

Print whole section

Managing and calculating member benefits

Guidance for rollovers, contribution splitting, recontributions and market linked pensions.

Calculating components of a super benefit

Calculating the components of a super benefit.

Rollover benefits

Members of most super funds can request that benefits be transferred into a fund of their choice.

Contributions splitting for members

How to split certain contributions with spouses.

Re-contribution of COVID-19 early release super amounts

Individuals can now re-contribute amounts they withdrew under the COVID-19 early release of super program.

Updated guidance – market linked pensions

Changes to calculating a debit from the commutation, or ceasing a CDBIS in the event of an SFT.

QC 105112

Calculating components of a super benefit

Calculating the components of a super benefit.

Last updated 6 July 2018

On this page

Working out the tax-free component

Working out the taxable component of the super interest

The proportioning rule

Income stream benefits

Lump sum benefits

Modifications to the proportioning rule

Income streams started before July 2007

When calculating a super benefit, you need to identify and calculate the value of the various components that make up the benefit. To begin, you must determine the value of the member's super interest.

Generally, the value of a member's super interest is the total amount of lump sum benefits or entitlements that you can pay them at a particular time. In most cases, this is the member's total account balance in the fund.

Specific rules apply for determining the defined benefit superannuation interest for pre-July 1983 amounts.

You will need to calculate the components for each benefit that you pay. Generally, you use the proportioning rule to work out the components of a super benefit by determining the proportion of the

tax-free and taxable components of the interest, and applying these proportions to the benefit.

The value of the super interest and the amount of each component is determined at the following times:

- an income stream just before the income stream commences
- a lump sum just before you pay the benefit
- commutation of an income stream to a lump sum use the calculations when the income stream started
- rollover super benefit just before you make the rollover
- commutation of an income stream rolled back into the accumulation phase in the fund just before a new super benefit is paid.

Working out the tax-free component

The tax free component of a member's super interest is the sum of the value of the contributions segment and the crystallised segment.

The contributions segment generally includes all contributions made after 30 June 2007 that have not been, and will not be, included in your fund's assessable income. These are most commonly member contributions where a tax deduction has not been claimed by the member.

The taxable component of a rollover super benefit is not included in the contributions segment. However, any untaxed element in excess of the untaxed plan cap amount is included.

The crystallised segment of the member's super interest is that part of the interest that is the total of:

- the concessional component
- the post-June 1994 invalidity component
- · the undeducted contributions
- the CGT exempt component
- the pre-July 1983 component.

See also:

Superannuation crystallisation calculator

Working out the taxable component of the super interest

The taxable component of a member's super interest is the total value of the member's super interest less the value of the tax-free component.

Contributions that would form part of the taxable component are generally amounts included in the assessable income of the fund. This would include concessional contributions and earnings.

The taxable component of a super benefit may consist of a taxed element and/or an untaxed element, depending on whether the benefit is paid from a taxed or untaxed source. Funds will need to determine these elements before paying any super benefits.

Taxed element

The taxed element includes amounts where a fund has paid 15% tax on the contributions or earnings. Concessional rates of tax will apply to benefits containing a taxed element. A taxed element may also include an amount that has been rolled over from an untaxed source.

Untaxed element

The untaxed element includes amounts where a fund has not paid any tax on the contributions or earnings. Higher rates of tax will apply to benefits containing an untaxed element.

Untaxed super funds are generally run by Commonwealth, State or Territory government departments, and are generally either:

- public sector super schemes
- constitutionally protected funds.

There are circumstances where a benefit paid from an untaxed super fund will contain a taxed element. These are where a:

- constitutionally protected fund pays a benefit attributable to the taxable component of any rollover super benefit received by the fund
- public sector super scheme pays a benefit sourced partly from contributions made to the scheme or the earnings on those contributions.

Where a super fund allocates an amount to a member from its reserves the calculation of the components is treated as follows:

- allocation from an accumulation interest is a taxable component
- allocation from an interest supporting an income stream the taxfree and taxable components determined at the start of the income stream will apply.

The proportioning rule

Under the proportioning rule, the tax-free and taxable components of the member's super benefit are taken to be paid in the same proportion as the tax-free and taxable components of the member's interest in the super fund.

For example, if 30% of a member's super interest consists of a tax-free component and 70% consists of the taxable component, the benefit you pay from it must also have a 30% tax free component and a 70% taxable component.

The proportioning rule prevents a member choosing which components to withdraw when a super benefit is paid. This means that they cannot choose to withdraw just the tax-free component.

The proportioning rule does not apply to a super benefit if an alternative method is specified by the regulations or the ATO. This only applies in limited circumstances.

To work out the components of a super benefit using the proportioning rule you first need to:

- calculate the value of the super interest and the proportion of the tax-free and taxable components
- apply the proportion to the benefit being paid.

Example 1: Working out the tax-free and taxable proportions

Kevin is approaching his preservation age and is considering his options when he retires. The value of Kevin's super interest is \$400,000, which consists of the following components:

- tax-free component of \$100,000
- taxable component of \$300,000.

Work out the tax-free and taxable proportions of Kevin's super interest as follows:

Tax-free proportion %	= tax-free component ÷ value of the interest		
	= \$100,000 ÷ \$400,000		
	= 25%		
Taxable proportion %	= 100% – tax-free proportion %		
	= 100% - 25%		
	= 75%		

The proportioning rule is modified for <u>disability lump sum benefits</u> and <u>super lump sum benefits</u> that contain an untaxed element.

The proportioning rule does not apply to benefits that consist entirely of a tax-free or taxable component. These include:

- super co-contribution payments made up of a tax-free component only
- super guarantee payments made up of a taxable component only
- contribution-splitting payments made up of a taxable component only.

Applying the proportioning rule

Once you have worked out the proportion of the tax-free and taxable components in the super interest, you must apply these same proportions to the super benefit you will pay.

Income stream benefits

To work out the components of an income stream benefit:

 work out the proportion of the tax-free and taxable components of the member's super interest when the income stream starts • apply the same proportions when you work out the tax-free and taxable components of the member's income stream benefits.

Example 2: Working out the components if Kevin starts an income stream

Following on from example 1, Kevin uses his super interest to start an income stream and receives a monthly super income stream benefit of \$2,000.

Apply the proportions to work out the tax-free and taxable components of Kevin's monthly super income stream benefit as follows:

Tax-free component	= super income stream benefit x tax- free proportion	
	= \$2,000 × 25%	
	= \$500	
Taxable component	= total of benefit – tax-free component	
	= \$2,000 - \$500	
	= \$1,500	

These proportions will continue to apply to all benefits you pay from the income stream, including benefits from the commutation of the income stream.

You must make sure that you withhold the correct amount for PAYG purposes when you pay the benefit – refer to PAYG withholding obligations

Lump sum benefits

To work out the components of a lump sum super benefit:

- work out the tax-free and taxable proportions of the member's super interest just before you pay the lump sum
- apply the same proportions when you work out the tax-free and taxable components of the member's lump sum benefit.

Example 3: Commutation of an income stream

Using the facts in example 2, Kevin has decided after receiving an income stream for 12 months that he wants to commute his income stream into a super lump sum.

When the lump sum is paid out, it will have the same proportions as determined when the income stream began. This means Kevin's super lump sum will have a tax-free component of 25% and a taxable component of 75%.

Example 4: Working out the components if Kevin takes a lump sum

Using the facts in example 1, instead of taking an income stream, Kevin uses his super interest and takes a lump sum of \$50,000 on 1 December 2013. Apply the proportions to work out the tax-free and taxable components of Kevin's lump sum benefit of \$50,000 as follows:

Tax-free component	= 25% of benefit
	= \$50,000 x \$25%
	= \$12,500
Taxable component	= total of benefit – tax-free component
	= \$50,000 - \$12,500
	= \$37,500

After the \$50,000 lump sum was paid on 1 December 2013 the:

- tax-free component of the super interest was \$87,500 (\$100,000 less \$12,500)
- taxable component of the super interest was \$262,500 (\$400,000 - \$50,000 - \$87,500).

You must work out the proportions again each time you pay a lump sum.

Kevin made a \$28,000 non-concessional contribution to the super fund on 5 May 2014. On 1 January 2015, he withdrew another lump sum benefit of \$40,000. The value of the super interest just before the lump sum was paid was \$385,000 (includes \$7,000 fund earnings).

Step 1

Work out the tax-free and taxable components of Kevin's super interest just before the lump sum of \$40,000 was paid on 1 January 2015.

Tax-free component	= balance after lump sum payment on 1 December 2013 + non-concessional contribution made on 5 May 2014	
	= \$87,500 + \$28,000	
	= \$115,500	
Taxable component	= value of interest before lump sum paid on 1 January 2015 – tax-free component	
	= \$385,000 - \$115,500	
	= \$269,500	

Step 2

Work out the tax-free and taxable proportions of Kevin's super interest just before the lump sum of \$40,000 was paid on 1 January 2015.

Tax-free proportion %	= tax-free component ÷ value of the interest
	= \$115,500 ÷ \$385,000
	= 30%
Taxable proportion %	= 100% – tax-free proportion %
	= 100% - 30%
	= 70%

Step 3

Apply the proportions to work out the tax-free and taxable components of Kevin's lump sum benefit of \$40,000 as follows:

Tax-free component	= 30% of benefit
	= \$40,000 × 30%
	= \$12,000
Taxable component	= total amount of benefit – tax-free component
	= \$40,000 - \$12,000
	= \$28,000

After the \$40,000 was paid on 1 January 2015, the:

- tax-free component of the super interest was \$103,500 (\$115,500 less \$12,000)
- taxable component of the super interest was \$241,500 (\$385,000 - \$40,000 - \$103,500).

If the lump sum super benefit arises from the commutation of an income stream, you determine the value of the super interest, and the

amount of each of the components of the super interest, when the relevant super income stream commenced.

You must make sure that you withhold the correct amount for PAYG purposes when you pay the benefit.

Modifications to the proportioning rule

The proportioning rule is modified when you pay a:

- · super lump sum with an untaxed element
- · disability super benefit.

Paying a lump sum with an untaxed element

Where the super interest existed just before 1 July 2007, a modified version of the proportioning rule is used to determine the tax-free and taxable components, taking into account the crystallisation of the pre-July 1983 component.

The tax-free component for an untaxed element is only calculated when a lump sum benefit is withdrawn from your fund or rolled over into a taxed super fund.

The modification to the proportioning rule means that the tax-free component of the benefit is increased, and the untaxed element is reduced, by the lesser of the following amounts:

- the amount worked out by applying the formula below, and
- the amount of the untaxed element.

Original tax-free component and untaxed element multiplied by No. of pre-July 1983 days in service period divided by Total no of days in service period

If the lump sum is in part attributable to a crystallised pre-July 1983 amount, when you are working out the tax-free component, the amount that is attributable to the crystallised segment of the super interest is ignored.

Example 5: Apply the proportioning rule

Peter is 56 and he withdraws a lump sum benefit of \$50,000 on 1 January 2008. Just before this benefit is paid, the value of

Peter's super interest was \$400,000. The super interest includes a tax-free component of \$100,000 (made up of \$50,000 contributions segment and \$50,000 crystallised segment) and the taxable component is \$300,000 consisting solely of an untaxed element.

Step 1:

Calculate the tax-free and taxable proportions of Peter's super interest (\$400,000) just before the benefit is paid:

Tax-free component of \$100,000 = 25%

Taxable component of \$300,000 = 75%

Step 2:

Apply that proportion to calculate the tax-free component of Peter's lump sum as follows:

$$$50,000 \times 25\% - $12,500$$

The taxable component, untaxed element, of Peter's lump sum benefit is \$37,500.

Example 6: Modified proportioning rule – lump sum with untaxed element

Assume in example 5 that Peter's total eligible service period is 14,245 days and the number of pre-July 83 days is 4,250 days.

The tax-free component of Peter's lump sum is increased, and the untaxed element is reduced, by the lesser of:

(i)
$$\frac{(\$12,500 + \$37,500) \times 4,250}{14,245} = \$14,918$$

(ii) \$37,500

As a result the tax-free component of Peter's lump sum benefit is increased by \$14,918:

The taxable component, untaxed element, is:

Paying a disability super benefit

A disability super benefit is a benefit you pay:

- to a person suffering from ill-health (physical or mental)
- where two legally qualified medical practitioners have certified that, due to ill-health, it is unlikely the person can ever work in a job they are reasonably qualified for.

You can pay a disability super benefit as either an income stream or a lump sum.

Disability lump sum benefits

If you are paying a disability lump sum benefit to a member, the taxfree component of the benefit is increased for future service benefit if the member had continued working. This reflects the time that the member would have expected to have been working if the disability had not occurred.

The modification to the proportioning rule means that the tax-free component of a disability lump sum benefit is increased. The taxable component is worked out as usual once the final tax-free amount is worked out.

To work out the tax-free component of a disability lump sum benefit, add together:

- the tax-free component worked out under the general proportioning rule
- the amount worked out under the formula in subsection 307-145(3) of the ITAA 1997 (the modification formula):

Amount of benefit x days to retirement Service days + days to retirement

For the purpose of applying the modification formula:

- Days to retirement means the number of days from the day the member became unable to work to their 'last retirement day'.
- The member's **last retirement day** is generally when they would turn 65. However, if their employment or office would have ended when they reached a particular age or completed a particular period of service, their last retirement day is when that would have happened (whether that is before or after age 65).

- **Service days** means the number of days in the 'service period' for the disability super lump sum benefit paid to the member.
- The **service period** for the disability super lump sum generally starts on the earlier day worked out using the following table.

The service period starts In this case: on: The day the member joined Some or all of the disability super lump sum paid to the the particular super fund member from the particular **Example:** super fund accrued while the Andrew became a member of member was a member of the XYZ Super Fund on 13 March fund 2007. The fund has only received personal contributions from Andrew. The fund has not received a rollover super benefit for Andrew at any time. The start day of the service period for the disability super lump sum paid from XYZ Super Fund will be 13 March 2007. Some or all of the disability The day the member became super lump sum paid to the an employee of the employer member from the particular **Example:** super fund accrued while the Andrew started work for Big member was employed by an Employer on 10 July 2009. As employer who contributed to a result of working for Big the fund for the member in Employer, Andrew joined Big respect of a period of Super Fund, Big Employer's employment that commenced default super fund, on 15 before the member joined the August 2009 when Big fund Employer made its first employer contribution to Big Super Fund for Andrew. The

fund has not received a rollover super benefit for Andrew at any time. The start day of the service period for the disability super lump sum paid from Big Super Fund will

be 10 July 2009.

The service period for the disability super lump sum ends on the earlier of the day:

- the disability super lump sum is paid from the particular fund
- the member ceases to be a member of that fund.

However, if some or all of the disability super lump sum paid to the member from the particular super fund is attributable to a rollover super benefit paid earlier into the particular fund, the service period for the disability super lump sum includes any days in the service period for the rollover super benefit that are earlier than the start of the service period for the disability super lump sum worked out using the table above.

More than one rollover super benefit may have been paid to the particular fund.

In the modification formula's denominator, any days that are included in both 'service days' and 'days to retirement' are to be counted only once.

See also:

Sections 307-145 and 307-400 of the ITAA 1997.

Disability income stream benefits

If you pay the disability super benefit as an income stream the <u>proportioning rule</u> is used to calculate the tax-free and taxable components.

Income streams started before July 2007

A super interest, where at least one income stream benefit was paid before 1 July 2007, is valued and proportioned once a trigger event occurs. Until a trigger event occurs, the tax-free component continues to be worked out using the deductible amount that was applied to the benefit before the law changes came into effect.

Trigger events

There are four events that will trigger a change in the way you work out tax-free and taxable component:

- if the member was 60 years old or older on 1 July 2007
- when the member turns 60 years old

- when the member dies
- when the income stream is partially or wholly commuted.

While it is unlikely, there may still be some instances where an income stream has not already been subject to a trigger event since 1 July 2007, for example:

- · disability income stream benefits
- death benefit income streams paid to a non-dependant (payments to a dependant are tax-free so the proportions do not need to be calculated).

For a super income stream paid from an untaxed source the only possible trigger event is commutation. This is because legislation provides that the trigger event of turning 60 and the death of the person who is the holder of the super interest only apply where there is no untaxed element.

When a trigger event occurs, the value of the super income stream interest and the tax-free component of the super interest are calculated at the time just before the trigger event occurred. If there are two or more trigger events, the tax-free component is determined at the time just before the earliest of those events.

When a trigger event occurs the tax-free and taxable components are calculated as:

- tax-free component = the total of the unused undeducted purchase price + the pre-July 1983 component
- taxable component = the value of the super interest less the taxfree component.

If the income stream started before 1 July 1994, a pre-July 1983 component is not added.

The tax-free and taxable components of all future income stream benefits paid after the trigger event will be paid using the same proportions as those that make up the total value of the super interest supporting the income stream just before the trigger event.

Example 7: Super income stream after a trigger event

Chris receives a death benefit income stream of \$2,000 per month. He received payments from this before 1 July 2007. On 30 September 2014, Chris turned 60.

On 30 September 2014, the balance of Chris's super income stream account was \$230,000. Chris's UPP was \$100,000.

The annual deductible amount applying to Chris's income stream immediately before 1 July 2007 was \$5,000.

Between the start of the super income stream and 30 June 2007, Chris claimed \$18,000 as an annual deductible amount for the super income stream.

The tax-free component of income stream payments made from 1 July 2007 to 30 September 2014 was \$35,000.

As Chris turned 60 years of age on 30 September 2014, a trigger event occurred on that date.

Chris's eligible service period is 13,606 days (1 July 1977 to 30 September 2014).

Step 1

Assume a notional payment has been made equal to the value of the super interest just before the trigger event.

The notional payment is \$230,000.

Step 2

Work out the unused UPP of the income stream, less any tax-free components of any benefits paid from the income stream after 1 July 2007.

For Chris's income stream, the unused UPP less the tax-free components is \$47,000 (that is \$100,000 - \$18,000 - \$35,000).

Step 3

Work out the pre-July 1983 component of the notional payment. In the calculation, the last date for Chris's service period is 30 September 2014.

Chris's pre-July 1983 component is the lesser of:

• \$230,000 × 2,191 days ÷ 13,606 days = \$37,038

- \$230,000 \$47,000 = \$183,000.
- If the income stream had started before 1 July 1994, the pre-July 1983 amount would have been nil.

Step 4

The tax-free component of the super interest is the total of the amounts worked out in step 2 and step 3.

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$47,000 + $37,038 = $84,038
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The taxable component of the super interest is the amount remaining after subtracting the tax-free component from the super interest.

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$230,000 - $84,038 = $145,962
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Step 5

The tax-free and taxable proportions of the super interest are worked out as follows:

Tax-free proportion $\% = \$84,038 \div \$230,000$

= 36.5383%

Taxable proportion % = 100% - 36.5383%

= 63.4617%

Work out the tax-free and taxable components of Chris's monthly income stream payments:

Tax-free component = \$2,000 × 36.5383%

= \$730.76

Taxable component = \$2,000 - \$730.76

= \$1,269.24

When working out the proportions, do not round down the decimals. The legislation does not provide for a rounding rule. In the example above, we calculate the proportions to four decimal points for illustration purposes only.

In some cases, such as when the fund member turns 60, super benefits paid from a taxed fund after a trigger event are tax-free. Working out the tax-free and taxable components will have no effect on other benefits you pay from the income stream to the recipient.

However, you must still work out the proportion of the tax-free and taxable components of a member's super interest. This is relevant in other circumstances, such as the member's death where the death benefit beneficiary is a non-dependent, or for rollovers to other funds.

QC 45249

Rollover benefits

Members of most super funds can request that benefits be transferred into a fund of their choice.

Last updated 23 April 2025

The request may be submitted online or on a paper form. You'll need to action the request and provide a statement to both the receiving fund and the member.

Receiving member rollover requests

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How members of your fund can request a rollover to another APRA fund or an SMSF.

Reporting to receiving funds and members



All super funds need to provide a statement to the receiving fund when they roll over or transfer benefits to them.

Receiving member rollover requests

How members of your fund can request a rollover to another APRA fund or an SMSF.

Last updated 23 April 2025

On this page

How a member can request a rollover

Beware of illegal early access of super schemes

Receiving an electronic portability form

Receiving paper forms

How a member can request a rollover

Members of most super funds can request that their super benefits be transferred or rolled over into a fund of their choice.

To transfer the whole balance of a super account between Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) funds or to a self-managed super fund (SMSF), a member may be able to submit an electronic portability form (EPF) through our online services. They'll need a myGov account linked to the ATO .

We'll verify the member's identity and membership details before sending the EPF to the transferring fund for processing. There's no obligation to verify member information when actioning an EPF. Where the receiving fund is an SMSF you may choose to use the SMSF verification service (SVS), which will confirm the SMSF can accept electronic rollovers.

If a member can't request the transfer online, or chooses not to, they can use a paper form to request the transfer the whole balance of their account:

 Request for rollover of whole balance of super benefits between funds (PDF, 190KB) If the member submits their request using a paper form, you need to verify their information using the:

- SuperTICK or the Member Account Attribute Service (MAAS) for APRA regulated funds, and
- SVS where the receiving fund is a SMSF.

A member must complete a separate rollover form for each account they wish to transfer.

If they wish to transfer a part of their super account, they should contact the fund that holds the account to find out what information is required.

Beware of illegal early access of super schemes

Some SMSFs may be set up to illegally gain access to super when no condition of release has been met. This may occur when:

- individuals start an SMSF to illegally gain access to their super
- promoters of illegal schemes convince individuals to start an SMSF
- fraudsters steal the identity of individuals to gain access to their super without their knowledge.

You should review the latest guidance from APRA .

Find out how we are stopping schemes to illegally access super.

Receiving an electronic portability form

All APRA funds must be able to receive and action an EPF. We send the EPF to the transferring fund electronically via SuperStream.

Receiving paper forms

Transfers between APRA funds

The member can send the form to either the transferring or receiving fund.

You must validate their information before actioning a paper rollover request. You can use the MAAS or SuperTICK for TFN validation.

If the service returns an 'unmatched' response, it means we have been unable to verify the TFN provided.

You must ask your member for further proof of identity information within 5 business days. If you haven't received a response within 10 business days of making the request, you must make reasonable further enquiries of the member to obtain the information.

You don't need to re-validate the member's information if you already hold a matched response from either SuperTICK or MAAS.

See more about member account reporting and validation.

Transfers to SMSFs

Super benefits can only be rolled over to a complying SMSF that is regulated. As the transferring fund, you must verify the SMSF and member details using the SVS.

The SVS will verify the following:

- SMSF status (Complying or Regulated)
- the TFN of the individual is associated with the SMSF
- no verified date of death exists for the individual/SMSF member associated with the SMSF
- electronic service address (ESA) details in the request match those held by the ATO.
- SMSF bank details in the request match those held by the ATO some SMSF administrators offer omnibus accounts. For further details refer to Rollovers.

Information for completing the rollover

If you are the trustee of the transferring fund you may request further information from the member:

- to assist with confirming their identity
- to confirm the destination of the payment
- if all mandatory information isn't provided to you on the paper form or EPF.

You must request any further information required within 5 business days of receiving the request. Then you must **complete the rollover** within 3 business days of receiving that information.

QC 24751

Reporting to receiving funds and members

All super funds need to provide a statement to the receiving fund when they roll over or transfer benefits to them.

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On this page

When you must report a rollover of benefits

Reporting to the receiving fund

Payments that require a statement

Creating a branded RBS

When you must report a rollover of benefits

When you pay a rollover super benefit or death benefit to another super fund or retirement savings account (RSA) you must:

- provide a statement to the receiving fund or RSA within 3 days, using the SuperStream data and payments standard
- if the rollover SuperStream standard doesn't apply to the transaction, send a rollover benefits statement (RBS) or a death benefit rollover statement (DBRS) to the receiving fund within 7 days of paying the rollover

provide a statement to the member within 30 days, using the RBS,
 DBRS or a similar statement that has the same information.

You must advise the receiving fund of any changes or omissions in the information you provided to them within 30 days of becoming aware of a material error. Do this by providing a new, corrected statement.

We may apply administrative penalties if we audit your fund and find that an accurate statement has not been provided to the receiving fund on time.

For more information on how to complete an RBS or DBRS, see:

- How to complete a rollover benefits statement
- How to complete a death benefits rollover statement.

Reporting to the receiving fund

APRA-regulated super funds and RSA providers must use the **SuperStream** standard to process:

- rollover requests between funds
- rollover transactions between funds (data and payments)
- · rollover-related mistakes.

If the SuperStream standard doesn't apply to the transaction, you need to use an RBS or DBRS (or similar statement) instead. This includes, for example, if you are the trustee of a non-complying fund paying member benefits to another fund or RSA.

Note: If you are rolling over a death benefit and the beneficiary is a minor, you will need to do **both** of the following:

- send the statement using the SuperStream data and payment standard
- separately provide the details in the DBRS form.

Make sure you use the current version of the RBS form or DBRS form. Don't use the previous version of the RBS (NAT 70944-05.2007) unless you're correcting mistakes in rollovers made between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2013.

For help with electronic rollover transactions to SMSFs, refer to <u>SMSF</u> verification service: Business implementation guide (Word, 245KB) ☑.

For additional help with rollover transactions, see:

- · Fund validation service user guide
- Rollovers: expect data to arrive before payment.

Payments that require a statement

You need to provide a statement to the receiving fund when you pay a rollover or transfer.

You don't need to provide a statement to the receiving fund when you:

- pay death benefits to a dependant of your deceased member if paid directly to their own super fund; this payment is considered to be a benefit payment to the dependant that then becomes a personal contribution to their own fund
- make a payment to your member under a condition of release because of a terminal medical condition; this is a benefit payment to the member that then becomes a new contribution to the new fund
- move an amount from one super plan to a different super plan held by the same trustee (or RSA provider) - you don't need to provide an RBS to your member when a complying super fund is transferring cash or other assets to another complying super fund in a successor fund transfer.

Creating a branded RBS

You may create a fund-branded RBS provided it meets the requirements of an approved form. It must include all relevant fields and information.

For information about creating a branded RBS, lodge a request using the **Super Enquiry Service**.

QC 22779

Contributions splitting for members

How to split certain contributions with spouses.

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On this page

Offering contributions splitting

Approving an application

Super contributions-splitting super benefit

Notice of intention to deduct personal contributions

Reporting to the ATO

Your members may be able to split certain contributions with their spouse, enabling them to boost their spouse's super savings with some of their own.

Your member must give you an application requesting a split of employer contributions and personal contributions made for them in the prior financial year. The fund has the discretion to allow or not allow the request.

Members may be able to carry forward unused concessional contributions to later years, which effectively increases their concessional contributions cap.

This will occur if **all** the following apply:

- the member's concessional contributions for the year exceed the general concessional contributions cap
- the member's total super balance just before the start of the financial year is less than \$500,000
- the member has unused concessional contributions from the previous 5 years (with 2018–19 financial year being the first year you can accrue unused concessional contributions).

Where the member meets these conditions, their increased concessional contributions cap is used to determine the maximum splitable amount.

If you allow an application, you transfer the relevant contributions to an account held by their spouse. The transfer can be either an internal

one within your fund or RSA, or to an account the spouse holds in another fund or RSA.

Offering contributions splitting

You can choose whether to offer contributions splitting and which of your members to offer it to.

All accumulation style super funds, including SMSFs, approved deposit funds (ADFs) and RSAs can choose to offer contributions splitting.

Defined benefit funds can only choose to offer contributions splitting for any accumulation interests that members hold in the fund or scheme.

Members can apply using the form provided by us or you can develop your own application. If you develop your own application, it must ask for the same information that our form asks for.

For more information see the Superannuation contributions splitting application. This explains the eligibility and timing requirements for applications, the types of contributions that can be split, and the impacts on concessional caps.

Approving an application

Accepting an application is at the trustee's discretion. However, a trustee may only approve an application where the following requirements are met:

- For taxed splitable contributions, the amount must be no more than the element taxed in the fund of the taxable component that a member would receive if they withdrew all their super benefits.
- For untaxed splitable employer contributions, the amount must be no more than the element untaxed in the fund of the taxable component that a member would receive if they withdrew all their super benefits.

Super contributions-splitting super benefit

The payment of the split contributions to your member's spouse is referred to as a 'contributions-splitting super benefit'.

The contributions-splitting super benefit is paid as a rollover super benefit when the benefit is rolled over to or transferred between super funds and RSAs or allotted within the one fund or RSA. These amounts may also be rolled over to an ADF.

When a contributions-splitting super benefit is rolled over or transferred to another super entity, you must **provide a statement** to that other entity within 7 days of making the payment. When completing the statement note that, for a contributions-splitting super benefit:

- the 'contributions amounts' (question 15 on the RBS form) are always nil – the contributions made are reported for your member not for their spouse
- the 'rollover amount' (question 13) is always of a taxable component, never tax free – only contributions making up this component are splitable.

Notice of intention to deduct personal contributions

If one of your members wants to both claim a deduction for personal contributions paid to your super fund and split all or part of these contributions with their spouse, the member must give you a Notice of intent to claim or vary a deduction for personal super contributions before, or at the same time as, they lodge their super contributions splitting application. Otherwise the splitting application would be invalid, as only deductible personal contributions are splitable. You must check the validity of the notice and acknowledge it first, before considering the splitting application.

Reporting to the ATO

There are no requirements for funds to specially report to us amounts that have been rolled over or received as a result of a contributions-splitting application. The normal contributions reporting obligations and rollover reporting obligations apply.

Contributions splitting does not reduce the contributions originally made for the member for reporting and contribution caps purposes. Your contributions reporting must report to us all the member's contributions for a financial year, including the contributions that were

transferred to the member's spouse after a contributions splitting application.

Regardless of when a contributions splitting application is accepted and processed, the contributions it refers to are always reported as being made for the member (and not for the member's spouse).

For more information see Superannuation contributions splitting application.

QC 18594

Re-contribution of COVID-19 early release super amounts

Individuals can now re-contribute amounts they withdrew under the COVID-19 early release of super program.

Last updated 14 March 2022

On this page

What you need to do

Information to record and send to us

How to report this information to us

When to report this information to us

Frequently asked questions

Individuals can now re-contribute amounts they withdrew under the COVID-19 early release of super program without them counting towards their non-concessional contributions cap. These contributions can be made between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2030.

COVID-19 re-contribution amounts are **not** a new type of contribution. They are a personal contribution that we will exclude from an individual's non-concessional contribution cap.

Individuals can make COVID-19 re-contribution amounts to any fund of their choice where the fund rules allow.

What you need to do

Individuals can use the approved form to make a COVID-19 recontribution. You can choose to design your own *Notice of recontribution of COVID-19 early release amounts* approved form for your members, as outlined in the CRT Alert 008/2021Once you receive a completed approved form from your member you need to:

- Check the COVID-19 re-contribution amount, an amount cannot be accepted where it exceeds \$20,000. You may wish to confirm with your member if the correct figure has been provided.
- Provide us with the information from the approved forms you have received – you are not required to provide nil lodgment reports.

There is no change for you when accepting and reporting personal contribution amounts that a member is treating as a COVID-19 recontribution.

Information to record and send to us

We require you to:

- Capture the following information from the Notice of re-contribution of COVID-19 early release amounts approved form.
- Create a comma separated value (CSV) file containing all reported member data per the exact specifications included in the Recontribution of COVID-19 early release of superannuation amount guide
 ☐ (the Guide). A sample template is available at section 2.2 of the Guide.

Table: Information to record and send to us

Field	Data type	Length	Mandatory	Valida
Member's TFN	Integer	9	Υ	TFN algoritl

String	38	Υ	-
String	38	Y	-
String	38	N	-
String	8	Υ	DDMM
String	16	Y N	-
String	14	Y N	-
String	8	N	DDMM
Decimal	5, 2	Υ	0.01 to 20000
String	3	Y	Respoi must = Validat fails if declaratis not signed
String	8	Υ	DDMM
	String String String String String String String	String 38 String 8 String 16 String 14 String 8 Decimal 5, 2 String 3	String 38 Y String 38 N String 8 Y String 16 Y Y N String 14 Y String 8 N Decimal 5, 2 Y String 3 Y

Date String Declaration Received	8	Y	DDMM
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How to report this information to us

To report Covid-19 re-contribution amounts received from your members, we have developed the functionality for you to use the bulk data exchange facility via online services for business and online services for agents.

To report member COVID-19 re-contribution information to us you will need to undertake the following steps:

- Log on to online services for businesses or online services for agents and navigate to the 'File transfer' screen, selecting 'Lodge' to open the submission form.
 - a. If using online services for business the 'File transfer' screen is available via the 'Lodgments' menu.
 - **b.** If using online services for agents the 'File transfer' screen is available via the 'Reports and forms' menu.
- 2. Input the details requested within the form and click 'submit', ensuring the following actions are completed
 - a. select 'lodge'
 - b. attach your CSV file
 - c. select to receive a validation report and include an email address
 - d. tick to sign the declaration.
- 3. Check your validation report to ensure that your form has been successfully submitted. If a validation error has occurred, follow the instructions within the validation report to correct the error and resubmit your form using the process above.

SMSFs without access to online services for business and who are not represented by a tax agent can report over the phone by calling our Superannuation Enquiries line on **13 10 20**.

When to report this information to us

APRA Funds should report this information to us on a monthly basis and report the contribution as a personal contribution through MATS.

SMSFs need to report this information to us at or before the time of lodging their SMSF Annual Return for the financial year in which the member made the COVID-19 re-contribution. This information must be reported separately through the process outlined above.

Frequently asked questions

Accepting COVID-19 re-contributions

Can your member make a COVID-19 re-contribution without the approved form?

No. Individuals choosing to make a COVID-19 re-contribution must notify you in the approved form, either before or at the time of making the contribution. Individuals can use the approved form or you can choose to design your own *Notice of re-contribution of COVID-19 early release amounts* for your members

Are you required to hold a valid TFN in order to accept a COVID-19 re-contribution?

Yes. Regulation 7.04 of the Superannuation Industry Supervision Regulations 1994 (SISR) provides that a fund cannot accept any member contributions if the member's TFN has not been provided.

Does a member have to make a COVID-19 re-contribution to the same fund from which they accessed funds through the COVID-19 early release measure?

Members can make COVID-19 re-contributions to any fund of their choice, where the fund rules allow.

Can a member make multiple COVID-19 re-contributions?

Yes, multiple contributions can be made. COVID-19 re-contribution amounts can be made between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2030.

Are there any restrictions on who can make a COVID-19 recontribution?

Yes, the general acceptance rules under regulation 7.04 of the SISR applies to COVID-19 re-contributions.

Does the work test apply for COVID-19 re-contributions received this financial year?

COVID-19 re-contributions are personal contributions. The current rules regarding the acceptance of contributions as contained in the SISR apply to this contribution, including the application of the work test or work test exemption.

Are you required to match the amount of the personal contribution against the amount on the approved form or is reporting the information on the approved form received the only requirement?

We will perform the match of the amount on the form compared to the personal contributions reported to us. There is no need for you to match the amounts.

Are members of defined benefit funds eligible to make these contributions into their defined benefit interest (if the fund rules permit)?

The law does not specify the type of super funds to which the COVID-19 re-contribution can be made. The current rules regarding the acceptance of contributions as contained in the SISR apply to the COVID-19 re-contribution. Similarly, the acceptance of the COVID-19 re-contribution is also subject to the acceptance rules of the fund.

What is required of you if the declaration has not been completed by the member?

The law requires the member to declare that the contribution is to be treated as a COVID-19 re-contribution at the time or before the contribution is made. If that declaration, including the date of declaration, has not been made then the contribution cannot be treated as a COVID-19 re-contribution. You are not able to accept the amount as a COVID-19 re-contribution and then later accept a COVID-19 re-contribution form that relates to that earlier contribution. The alternatives available to you are:

- contact the member and have them make the declaration and then accept the contribution after the declaration has been made and report as normal, or
- accept the contribution and don't report the information on the approved form because that contribution cannot be treated by us as a COVID-19 re-contribution without the declaration. The fund will report the contribution as a personal contribution.

Administering COVID-19 re-contributions

Do you have an obligation to monitor COVID-19 re-contributions across a single financial year, or from year to year?

No, but you must not accept a single approved form declaring more than \$20,000 as a COVID-19 re-contribution.

What is the process if we determine a member who has claimed a recontribution of early release of super is ineligible?

COVID-19 re-contribution amounts are reported as personal contributions. If the member is found to be ineligible it may result in that member exceeding their non-concessional contributions cap.

Is a re-contribution of early release of super a preserved tax-free amount?

The COVID-19 re-contribution will be preserved until the member meets a condition of release as set out in Schedule 1 of the SISR and the amount will form part of the tax-free component of the superannuation interest under section 307-210 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (ITAA 97).

Is the amount excluded from a member's non-concessional contributions cap calculated on an annual or rolling basis?

COVID-19 re-contribution amounts are excluded from the non-concessional contributions cap on an annual basis based on the actual COVID-19 re-contribution amount(s) made during the financial year.

If you report a COVID-19 re-contribution form to us, but the contribution never arrives how will this be treated?

There is no change to the process for funds. You would report the COVID-19 re-contribution to us, we will see from the reporting that there is no related personal contribution, and no amounts would be treated as a COVID-19 re-contribution.

What happens if the COVID-19 re-contribution declared on the form is more than the personal contribution received?

There is no change to the process for you. You would report the COVID-19 re-contribution to us and accept the personal contribution, subject to your acceptance rules, and report it to us. We will see the difference and only treat the amount of the actual contribution as being excluded from the non-concessional contributions cap

calculation. We will then treat the portion of the next personal contribution(s) in that financial year if any, as a COVID -19 recontribution up to the amount on the COVID-19 re-contribution form or the approved early release amount whichever is the lesser.

What happens if the COVID-19 re-contribution declared on the form is less than the personal contribution received?

There is no change to the process for you. You would report the COVID-19 re-contribution to us and accept the personal contribution, subject to your acceptance rules, and report it to us. We will see the difference and only treat the amount of the personal contribution up to the amount included on the member's form as being excluded from the non-concessional contributions cap calculations (provided that this amount does not exceed the approved COVID-19 early release amount). Any amount of the personal contribution exceeding that, as detailed in the member form, will count as a personal contribution and count towards the non-concessional contributions cap calculation.

Can multiple personal contributions be covered by one approved form be treated as COVID-19 re-contributions?

One approved form may cover multiple contributions in a financial year, as long as the form is provided to the super fund on or before the time when the contributions are made.

Example: multiple COVID-19 re-contribution amounts

Sam lodges the COVID-19 re-contribution form with their fund on 23 August 2025 declaring an amount of \$20,000 to be a COVID -19 re-contribution on:

- 30 August 2025 Sam makes a contribution of \$5,000
- 15 December 2025 Sam makes a contribution of \$10,000
- 3 May 2026 Sam makes a contribution of \$5,000

As Sam has lodged the approved form on or before the contributions were made each of those contributions will be treated as a COVID-19 re-contribution.

Alternatively, Sam may lodge three approved forms on or before each of the above dates for the amounts contributed on those dates. That would also result in the amounts being treated as COVID-19 re-contributions.

If a member submits an approved form to one fund without a personal contribution then makes a personal contribution to another fund, will the contribution be considered a COVID-19 recontribution?

We wouldn't accept the contribution to another fund as being a COVID-19 re-contribution as the declaration needs to include the name of the fund and the fund ABN. If the member account number and the USI are known these should be included, SMSFs should leave this information blank. The intent of the provision through the operation of paragraphs 292-103(1)(a) and (2)(b) of the ITAA 97 is that the approved form must be given to the same fund that the contribution will be made to. If the contribution is made to a different fund, then the declaration has not been made in respect of the receiving fund at or before the time a valid declaration has been made for that fund and account.

What considerations are there in relation to the date of contribution provided on the approved form matching the date the payment is received as this may not align due to the nature of digital payments?

The law requires the member to declare that the contribution is to be treated as a COVID-19 re-contribution at the time or before the contribution is made. We will perform the match of the amount on the form compared to the personal contributions reported to us. There is no need for you to match the amounts or dates.

Additional scenarios

Can you update the Notice of intent to claim or vary a deduction for personal super contributions form and the COVID-19 re-contribution form to have the member declare that their intent to claim is not also a re-contribution?

Individuals declare on the COVID-19 re-contribution form that they withdrew amounts under COVID early release, will not contribute more than they withdrew and will not claim a personal super deduction for a COVID-19 re-contribution. Funds will not be required to check that COVID-19 re-contribution amounts are not claimed as a personal super deduction. There will be no changes made to the *Notice of intent to claim or vary a deduction for personal super contributions* form.

How is a COVID-19 re-contribution reported as part of a rollover?

This would be reported in the same manner as other personal contributions.

Does a COVID-19 re-contribution meet the personal contribution eligibility requirement for a co-contribution?

As long as the member meets all of the eligibility criteria in section 6 of the Superannuation (Government Co-contributions for Low Income Earners) Act 2003, a COVID-19 re-contribution would be an eligible personal superannuation contribution that attracts co-contributions.

Will making a COVID-19 re-contribution impact the selection of a stapled fund?

The Regulations for the stapled fund measure contain the hierarchy rules. In accordance with those Regulations a fund will firstly be a stapled fund in the case where the Commissioner has previously identified the fund as a stapled fund. Then if a stapled fund has not been previously identified the stapled fund will be the one which has received the most recent contributions for the benefit of the employee. As such a COVID-19 re-contribution may cause a fund to be one which has received the most recent contribution.

How will making a COVID-19 re-contribution impact unclaimed and lost member criteria?

A member will no longer be a lost member or meet the definition of an unclaimed super account where a contribution has been made.

Does a COVID-19 re-contribution need to be supported as part of the suite of SuperStream transactions?

No, there is no change required.

If a member provides an approved form notifying of a COVID-19 recontribution to their fund and a successor fund transfer (SFT) occurs, what are the SFT requirements for the fund and/or member in regard to reporting the COVID-19 re-contribution?

The successor fund reporting protocol states that before closing member accounts, the transferring fund will need to ensure the reporting of member account transactions and contributions is up to date and accurate at the time of the transfer.

It is a requirement of section 292–103 of the ITAA 1997 that the approved form and contribution is given to the same complying super

Example: Does not meet the COVID-19 re-contribution requirements

Meah lodges the COVID-19 re-contribution form with Fund A on 10 August 2023 declaring an amount of \$20,000 to be a COVID -19 re-contribution.

On 30 September 2023, Fund A undergoes a SFT with Fund B.

Meah makes a personal contribution to Fund B on 7 March 2024 for \$20,000.

Because Fund A reported the details of the approved form to the ATO while Fund B reported the personal contributions amount, this does not meet the requirements to be a COVID-19 recontribution.

To ensure that the amount is treated as a COVID-19 recontribution, Meah would have needed to provide the approved form to Fund B prior to making the contribution.

Example: Meets the COVID-19 re-contribution requirements

Connor lodges the COVID-19 re-contribution form with Fund A on 5 December 2021 declaring an amount of \$5,000 to be a COVID -19 re-contribution.

Connor makes a personal contribution of \$5,000 to Fund A on 3 January 2022.

Fund A reports both the details from the approved form and the personal contribution amount to the ATO.

Fund A undergoes a SFT with Fund B on 20 April 2022.

This meets the requirements to be a COVID-19 re-contribution, as Fund A has been given the approved form and the personal contribution amount, which has been reported to the ATO, prior to undergoing a SFT.

Updated guidance – market linked pensions

Changes to calculating a debit from the commutation, or ceasing a CDBIS in the event of an SFT.

Last updated 23 December 2024

On this page

Transfer balance cap debits covered by the change

Transfer balance cap debits not covered by the change

Calculating the value of the debit

Transfer balance cap debits covered by the change

The change applies when calculating the value of the debit arising when a non-commutable, life expectancy or market linked income stream that is also a capped defined benefit income stream (CDBIS) is commuted or ceased to be paid due to a successor fund transfer (SFT).

Most commonly these will be market linked pensions and annuities which commenced prior to 1 July 2017 and were not subsequently commuted in full. This includes market linked pensions which were CDBIS and continue to be paid to reversionary beneficiaries.

The change also applies to CDBIS which are:

- life expectancy pensions paid under sub regulation 1.06(7) of the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Regulations 1994 (SISR)
- life expectancy annuities paid under a contract that meets the standards of sub regulation 1.05(9) of the SISR.

Transfer balance cap debits not covered by the change

These are debits arising:

- when market linked pensions which are no longer CDBIS are commuted
- for a deceased member on their death
- when CDBIS which are non-commutable lifetime pensions and lifetime annuities are commuted.

For more information, see Law Companion Ruling 2016/10 Superannuation reform: capped defined benefit income streams – non commutable, lifetime pensions and lifetime annuities.

Calculating the value of the debit

The debit value of the superannuation interest just before the full commutation is the amount of the original transfer balance credit in respect of the superannuation income stream less the sum of the following amounts:

- the amount of any transfer balance debits (other than a debit arising under item 4 of the table in subsection 294-80(1) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (ITAA) in respect of the income stream before the commutation
- the total amount of superannuation income stream benefits the person was entitled to receive before the start of the financial year the commutation takes place
- the greater of
 - the sum of the superannuation income stream benefits paid during the financial year the commutation takes place
 - the minimum amount required to be paid under regulations 1.07B and 1.07C of SISR or regulation 1.08 of the Retirement Savings Account Regulations 1997 during the financial year the commutation takes
- where the transfer balance debits that need to be considered are those debits arising out of a partial commutation of the income

stream on or after 1 July 2017 – these include partial commutations arising out of a family law superannuation split.

Following a divorce or other relationship breakdown superannuation interests may be split by the spouse fully or partially commuting a superannuation income stream or by dividing the superannuation income stream payments.

It is only debits arising under item 4 of the table in subsection 294-80(1) of the ITAA when an income stream is divided (a payment split) that are disregarded when calculating the value of this debit. Debits arising from a payment split are reported to us by the individual.

For more information, see Law Companion Ruling 2016/9 Superannuation reform: transfer balance cap.

The total amount of superannuation income stream benefits the member was entitled to receive before the start of the financial year the commutation takes place will be equivalent to the actual pension payments made between 1 July 2017 and the year the commutation occurs, provided that the payments are made in accordance with the requisite standards

In the year the commutation occurs, any income stream benefits paid prior to the commutation occurring are included in the calculation to reduce the value of the debit. If the commutation occurred part way through the year, then any benefits paid would be included up to commutation date.

Where the income stream started to be paid to a reversionary beneficiary on or after 1 July 2017 only the benefits the reversionary beneficiary was entitled to receive are considered when calculating the value of the debit.

For market linked income streams under 294-145 (6A)(c) the minimum amount would encompass the annual amount calculation which considers percentage variances in accordance with Schedule 6 of the SISR.

Calculating the value of the debit for an income stream that ceases due to a successor fund transfer (SFT)

Where a market linked or similar income stream that was a CDBIS ceases under an SFT, the debit value when the income stream ceases

is the transfer balance credit that arose in respect of the income stream less the amount of any transfer balance debits (except from a payment split) in respect of the income stream before it ceased in the transferring fund.

Calculating and reporting the credit when a new income stream commences after the commutation of a CDBIS

Where a market linked or similar income stream that was a CDBIS is, or was, commuted and restarted on or after 1 July 2017, the income stream will no longer be a CDBIS.

You should calculate the ordinary value of the credit and ensure:

- the account status is 'non-capped defined benefit income stream' (for providers using MAAS)
- if you are a self-managed super fund (SMSF), the income stream is reported as an account-based pension.

Where this income stream is a market-linked or life expectancy pension or annuity and it commenced prior to 5 April 2022, then the effective date is reported as 5 April 2022. This is to ensure that any excess transfer balance tax, if applicable, is calculated from when the new regulation commenced on 5 April 2022.

For more information, see Administrative requirements for TBAR due to law change.

Calculating and reporting the credit when the income stream recommences as part of a successor fund transfer (APRA funds only)

Where a market linked or similar income stream that was a CDBIS ceases and restarts on or after 1 July 2017 under a SFT, the restarted income stream will be a CDBIS.

For the transfer balance credit, the rules for calculating the special value do not apply. The successor fund must report the credit amount of the new income stream as equal to the debit amount reported by the transferring fund when the income stream ceased.

For more information, see Successor and intra-fund transfer reporting protocol.

Our commitment to you

We are committed to providing you with accurate, consistent and clear information to help you understand your rights and entitlements and meet your obligations.

If you follow our information and it turns out to be incorrect, or it is misleading and you make a mistake as a result, we will take that into account when determining what action, if any, we should take.

Some of the information on this website applies to a specific financial year. This is clearly marked. Make sure you have the information for the right year before making decisions based on that information.

If you feel that our information does not fully cover your circumstances, or you are unsure how it applies to you, contact us or seek professional advice.

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