

Superannuation is designed to fund your retirement, so there are restrictions on when and how you may access it.

REACHING YOUR PRESERVATION AGE OR AGE 65

Most of your superannuation savings are 'preserved'. This means you generally cannot withdraw your super until you reach your preservation age (or you meet one of the special circumstances described later). Your preservation age will vary depending on your date of birth, as outlined below.

Date of birth	Preservation age
Before 1 July 1960	55
1 July 1960 to 30 June 1961	56
1 July 1961 to 30 June 1962	57
1 July 1962 to 30 June 1963	58
1 July 1963 to 30 June 1964	59
1 July 1964 and after	60

Once you reach age 65, your super becomes non-preserved. Generally, this means you will have unrestricted access to your super. However, if you are still employed with the company who contributed restricted nonpreserved contributions, you may not be able to withdraw all your super as a lump sum.

Retirement

When you reach your preservation age and retire permanently from the workforce, you have unrestricted access to your super. This means you can make a withdrawal as a lump sum, a regular income in the form of a pension, or a combination of both.

Transition to retirement

If you reach your preservation age but have not retired, you can access your super as a regular income through a transition to retirement pension. You may not take a lump sum until you retire or reach age 65.

ACCESSING NON-PRESERVED AMOUNTS

You may have non-preserved super if you or your employer made voluntary contributions before 1 July 1999, or if you are aged 65 or over. Check your most recent statement to see if you have a nonpreserved amount, and whether or not it is restricted.

If you are still employed by the company who opened your account, the nonpreserved amount may be restricted. If this is the case, you may not access it until you leave work with that company.

If your non-preserved amount is not restricted you may access it at any time.

Temporary residents

If you were in Australia temporarily and are now leaving the country permanently, you can apply directly to the Australian Taxation Office via ato.gov.au for early release of benefits.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOWING EARLY RELEASE

Under current government legislation, there are some special circumstances that allow you to access your super earlier.

Financial hardship

If you are suffering severe financial hardship, you may be eligible to apply to have some funds released to you.

To be eligible to claim under the financial hardship provisions, you must:

- » have been receiving an eligible Centrelink income support payment for at least 26 weeks; and
- » satisfy the Trustee that you are unable to meet reasonable and immediate family living expenses.

If you qualify for a financial hardship payment, up to \$10,000 before tax may be released to you. Only one hardship payment may be made every 12 months.

Compassionate grounds

You may apply to the ATO to have an amount released to you early, if you require it for one of the below specified circumstances:

- » medical treatment and/or transport for yourself or your dependant, where the treatment is not readily available and/or accessible through the public health system and is necessary to treat a life threatening illness or injury, or to alleviate acute or chronic pain or acute or chronic mental disturbance
- » modifications to your family home and/ or vehicle to meet the special needs arising from your disability or that of your disabled dependant
- » palliative care or death, funeral or burial expenses for yourself or your dependant
- » prevention of foreclosure of a mortgage, or exercise of a power of sale over your principal place of residence.

The legislation also allows the ATO to assess applications for early release of benefits where the circumstances are consistent with, or in direct relationship to, these specified grounds.

The ATO has the discretion to order the release of any amount they feel necessary to meet the costs associated with these specified grounds.

If your application is approved, you will need to send the ATO's letter of approval to us with a completed Benefit Payment Direction Form and relevant certified identification as specified on the form.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Call us if you have any questions or if you would like assistance to access your super. For a lump sum payment and/or transfer to our pension account option, iQ Retirement, you will need a Benefit Payment Direction Form which we can send to you.

For release of your funds on the grounds of financial hardship, we can send the required forms to you.

For release of your funds on specified grounds through the ATO, please contact them directly on 13 28 65 or visit ato.gov.au



Advice that's right for you

Good financial advice is about making the most of what you have to help achieve your goals. That's what we offer—general information, personal advice over the phone, Retire Ready meetings (often at no cost) or comprehensive personal advice (complimentary first meeting).

Find out more at nationwidesuper.com.au/advice



We're here to help

If you have any questions, please contact us:

- » call [1800 025 241](tel:1800025241) (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm AEST)
- » email enquiries@nationwidesuper.com.au
- » visit nationwidesuper.com.au

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