find your super even if you can't remember the name of the other funds
- > combine all your super from other funds into your AustralianSuper account.†

## Keeping track of your super

It is a good idea to keep track of your super payments every time you get paid. You can do this by checking your online super account or by calling your fund. You will also get a yearly super statement from your super fund. If you're with AustralianSuper, you can also download our mobile phone app to keep track.

It is also a good idea to give your Tax File Number (TFN) to your super fund. If you don't, your super could be taxed at the highest rate, which means your super balance could suffer.

## Types of super funds

In Australia, retirement savings are managed by super funds, not the Government. There are many super funds you can choose from and to keep your money secure, they must all work within laws and regulations set up by the Australian Government.

AustralianSuper is the largest, most-trusted super<sup>†</sup> fund in the country, with over 30 years of experience. AustralianSuper is an industry super fund, which means the fund is run only to benefit its members and does not pay dividends or profits to shareholders.

## We're here to help

Call **1300 300 273** (8am to 8pm AEST/AEDT weekdays) to speak to someone about your super.

Visit **[australiansuper.com](http://australiansuper.com)** for more information and to join.

\* Some individuals, such as those working under some contract arrangements, may not be eligible. If you are under 18, or a private or domestic worker (such as a nanny or carer), you must also work more than 30 hours a week to be eligible to receive super from your employer.

† Before making a decision to combine your super, you should ask your super provider about any fees or charges that may apply, or any other information about the effect this transfer may have on your benefits, such as insurance cover. If you wish to claim a tax deduction for personal super contributions, you must lodge a notice of intent to claim a tax deduction with your original fund, before you consolidate your super into another fund.

‡ Readers Digest Most Trusted Brands – Superannuation category winner for six years running 2013 – 2019.

