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Early access to super

Your super is for retirement, but you may be able to access it earlier on compassionate and other hardship grounds.

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Understand the limited circumstances in which you can access your superannuation before retirement.

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QC 23235

When you can access your super early

Understand the limited circumstances in which you can access your superannuation before retirement.

Last updated 8 July 2026

Overview

You can access your super early in very limited circumstances, including to pay certain expenses on compassionate grounds, as well as terminal illness, incapacity and severe financial hardship.

For information on how to save money for your first home inside your super fund, see First home super saver scheme.

It's important to understand how tax applies to your super withdrawals.

Access on compassionate grounds

You may be allowed to withdraw your super early on compassionate grounds to pay for:

- medical treatment for you or your dependant
- medical transport for you or your dependant
- modifications to your home or vehicle to accommodate your or your dependant's special needs arising from a severe disability
- palliative care for you or your dependant
- death, funeral or burial expenses of your dependant
- preventing foreclosure or forced sale of your home.

You will need to:

- meet all eligibility conditions
- provide the relevant documents to support your application. Applications that don't include these documents may be delayed or not approved.

Applications can be made:

- via ATO online services
- on our paper form, if you don't have access to our online services.

Super that is withdrawn on compassionate grounds is paid and taxed as a normal super lump sum. You need to include any taxable amounts in your tax return.

For more information, including how to apply, see Access on compassionate grounds.

Access due to a terminal medical condition

You can ask your super fund to release your super benefits if you have a terminal medical condition and **all** these conditions are met:

- Two registered medical practitioners have certified, jointly or separately, that you suffer from an illness or injury that is likely to result in death within 24 months of the date of signing the certificate.
- At least one of the registered medical practitioners is a specialist practising in an area related to your illness or injury.
- The 24-month certification period from the date of the certification(s) has not ended.

If approved, a payment from your super fund will be made as a tax-free super lump sum payment as long as your super is in a complying super plan or annuity scheme.

If you meet the terminal medical condition and you have ATO-held super, you can claim it either through your super fund or directly from us.

For more information on eligibility and how to apply, see Access due to a terminal medical condition.

Access due to severe financial hardship

You may be able to withdraw **some** of your super if you are experiencing severe financial hardship.

Access on grounds of severe financial hardship is **not** administered by the ATO. You need to contact your super provider to request access due to severe financial hardship.

There are no special tax rates for a super withdrawal because of severe financial hardship. Withdrawals are paid and taxed as a normal super lump sum. If you're:

- under 60 years old, this is generally taxed at between 17% and 22%
- 60 years or older, you won't be taxed unless the lump sum includes an untaxed element.

You need to include any taxable amounts in your tax return.

For more information, including how to apply, see Access due to severe financial hardship.

Access due to temporary incapacity

You may be able to access your super if you are temporarily unable to work or you need to work fewer hours because of a physical or mental medical condition.

This condition of release is generally used to access insurance benefits linked to your super account.

Contact your super provider to:

- ask about insurance attached to your super
- request access to your super due to temporary incapacity.

If you are granted access, you'll receive the super in regular payments (an income stream) over the time you are unable to work. You need to include any taxable amounts in your tax return.

There are no special tax rates for a super withdrawal due to temporary incapacity. Withdrawals are paid and taxed as a super income stream. For more information, see Tax on super benefits.

Access due to permanent incapacity

You may be able to access your super if you are permanently incapacitated. This type of super withdrawal is sometimes called a 'disability super benefit'.

Your fund must be satisfied that you have a permanent physical or mental medical condition that is likely to stop you from ever working again in a job you were qualified to do by education, training or experience. You may still be eligible to withdraw your super if you are undertaking other work, such as light duties in a different position or casual work in a different field.

Contact your super fund to request access to your super because of permanent incapacity.

You can receive the super as either a lump sum or as regular payments (income stream).

To receive reduced tax rates (concessional tax treatment) on super that is withdrawn due to permanent incapacity you must be certified by at least 2 medical practitioners.

To work out how your super payment will be taxed you need to know how much of the money in your super account is a:

- tax-free component
- taxable component the super provider has already paid tax on (taxed element)
- taxable component the super provider has **not** paid tax on (untaxed element).

If you're under your preservation age **and** receive a disability benefit as an income stream, you'll get the super income stream tax offset that reduces the tax rate on the taxed element of your taxable component by 15%.

If you've reached your preservation age **or** if you get a lump sum, your disability benefit will be taxed at the rates described in Tax on super benefits.

You need to include any taxable amounts in your tax return.

Super balance less than $200

You may be able to access your super if:

- your employment is terminated and the balance of your super account is less than $200
- you have found a 'lost super' account with a balance less than $200.

Check the eligibility criteria for withdrawing super from ATO-held accounts.

Contact your super provider to request access.

You do not have to pay tax when accessing super accounts with a balance less than $200.

Illegal early release schemes

Some promoters claim to offer early access to your super by transferring it into a self-managed super fund (SMSF). These schemes are illegal, and heavy penalties apply if you get involved. For more information, see Illegal early release of super.

Be aware of scams and schemes

Be alert to scams or schemes where people:

- impersonate the ATO or your super fund to try and steal your money or personal identifying information
- contact you and charge for services that are free, like gaining early access to your superannuation.

If you receive a phone call, text message or email offering to help you release your super early, **do not**:

- provide your personal information
- click on any links.

You can contact us to confirm if an interaction is genuine.

Stolen or misused identity

If you're concerned that someone has accessed your super without your permission, you should check the account contact details and recent transactions in **both** your:

- myGov and ATO Online account
- superannuation account, through your super fund.

If you receive a text message or email stating that your myGov details have been changed, or that you have applied for early release of super when you know that you have not done these things, do not click on any links. Consider whether your identity may have been stolen or misused (compromised).

If you think that someone has stolen or misused your identity, immediately contact:

- your super fund, if you identify unauthorised transactions or updates to your account
- our Client Identity Support Centre on **1800 467 033** (between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday) to help you secure your tax identity.

If you have the ATO App you also have the option of locking your account. If you do lock your account due to fraud concerns, you must still contact us as soon as possible.

QC 73095

Access due to a terminal medical condition

How to access your super early if you have a terminal medical condition.

Last updated 8 July 2026

Eligibility

You may be able to access your super early if you have a terminal medical condition. Super lump sums released on these grounds are tax-free amounts providing **all** these conditions are met:

- Two registered medical practitioners have certified (jointly or separately) that you suffer from an illness or an injury that is likely to result in death within 24 months of the date of the certification.
- At least one of the registered medical practitioners is a specialist practising in an area related your illness or injury.
- The 24-month certification period from the date of the certification(s) has not ended.

This can be one certificate signed by both medical practitioners or two separate certificates each signed by a different medical practitioner.

The certificates should state that it is the opinion of your medical practitioners that you suffer from an illness or injury which is likely to result in your death within 24 months.

Be aware that you can apply for early release on compassionate grounds (under different rules) to pay for certain medical expenses, including medical treatment, medical transport and palliative care.

Accessing super held by your fund

You can ask your super fund to release your super benefits if you have a terminal medical condition.

There are no set limits on the amount you can withdraw from your super. However, payments are subject to the rules of your fund.

Type of benefits

If you satisfy this condition of release, any benefits that have accrued up to that point become unrestricted non-preserved benefits. Any additional benefits you accrue during the 24-month certification period also become unrestricted non-preserved benefits. These can be accessed as a tax-free lump sum payment if you withdraw it within 24 months of certification.

Any balances remaining after the certification period ends can be accessed at any time but may not be tax-free.

Any benefits that accrue after the certification period are not covered by the original terminal medical condition of release. You should speak to your super fund about what new certification may be required.

Applying for release

Contact your super fund directly for information on how to apply.

If you're thinking about rolling over your super to another fund or have already made a rollover request, make sure you complete the rollover **before** applying to access your super due to a terminal medical condition. If you don't do this, there may be adverse tax consequences. For more information see Transferring or consolidating your super.

Be aware that you can apply for early release on compassionate grounds (under different rules) to pay for certain medical expenses, including medical treatments, medical transport and palliative care.

How tax applies

A payment from your provider will be made as a tax-free super lump sum payment as long as your super is in a complying super plan or annuity scheme.

For the payment to be tax-free you must have a terminal medical condition either:

- at the time of the payment

- within 90 days of receiving the payment for a refund of tax paid on super.

A complying super plan is either a:

- complying super fund
- public sector super scheme that is either
  - a regulated super fund
  - an exempt public sector super scheme
- complying approved deposit fund
- retirement savings account.

When you receive a tax-free super lump sum payment:

- your provider doesn't have to give you a payment summary
- you don't need to include the amount on your tax return.

Accessing ATO-held super

If you're suffering from a terminal medical condition and you have super held by us you can either:

- ask your super fund to claim this on your behalf and then pay the amount to you
- claim it directly from us.

Claiming from us

You can access our online application form using ATO online services via your myGov account. We have information on how to create a myGov account and link it to the ATO. We recommend using a Digital ID (such as myID) for more secure and flexible access to ATO online services.

To apply online:

- log into ATO online services
- select **Super**
- select **Manage**

- select **Withdraw ATO-held super.**

You will need to upload either:

- your medical certificate(s) from two registered medical practitioners
- the approved paper form – Application for payment of ATO-held superannuation money – which has been completed by your medical practitioners.

How tax applies

Any amount claimed directly from us during a period of certification is treated as a tax-free lump sum.

Proof of your condition

We'll only ask for you to prove your terminal medical condition once during a period of certification. If you have previously informed us of a terminal medical condition and would like to claim your super credit balance in a lump sum direct payment, you will not be asked to reprove your condition as long as proof was provided within the certification period.

Once the certification period on your terminal medical condition has expired, if more super has accrued in your account you can claim this directly from us. You must provide new proof of a terminal medical condition that will start another 24-month certification period.

Refund of tax paid on super

If you received a lump sum super payment before you knew you had a terminal medical condition, you may be eligible for a refund of the tax you paid on the lump sum.

You need to give your super fund the required medical certification stating that you had a terminal medical condition either:

- at the time of the payment
- within 90 days of receiving the payment.

If you're requesting the refund before the end of the financial year in which the payment was made, you should request the refund from your super fund. If it's in the following financial year you should request the refund from us.

In your request provide:

- a copy of your medical certification (certified by 2 medical practitioners)
- the payment summary from your fund
- your bank account details, if you want us to pay your refund directly into your account.

If your super fund refuses to refund the tax paid you can apply to us. You'll need to provide evidence your fund has refused to refund the tax.

Send your application to us by:

- mail to

  Australian Taxation Office
  PO BOX 3100
  PENRITH NSW 2740

- fax to **1300 669 756**.

QC 61870

Access due to severe financial hardship

When you can access super early due to severe financial hardship and how to apply.

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Eligibility

Eligibility for access due to severe financial hardship depends on your age in relation to your preservation age. Your preservation age is the age at which you can access your super if you're retired, or at which you can start a transition to a retirement income stream.

1. Under preservation age

If you are under your preservation age, you need to satisfy both these conditions:

- You have received eligible government income support payments for a continuous period of 26 weeks.
- You are not able to meet reasonable and immediate family living expenses.

The minimum amount that can be withdrawn is $1,000 and the maximum is $10,000. If your super balance is less than $1,000 you can withdraw up to your remaining balance (after tax).

You can only make one withdrawal in any 12-month period.

2. Reached preservation age plus 39 weeks

If you've reached your preservation age plus 39 weeks, you need to meet both these conditions:

- You have received eligible government income support payments for a cumulative period of 39 weeks after you reached your preservation age.
- You were not gainfully employed at the time of applying.

There are no restrictions on how much you can withdraw if you meet the age condition and the other 2 conditions.

How to apply

You need to apply to your super fund directly for release of super on financial hardship grounds. The ATO does not process severe financial hardship requests.

If your super provider requests evidence, you can ask Services Australia to provide a letter confirming you have received eligible government income support payments for the relevant period.

For more information on how to apply for early access to your super because of financial hardship, see If you need to apply because of financial hardship at Services Australia.

Tax on super benefits

Work out the tax that applies to withdrawals or payments from super.

Last updated 2 August 2023

How super is taxed

Super may be taxed at 3 points in its life cycle:

- on contributions
- on the investment earnings in the fund, which in the
  - accumulation phase are taxed at 15%
  - retirement phase are tax-free – subject to a lifetime limit on the amount you can transfer into retirement phase (your transfer balance cap)
- on withdrawal, as explained in this page.

How tax applies to your super withdrawals

To withdraw money from super you need to have satisfied a condition of release. Except where indicated, the tax treatment explained here assumes you have satisfied a condition of release.

To work out how your super withdrawal will be taxed you need to know:

- whether the money in your super account is tax-free or taxable – your super benefits generally include both
- your preservation age and your age when you get the payment
- whether you get the payment as a lump sum or income stream (and the type of income stream)
- whether you're receiving a death benefit income stream
- whether you exceed the following caps
  - defined benefit income cap

  - low rate cap
  - untaxed plan cap amount.

These factors determine whether you:

- pay tax on the withdrawal
- get tax offsets that reduce the amount of tax you pay.

To find the tax rates for your super payment, choose the scenario that applies to you at the time you expect to withdraw the super:

- if your age is less than your preservation age
- if you're between your preservation age and 60 years old
- if you're 60 years or older or receiving a capped defined benefit income stream
- if you're receiving a capped defined benefit income stream that is a death benefit.

Tax-free and taxable super

To understand how your super payment is taxed, you need to know whether the money in your super account when withdrawn is either:

- tax-free – the 'tax-free component' of your super
- taxable – the 'taxable component' of your super, consisting of either or both:
  - a taxed element
  - an untaxed element, depending on whether the benefit is paid from a taxed or untaxed source. A super benefit containing an untaxed element is most commonly in a public sector fund.

Your super fund can tell you how much of the money in your super account is tax-free or taxable.

Why some super is tax-free and some taxable

Whether the money in your super account is tax-free or taxable when you withdraw it generally depends on the type of contributions made and whether tax was paid on it:

- Tax-free withdrawals are generally from your non-concessional (after-tax) contributions, including personal contributions you made from your after-tax income, unless you were allowed a tax deduction for them.
- Taxable withdrawals are generally from your concessional (before-tax) contributions – those made from income before you paid tax on it, including:
  - the super contributions your employer must make for you
  - money you salary sacrifice into super
  - super contributions you were allowed to claim a tax deduction for.

The amount of tax you pay when you withdraw taxable super depends on your age and whether your fund paid tax on it:

- contributions and related investment earnings on which your fund **has paid tax** (at the rate of 15%) forms the 'taxed element' of your taxable super
- any amount included in your taxable super that your fund has not paid tax on forms the ‘untaxed element’ of your taxable super.

Generally, your super benefit will include both a tax-free and a taxable component. When you make a withdrawal, your fund calculates the components of the withdrawal based on the proportion of components that make up the total value of your super account.

The amount of each component is calculated at the following times:

- each lump sum payment – just before it is paid
- income stream – when the income stream starts
- income stream commuted to a lump sum – the components are calculated when the income stream started. (However, if the income stream is a deferred super income stream, the components are calculated just before the commutation occurred)
- an income stream commuted back into your super – before a new benefit is paid.

For more information, see Calculating components of a super benefit.

You can't choose to withdraw only from the tax-free component of your super account unless the total amount of your account is tax-free.

You're under your preservation age

This section applies to you if both:

- you're currently under your preservation age
- you were not in receipt of a death benefit (reversionary) capped defined benefit income stream where the deceased was 60 years old or older at the time of death.

To work out how your super payment will be taxed you need to know how much of the money in your super account is a:

- tax-free component
- taxable component the super fund paid tax on (taxed element)
- taxable component the super fund has not paid tax on (untaxed element).

Tax on withdrawals of tax-free component

You don’t pay tax on the tax-free component of your super where you:

- withdraw it as a lump sum
- receive an account-based income stream.

Tax may be payable on the tax-free component of your super income stream where:

- you're in receipt of a death benefit capped defined benefit income stream where the deceased was 60 years old or older at the time of death
- you exceed your defined benefit income cap.

The exception is where you have illegally accessed your super before you met a condition of release. In these circumstances, the entire amount of your super benefit is taxable regardless of whether it has a tax-free component.

Tax on withdrawals of taxable component

The taxable component of your payment is taxed as shown in this table.

Tax rates on taxable component withdrawals

Type of super	Type of withdrawal	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy)
Taxable component – taxed element	Income stream	Your marginal tax rate – however, if you receive the income stream as a disability super benefit, you are entitled to a tax offset of 15% on the taxed element
Taxable component – taxed element	Lump sum	Your marginal tax rate or 22%, whichever is lower
Taxable component – untaxed element	Income stream	Your marginal tax rate
Taxable component – untaxed element	Lump sum	Your marginal tax rate or 32%, whichever is lower – unless the sum of the untaxed elements of all super lump sum benefits received under the super plan exceeds the untaxed plan cap. Amounts above the cap will be taxed at the top marginal rate. The untaxed plan cap applies separately to each super provider you receive super lump sums from.

Other tax rates may apply in some special circumstances.

Filling out your tax return

When you withdraw money from super, your super fund will send you a payment summary showing:

- how much of the super you received is taxable and how much is tax-free
- how much tax they withheld from the payment to pay on your behalf
- any tax offset applicable to the taxed element you receive.

When you fill out your tax return you must include the taxable component of your super payment as assessable income.

Only claim tax offsets for super income streams in the offset section of your tax return – tax offsets for super lump sums are calculated by us.

Example: lump sum

Suzi is 50 years old and applies to withdraw some super on compassionate grounds.

Suzi receives a lump sum super benefit of $11,000. Her fund tells her this consists of a $1,000 tax-free component and $10,000 taxable component. The entire taxable super was taxed in the fund.

When Suzi completes her tax return, she includes the $10,000 taxable component as income. This results in her paying the following effective tax rates.

Effective tax rates paid by Suzi

Type of super	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy)
Tax-free component: $1,000	No tax
Taxable component – taxed element: $10,000	Her marginal tax rate or 22%, whichever is lower

Example: multiple lump sum payments in a year

Frankie is 45 years old, and a military veteran who receives several invalidity super lump sums each year. He is not eligible to have his super lump sums treated as disability super benefits and has not exceeded the untaxed plan cap.

The total of the multiple lump sums he received during the year is $70,000. At the end of the year his fund gives him a single payment summary showing that $5,000 was the tax free component, $45,000 was the taxable component – taxed element and $20,000 was the taxable component – untaxed element.

This results in him paying the following effective tax rates:

Effective tax rates paid by Frankie

Type of super	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy)
Tax-free component: $5,000	No tax
Taxable component – taxed element: $45,000	His marginal tax rate or 22%, whichever is lower
Taxable component - untaxed element: $20,000	His marginal tax rate or 32%, whichever is lower as he is under the untaxed plan cap.

Example: income stream

George is 53 years old and receives a non-commutable life pension of $18,000 from his super fund. The payments of George's life pension are super income stream benefits.

His fund tells him the entire amount is a taxable component that was taxed in the fund.

When George completes his tax return, he includes the $18,000 taxable component as income. He is not eligible to claim the disability super benefit tax offset, so he pays the following effective rate of tax.

Effective tax rate paid by George

Type of super	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy)
Taxable component – taxed element: $18,000	His marginal tax rate

You're between your preservation age and 60 years old

To work out how your super payment will be taxed, you need to know how much of the money paid to you was attributable to the following components:

- tax-free component
- taxable component the super provider has paid tax on (taxed element)
- taxable component the super provider has not paid tax on (untaxed element).

Tax on withdrawals of tax-free component

You don’t pay tax on the tax-free component of your super where you:

- withdraw it as a lump sum
- receive an account-based income stream
- receive a capped defined benefit income stream (that was not a death benefit income stream where the deceased was 60 years old

or older at the time of death) and you were between your preservation age and less than 60 years old.

The exception is where you have illegally accessed your super before you met a condition of release. In these circumstances, the entire amount of your super benefit is taxable regardless of whether it has a tax-free component.

Tax on withdrawals of taxable component

The taxable component of your payment is taxed as shown in this table.

Tax rates on taxable component withdrawals

Type of super	Type of withdrawal	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy), up to the low rate cap	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy), above the low rate cap
Taxable component – taxed element	Income stream	Your marginal tax rate less 15% tax offset	Your marginal tax rate less 15% tax offset
Taxable component – taxed element	Lump sum	0%	Your marginal tax rate or 17%, whichever is lower
Taxable component – untaxed element	Income stream	Your marginal tax rate	Your marginal tax rate
Taxable component – untaxed element	Lump sum	Your marginal tax rate or 17%, whichever is lower	Your marginal tax rate or 32%, whichever is lower –

			unless the sum of the untaxed elements of all super lump sum benefits received under the super plan exceeds the untaxed plan cap. Amounts above the cap will be taxed at the top marginal rate. The untaxed plan cap applies separately to each super provider you receive super lump sums from

Filling out your tax return

Your fund will send you a payment summary showing:

- how much of the super you received is taxable and how much is tax-free
- how much tax they withheld from the payment to pay on your behalf
- any tax offset applicable to the taxed element you receive.

If you receive a super death benefit capped defined benefit income stream, you will need to use the Defined benefit income cap tool to work out what you need to include in your income tax return.

You must include the taxable component of your super payment as assessable income on your tax return.

In the offset section of your tax return, claim only tax offsets for super income streams. Tax offsets for super lump sums are calculated by us.

If you're between your preservation age and 60 years old and receive a lump sum super benefit that includes a taxable component, it is assessable income you must include in your tax return. This is the case even if the amount you receive is below the low rate cap amount and no tax has been withheld by your fund.

Example: lump sum

Tony is 58 years old and is retired. He receives his first lump sum super payment of $350,000 on 25 July 2021. His fund tells him this amount consists of a $100,000 tax-free component and a $250,000 taxable component. All the taxable component was taxed in the fund.

Tony includes the $250,000 taxable component as income on his 2021–22 tax return. This results in him paying the following effective rates of tax:

Effective tax rates paid by Tony

Type of super	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy)
Tax-free component: $100,000	No tax
Taxable component – taxed element (up to the low rate cap): $225,000	0%
Taxable component – taxed element (over the low rate cap): $25,000	17%

Example: multiple lump sum payments in a year

Peta is 59 and a military veteran who receives several invalidity super lump sums each year.

She is not eligible to have her super lump sums treated as disability super benefits. She has exceeded both the low rate cap and untaxed plan cap from past year super lump sum payments. The total of these super lump sums during the 2020–21 year is $105,000.

At the end of the year, her fund gives her a single super lump sum payment summary showing that $20,000 was the tax-free component, $40,000 was the taxable component – taxed element and $45,000 was the taxable component – untaxed element.

This results in her paying the following effective tax rates:

Effective tax rates paid by Peta

Type of super	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy)
Tax-free component: $20,000	No tax
Taxable component – taxed element: $40,000	Her marginal tax rate or 17%, whichever is lower
Taxable component – untaxed element: $45,000	The top marginal tax rate

Example: transition to retirement income stream

Jenny is 58 years old and has begun a transition to retirement income stream. In addition to her income from employment ($40,000 a year), she gets a transition to retirement income stream from her super as an annual payment.

On 29 August 2021, she receives $28,000. Her fund tells her it is all a taxable component that was taxed in the fund. It also tells her she is able to claim a 15% tax offset.

Jenny includes the $28,000 as income on her tax return. She claims a tax offset that results in her paying the following effective rate of tax on the income stream:

Effective tax rate paid by Jenny

Type of super	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy)
Taxable component – taxed element: $28,000	Her marginal tax rate less 15% tax offset

Low rate cap amount

The low rate cap amount applies if you reach your preservation age but are under 60 years old.

The low rate cap is a limit on the amount of taxable components (taxed and untaxed element) that can be taxed at a concessional (lower) rate of tax.

It's a lifetime cap, which is reduced by any taxable component you receive from any payer after you reach your preservation age (it cannot be reduced below zero).

Once you reach the low rate cap, any further money you withdraw as a lump sum is taxed at a different rate.

The low rate cap is $230,000 in 2022–23. For previous years, see Low rate cap amount.

If you're between your preservation age and 60 years old and receive a lump sum super benefit that includes a taxable component, you must include it in your tax return. This is the case even if the amount you receive is below the low rate cap amount and zero tax has been withheld by the super fund.

Example: low rate cap

In 2018–19, Talise was 58 and received super lump sum payments with taxable components totalling $150,000.

In 2019–20 the low rate cap was $210,000. For Talise, this is reduced by the taxable components she had previously received ($150,000) to $60,000. Talise also receives super lump sum payments with taxable components totalling $90,000. Of this, $30,000 will be in excess of the low rate cap and will be taxed at:

- the lower of her marginal tax rate or 17% on any taxed element
- the lower of her marginal tax rate or 32% on any untaxed element.

You're 60 years old or older, or receiving a death benefit (reversionary) capped defined benefit income stream

This section applies if you're:

- 60 years old or older and have a capped defined benefit income stream
- less than 60 years old and receiving a death benefit (reversionary) capped defined benefit income stream where the deceased was 60 years old or older at the time of death
- 60 years old or older and receiving a super income stream that is not a capped defined benefit income stream and you have an untaxed element
- 60 years old or older and receiving a super lump sum and you have an untaxed element.

Where you are receiving an account-based pension, you don't pay tax on the taxed element or tax-free component after you turn 60 years old.

To work out how your super payment is taxed you need to know:

- your defined benefit income cap (if applicable)
- whether the income stream is a death benefit (reversionary) income stream
- the amount of the
  - tax-free component

- taxable component that the super fund has paid tax on (taxed element)
- taxable component that the super fund has not paid tax on (untaxed element).

Tax on withdrawals of tax-free component

You don’t pay tax on the tax-free component of your super where you withdraw it as a lump sum.

You may be required to include the tax-free component in your assessable income where you're receiving a capped defined benefit income stream and both of the following apply:

- you're receiving a death benefit income stream where the deceased was aged 60 years or older at the time of death
- the combined total of your tax-free component and taxed element (taxed source) is in excess of your defined benefit income cap.

The exception is where you have illegally accessed your super before you met a condition of release. In these circumstances, the entire amount of your super benefit is taxable regardless of whether it has a tax-free component.

Tax on withdrawals of taxable component (including an account-based income stream)

Type of withdrawal	Type of component	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy)
Income stream	Taxable component – taxed element	No tax
Income stream	Tax-free component	No tax
Lump sum	Taxable component – taxed element	No tax

Income stream	Taxable component – untaxed element	Your marginal tax rate
Lump sum	Taxable component – untaxed element	Your marginal tax rate or 17%, whichever is lower – unless the sum of the untaxed element of all super lump sum benefits received under the super plan exceeds the untaxed plan cap. Amounts above the cap are taxed at the top marginal rate. The untaxed plan cap applies separately to each super fund you receive super lump sums from

Tax on withdrawals of a capped defined benefit income stream

Type of withdrawal	Type of super	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy)
Income stream	Tax-free component and or taxable component – taxed element is above the defined benefit income cap	50% of the amount above the cap is assessed at your marginal tax rates. This is known as 'assessable amount from your capped defined benefit income stream'
Income stream	Tax-free component and or taxable component – taxed element is below the defined benefit income cap	No tax
Income stream	Taxable component – untaxed element	Your marginal tax rate

Filling out your tax return

Your fund will send you a payment summary showing:

- how much of the super you received is taxable and how much is tax-free
- how much tax they withheld from the payment to pay on your behalf
- the tax offset amount, which should be blank as you will need to determine how much offset you're entitled to
- whether you're receiving a capped defined benefit income stream where the deceased was older than 60 years old at the time of death.

If you're receiving a super lump sum payment, you don't include in your tax return the tax-free component or the taxed element of the taxable component of your super lump sum payment.

Tax offsets for super lump sums are calculated by us.

Example: lump sum

Mei is 60 years old and receives a lump sum of $380,000 from her super on 25 September 2021.

The payment consists of a $45,000 tax-free component and a $335,000 taxable component. The taxable component includes $130,000 that was taxed in the fund and $205,000 that the fund has not paid tax on.

Mei includes the $205,000 as income on her tax return and pays the following effective rates of tax:

Effective tax rates paid by Mei

Type of super	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy)
Tax-free component: $45,000	No tax

Taxable component – taxed element: $130,000	No tax
Taxable component – untaxed element: $205,000	Her marginal tax rate or 17%, whichever is lower (the untaxed element of the lump sum is less than the untaxed plan cap for 2021–22 of $1.615 million)

Example: multiple lump sum payments in a year

Howard is 72, and a military veteran who receives several invalidity super lump sums each year. He is not eligible to have his super lump sums treated as disability super benefits. He has exceeded the untaxed plan cap. The total of these super lump sums during the year is $105,000.

At the end of the year, his fund gives him a single super lump sum payment summary showing that $20,000 was the tax-free component, $40,000 was the taxable component – taxed element and $45,000 was the taxable component – untaxed element.

This results in him paying the following effective tax rates:

Effective tax rates paid by Howard

Type of super	Effective tax rate (including Medicare levy)
Tax-free component: $20,000	No tax
Taxable component – taxed element: $40,000	No tax
Taxable component –	The top marginal tax rate

untaxed element: $45,000	

If you're receiving a capped defined benefit income stream, you must include in your tax return the:

- untaxed element of the taxable component of your super payment as assessable income
- assessable amount from your capped defined benefit income stream – you may need to use the Defined benefit income cap tool.

Find out more on how to fill in your tax return at 7 Australian annuities and super income streams.

In the offset section of your tax return, claim only tax offsets for super income streams. Find out more about how to work out your tax offset at T2 Australian super income stream.

Example: capped defined benefit income stream

John is 62 years old and received a capped defined benefit income stream of $117,000 in 2020–21.

The payment was for the full year and made up of a $67,000 tax-free component and a $50,000 taxable component – taxed element.

John includes the following in his tax return:

Type of super:

- Tax-free component + taxed element = $117,000
- Defined benefit income cap $100,000
- $117,000 – 100,000 = 17,000
- Assessable amount from a capped defined benefit income stream is $17,000 ÷ 2 (50% of the amount over the cap)
- John includes $8,500 at 7M on his tax return.

John pays tax on the $8,500 (50% of the amount above the cap) at his marginal tax rate.

Untaxed plan cap amount

The untaxed plan cap amount is the maximum amount of the untaxed elements taxed at concessional rates. Amounts above the untaxed plan cap are taxed at the top marginal rate.

The untaxed plan cap is a per plan limit that applies separately to each super fund you receive a super lump sum from. It is reduced by the total amount of each untaxed element in the fund that you have received from that fund.

The untaxed plan cap is $1.650 million in 2022-23. For prior years, see Untaxed plan cap amount. The top marginal rate is 47% (including Medicare levy).

Example: untaxed plan cap

Anh started receiving lump sums from her super in 2018–19, when the untaxed plan cap was $1.480 million and Anh received $80,000 in untaxed element payments from this fund.

In 2019–20 the untaxed plan cap for the super lump sums she receives from this fund is $1.515 million. For Anh, this is reduced by the untaxed element payments she had previously received ($80,000) to $1.435 million. Anh also received another $85,000 in untaxed element super lump sum payments from this fund.

In 2020–21 the untaxed plan cap is $1.565 million, but this is reduced by the total of untaxed payments she had previously received ($165,000) to $1.4 million. Anh also received another $90,000 in untaxed element super lump sum payments from this fund, which will further reduce her untaxed plan cap amount for any untaxed element payments she receives from this fund in the 2021–22 year.

Tax on super death benefits

The tax on a super death benefit depends on whether:

- you were a dependant of the deceased
- it's paid as a lump sum or a super income stream benefit
- the income stream is an account-based income stream or a capped defined benefit income stream
- the super is taxable or tax-free, and whether the super fund has already paid tax on the taxable component
- your age and the age of the deceased person when they died.

If you are a dependant of the deceased, you don't need to pay tax on the taxable component of a death benefit if you receive it as a lump sum. If you receive the benefit as an income stream, different rates of tax may apply depending on the factors mentioned above.

If you're **not** a dependant of the deceased, you can only receive the benefit as a lump sum.

The taxable component of the payment will be entitled to a tax offset that ensures the rate of income tax is as follows:

- taxed element – maximum of 15% plus Medicare levy
- untaxed element – maximum of 30% plus Medicare levy.

Tax on military invalidity benefits

Due to the court decision in Commissioner of Taxation v Douglas [2020] FCAFC 220, the tax and superannuation treatment of some invalidity benefit payments has changed (see Military invalidity pensions – Douglas decision).

QC 23237

Military invalidity pensions

Understand how your military invalidity pension is taxed.

Last updated 20 July 2026

Compensation overview

Veterans are subject to a unique compensation system. You may receive compensation from either the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC), or both. You may also start on government support payments before receiving compensation.

Some compensation may be exempt from tax and not included in various income tests, some may be exempt from tax and included in some income tests, and some may be taxable.

Following a judicial review of invalidity payments made by the CSC under the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) scheme and the Military Superannuation Benefits Scheme (MSBS) – hereafter referred to as the *Douglas* decision – payments that were first paid from these 2 schemes on or after 20 September 2007 were eligible for a different tax treatment to those already being received before that date.

For veterans who are worse off because of the *Douglas* decision, a veterans' superannuation (invalidity pension) tax offset (VSTO) is available to ensure that they pay no more tax than they would before the *Douglas* decision.

It's also common for many veterans to receive an amount in arrears from either or both the CSC and the DVA as a result of them belatedly recognising the veteran was entitled to a medical discharge. Sometimes an amount previously received from:

- Services Australia will have to be repaid if the arrears are paid by DVA
- DVA will have to be repaid if the arrears are paid by CSC.

This repayment obligation arises because based on the law you can't be compensated twice for the same injury.

In addition, if you were on a retirement pension from the CSC under the DFRDB, a commutation taken on retirement will need to be repaid.

Tax treatment of ongoing compensation

Veterans may be either:

- medically discharged and immediately start receiving payments from the DVA and the CSC
- granted a retrospective medical discharge and paid arrears.

This section considers the ongoing regular compensation payments. For those who receive an arrears in a particular year, as well as those who have to make repayments, see Taxation of arrears payments.

DVA payments that are subject to tax are taxed in the same way as employment income.

One off CSC payments will be taxed as a super lump sum.

Fortnightly CSC payments will be taxed as a super income stream, unless it is one of the DFRDB or MSBS payments that the *Douglas* decision found had to be taxed as a super lump sum.

The taxed element of a CSC super payment is not subject to tax if you receive it after turning 60.

If you receive a super income stream that has a taxed element and you are under 60 years of age, a tax offset of 15% is available if the invalidity payment is classified as a disability superannuation benefit (DSB). For more information see Disability superannuation benefits.

The untaxed element of a super income stream payment received after you turn 60 entitles you to a super tax offset of 10% of the untaxed element. The tax offset may be reduced if you have a high super income stream as there are some income caps that apply. For more information see Superannuation-related tax offsets.

A super lump sum payment is subject to tax rate caps as listed at Payments from super. A tax offset will be shown on the Notice of assessment for any tax paid above the caps. Following the reduction in tax rates for the 2024–25 tax year, most veterans are unlikely to receive a tax offset unless their taxable income exceeds $135,000.

Taxation of arrears payments

Arrears are taxed in the year they are received and not in the year to which they relate. Some tax offsets and exemptions are available if more tax, Medicare levy or Medicare levy surcharge are payable than would otherwise have been payable if the arrears were included in those earlier years.

The calculation of the lump sum payment in arrears tax offset for payments from CSC are complex and may extend the processing time of your income tax return. For more information see Lump sum payment in arrears.

Repayments

Repayments to Services Australia and DVA are common following a retrospective medical discharge. The repayment results from the fact that you can't be compensated twice for the same injury. The payments were assessable in the year received. The arrears are also assessable and that would result in tax being paid on the same income twice.

To ensure that you don't pay tax twice on the same income, amounts repaid that relate to the years 2004 and later are eligible to be excluded from the respective years.

You may have to repay amounts to DVA relating to tax years before 2004, however tax returns before 2004 can't be amended for repayments. Instead, CSC will reduce the assessable arrears by the amount repaid to DVA for the years before 2004 so tax is not paid on the same amount twice.

DVA will provide a letter to you and us, advising the repaid amounts for each year. We will then amend the relevant year's income tax returns. As a general rule, attempts to self-amend will not be successful due to integrity checks built into our systems.

Sometimes a commuted amount paid by CSC has to be repaid. CSC do not provide an amended payment summary to us so you will need to request an amendment.

For more information about repayments, see Amend a return for repayment of income.

Veterans' superannuation (invalidity pension) tax offset

The veterans' superannuation (invalidity pension) tax offset (VSTO) is a non-refundable tax offset that ensures veterans and their beneficiaries don't pay more tax because of the *Douglas* decision. It applies from the 2007–08 income year.

All veterans affected by the *Douglas* decision are eligible for the VSTO. However, only a small number of veterans will be entitled to a VSTO amount because the *Douglas* decision has resulted in them paying **more** tax.

You don’t need to apply for the VSTO. We will work out if you are entitled to a VSTO amount after you lodge your tax return. Your notice of assessment will include any VSTO amount you are entitled to and how it was applied.

How we work out the tax offset

After you lodge your tax return each year, we will work out your entitlement to any VSTO amount. We're unable to advise you what this amount will be before you lodge your tax return.

We work it out as follows:

> Your income tax liability* if your invalidity pension is treated as a super lump sum
>
> **minus (–)**
>
> Your income tax liability* if your invalidity pension is treated as a super income stream
>
> **equals (=)**
>
> Your VSTO amount (if greater than zero).
>
> *income tax liability is generally tax plus Medicare levy and Medicare levy surcharge less tax offsets

In most cases, the offset calculation will be part of the normal tax return processing timeframes. However, it may take longer to work out your VSTO, and extend the processing time, if you have any of the following complex circumstances:

- special professional averaging
- foreign residency
- employment termination payments or 'lump sum A' payments
- primary production averaging
- lump sum payment in arrears.

How the VSTO is applied

If you're entitled to a VSTO amount, we will use it to reduce any tax you need to pay. If your tax is reduced to zero, we will use any remaining VSTO amount to reduce any Medicare levy, or Medicare levy surcharge you may need to pay.

Any VSTO amount remaining can't be refunded to you, transferred, or carried forward into future income years.

Any offset amount you are entitled to will be shown on your notice of assessment.

Example: how the VSTO amount is applied

Andrew is 62 years old and receiving an invalidity pension from the MSBS that started in March 2019. His invalidity payments are affected by the *Douglas* decision.

When processing Andrew's 2025 tax return, we work out:

- Andrew's tax payable on the super lump sum would be $950 before applying the VSTO
- Andrew's tax payable would have been $50 if taxed as a super income stream
- Andrew would pay more tax due to the *Douglas* decision and is entitled to a VSTO amount of $900.

We use Andrew's VSTO amount to reduce his tax payable to $50.

The CSC withheld $2,200 in tax from Andrew's invalidity payments. As his tax payable is now $50 and he has no other outstanding debts, we will refund $2,150 to Andrew.

Your notice of assessment

Information about your VSTO entitlement if any, and how it was applied, will be included with your notice of assessment.

Note: Once CSC advise us that you're eligible for the VSTO, all tax returns processed after that date will be considered for VSTO treatment. You will be eligible for the VSTO if you have eligible income

reported in the tax return. If you have no eligible income reported, you're not eligible for the VSTO.

Disability superannuation benefits

If you believe you qualify to have your military invalidity pension taxed as a DSB, you can apply to CSC for a determination. Most veterans qualify for a DSB as the medical discharge recognises that they could no longer work in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their ADF training was about performing duties peculiar to the ADF.

The DSB can result in less tax being paid. If you're receiving:

- a super income stream benefit, are under 60 and the payment includes a taxed element, you will be entitled to a super tax offset equal to 15% of the taxed element
- fortnightly super lump sum payments and you were discharged before your compulsory retirement age, part of your payment will be treated as tax-free – the greater your time to retirement, the greater the tax-free component.

If CSC classifies your benefit as a DSB, they will advise you on the next steps to ensure you're taxed correctly. What action you will need to take will depend on whether your DSB needs to be applied to prior year assessments or not.

If your CSC invalidity pension commenced in the current year, CSC will advise you that there is no further action on your part right now but keep the DSB determination letter with your records. Your end of year income statement from CSC will include your correct DSB status.

If DSB is retrospective and your CSC invalidity pension commenced before the current year, CSC will inform you that you can request a review of prior year tax assessments using this objection form. You will also need to provide a copy of the CSC DSB determination letter when lodging your request and ensure your income tax returns are lodged and up to date.

We use the DSB data, provided to us by CSC in the month following your determination, to perform the necessary calculations to review your tax position. This process can take up to 3 months.

If there is a change in your taxable income, this could affect your Services Australia – Families and Child Support entitlements or

obligations. Contact Services Australia for more information.

The tax free component

The military invalidity pension may have a tax free component.

You will have a tax free component if your ADF service commenced before 1 July 1983. This is regardless of whether you are receiving the pension as a superannuation income stream or as a superannuation lump sum.

If you receive the pension as a lump sum, you will have a tax free component if one or both of the following applies:

- your ADF service started before 1 July 1983
- you have a DSB determination from CSC and your discharge date was before you reached your ADF retirement age.

If CSC has to provide the Special Reduction Amount (SRA) to Services Australia or DVA, the SRA will be the tax free component as calculated for the superannuation income stream. Unless your service started before 1 July 1983, the SRA will be $0.

Review of your tax returns

You may not have requested a review of tax returns for years before 2021 that were affected by the *Douglas* decision. As a general rule, you will be financially better off following a review, especially if CSC have treated the payment as eligible for DSB treatment.

You will be eligible for *Douglas* treatment if CSC are now treating your payments as a super lump sum. Use this request for review form if you want affected returns to be amended.

Note: If you seek a review it will apply to all years that are eligible for review.

Potential outcomes of a review

It's important to consider the likely outcomes before seeking a review. You may wish to seek professional financial advice to understand how a change in your taxable income affects your circumstances, including your super and other payments and obligations.

The outcome of your review will depend on your personal circumstances, and may result in any of the following:

- A credit assessment – however, your refund may be reduced by any debt you owe to us or another Australian Government agency (see Offsetting your refund or credit).
- A debit assessment – this means you will be liable to pay more tax and usually arises because you currently have a student loan which you didn't have at the time that the tax return was lodged.
- No change to your tax outcome overall.
- A change to your taxable income with financial impacts on other payments and obligations, such as
  - childcare subsidy
  - parental leave payment
  - family tax benefits or child support
  - other government support payments that take into account your taxable income such as study and training support loans.

Process and timeframes

We're committed to finalising reviews as quickly as possible, but each person's circumstances are different. It can take time to determine any refund owing to you, but we will keep you informed along the way.

Complex cases can take longer due to circumstances such as:

- receiving disability super benefits
- lump sum payment in arrears
- multiple super schemes
- being party to a family law split
- bankruptcy
- multiple income years to amend.

We will work out any VSTO you may be entitled to when we review your assessments. If you're entitled to a VSTO amount, your amended notice of assessment will advise how much you're entitled to and how it was applied.

Once the review process is complete, we'll send you an amended notice of assessment. In most cases this will be sent to your myGov Inbox.

PAYG withholding

Your fortnightly invalidity pension payments are subject to the pay as you go (PAYG) withholding system. The amount withheld depends on, among other things, whether your payments are either:

- super income stream benefits
- super lump sum payments.

The Tax table for super income streams applies to super income streams.

The Tax table for super lump sums applies to super lump sums but with a modification that may reduce the amount if you have claimed the tax-free threshold from CSC.

Different PAYG withholding tax tables apply depending on your personal circumstances. Individuals with the same invalidity pension payment per fortnight may have different amounts of PAYG withheld and therefore, different take home amounts.

Note: Withholding rates have been updated to reflect the 1% Cost of living reduction applying to the $18,201 to $45,000 tax bracket and increase in the Medicare levy low-income threshold. These changes take effect from 1 July 2026. For veterans at or over preservation age, there will be no change to your fortnightly withholding because of these updates.

Adjust your PAYG withholding

Depending on your personal financial circumstances, you may want to consider:

- claiming the tax-free threshold for your invalidity pension payments from CSC
- varying your PAYG withholding
- claiming an exemption from the Medicare levy.

Veterans in receipt of a super lump sum and other income subject to PAYG withholding should consider avoiding a debt arising when the tax

return is assessed by either:

- claiming their tax-free threshold from the other payer rather than CSC
- requesting an upwards variation of PAYG withholding for the other income.

QC 64921

Illegal early access to super

Make sure you know when it's legal to access your super – there are consequences if you access it illegally.

Last updated 15 April 2025

When can you legally access your super

Generally, you can only access your super when you:

- reach preservation age and retire
- turn 65 even if you're still working.

To access your super legally, you must satisfy a condition of release.

There are very limited circumstances where you can legally access your super early. Eligibility requirements often relate to specific expenses.

It is illegal to access your super for any reason other than when it is allowed by the superannuation law.

Remember, there are only a few reasons to access your super and Accessing your super early may be illegal (PDF 157KB).

Illegal early access schemes

Illegal early access schemes encourage you to withdraw your super before you're legally entitled to.

Beware of people promoting early access schemes. They might tell you they can help you set up a self-managed super fund (SMSF) to withdraw your super and use it to pay for personal expenses such as:

- credit card debt
- buying a house or car
- going on a holiday.

If you are approached by someone who tells you to set up an SMSF, check they're a licensed financial adviser. You can check this on the Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) Moneysmart website.

Warning signs

Promoters of illegal early access schemes usually:

- tell you to transfer or roll over your super to an SMSF so you can access it
- target vulnerable people, including those who are under financial pressure or unaware of super laws
- claim that you can access your super and put the money towards anything you want
- charge high fees and commissions
- request your identity documents.

How to protect yourself from illegal access schemes

If someone offers you advice that you can withdraw your super early (other than by legal means):

- Stop any involvement with the scheme, organisation or the person who approached you.
- Do not sign any documents.
- Do not provide them with any of your personal details.
- Phone us on **13 10 20** and advise us of your situation.

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

Consequences of illegally accessing super

Illegally accessing your super will cost you a lot more than the super you withdraw. You may face significant financial consequences and lose your retirement savings.

Any amount you illegally access will be included as income in your tax return, even if you return it to the fund. This means you may pay:

- additional income tax
- tax shortfall penalties
- interest.

If you've illegally accessed your super you can't return it back into your fund. Any attempt to do so will be considered a new contribution.

If you provided fraudulent documents to the ATO or your super fund, you will also be liable for penalties for false and misleading statements.

If a promoter helped you access your super illegally, you can't claim a personal deduction for fees or commissions they take from your super.

If you participate in a scheme, you may become a victim of identity theft. This is when someone uses your personal details to commit fraud or other crimes. If someone steals and misuses your identity, they could steal your super for themselves.

If you illegally access your super or have been involved in a scheme promoting illegal early access to your super, contact us immediately. When we consider penalties, we will take your voluntary disclosure and circumstances into account.

Consequences for SMSF trustees

If you are an SMSF trustee and you illegally release benefits to a member who has not met a condition of release, you may be liable for administrative penalties.

You may also be disqualified as an SMSF trustee. If disqualified:

- you cannot operate as a trustee of an SMSF
- this information is published in the Federal Register of Legislation as a notifiable instrument. (Disqualifications were previously published in the Government Notices Gazette.)

This means your disqualification will be on public record. This can have an adverse impact on you professionally, personally or financially.

You can check our Disqualified Trustees Register to see if an individual has previously been disqualified by us.

Promoters of illegal schemes

The ATO and ASIC may prosecute promoters of schemes designed to illegally access super. These activities may involve breaches of the following legislation:

- *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993*
- *Corporations Act 2001*
- *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001.*

Breaches may include:

- misleading or deceptive conduct
- giving financial product advice without an Australian financial services licence.

We may impose civil and criminal penalties, including significant fines and terms of imprisonment.

Case study – consequences for a promoter of an illegal access scheme

A Federal Court imposed a $220,000 penalty and a 7-year ban for the promoter of an illegal early access scheme involving SMSFs.

The ATO, as regulator of the SMSF sector, commenced legal action against the New South Wales woman in 2018 after a tip-off about the suspect establishment of several SMSFs.

She had set up or intended to set up 35 SMSFs on behalf of 68 individuals between 2016 and 2018. She then helped individuals not yet legally entitled to access their super, transfer their balances to their SMSF so they could illegally withdraw it. This sometimes occurred on the same day.

Participants in the scheme reportedly used the money to fund personal expenses including home renovations and stamp duty.

After seeking an initial injunction that placed restrictions on the scheme's facilitator, the ATO filed an application in the Federal Court

seeking:

- declaratory relief
- a final injunction
- payment of a civil penalty.

This case demonstrates that there are serious consequences for promoters of illegal early access schemes. Super is money set aside to provide for retirement and withdrawing your super without meeting a condition of release can result in long-term financial damage. This can leave people with little or no super for their retirement as well as a significant tax bill on the amount withdrawn.

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

QC 18810

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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