

What are the superannuation withdrawal rules?

Your superannuation savings can only be accessed if you have met a condition of release, such as retirement. Once met, you will be able to choose to take your money as a lump sum or roll it over to start an income stream.

If you need access to the money or want to invest it outside superannuation you should consider the tax and social security implications before making this choice. Some pre-planning may allow you to manage any tax liability.

What should be considered before making a withdrawal?

If you plan to withdraw money from your superannuation you should be aware that you will need to meet a condition of release, and that in some situations, the withdrawal may be taxed.

What are the conditions of release?

You cannot access your superannuation until you have satisfied a condition of release. The withdrawal request needs to be in writing to the superannuation trustee and may need to be supported by a statement or evidence that you have satisfied a condition of release.

Some common conditions of release are discussed below. Your adviser can help you with other conditions of release that may be relevant to you.

Reaching age 65

You can fully access your superannuation once you reach age 65 even if you are still working.

Retirement

If you have reached your preservation age and permanently retire (ie do not intend to work again for more than 10 hours in any week) you will meet a condition of release. Preservation age is gradually increasing as shown:

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 or later	60

If you stop a job after you reach age 60 you will meet the retirement definition to access your superannuation even if you intend to keep working in another job.

Permanent incapacity

If you suffer an illness or injury and become permanently incapacitated you may be able to access your superannuation. This will require assessment by your superannuation fund trustee to determine if the superannuation legislative requirements are met and will require medical evidence that you are permanently unable to work in any occupation for which you are experienced or qualified to perform.

Terminal medical condition

If you have a terminal medical condition you may be able to access your entire super benefits, regardless of your age. A terminal medical condition exists if:

- Two registered medical practitioners have certified that you suffer from an illness that is likely to see you not surviving a period of 24 months from the date of the certificate.
- At least one of the registered medical practitioners is a specialist practicing in an area relates to the illness or injury suffered by you.

Severe financial hardship

You will be able to withdraw some of your super if you received a Centrelink income support payment continuously for 26 weeks, and unable to meet reasonable and immediate family living expenses.

Compassionate grounds

If you do not have the financial capacity to meet certain expenses you may be able to apply to access some of your superannuation benefits to pay for those expenses. Compassionate grounds include:

- Medical treatment and medical transfer for you or a dependant
- Palliative care for you or a dependant
- Making a payment on a mortgage to prevent foreclosure of your home
- Modifying your home or vehicle, or buying disability aids for you or a dependant because of a severe disability.

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- Expenses associated with a death, funeral or burial of a dependant.

You'll need to apply to the ATO with supporting documentation for approval and the amount that can be released is limited to what you reasonably need.

What are the superannuation components?

The money in your superannuation fund is comprised of the following components:

- Tax-free component
- Taxable component – element taxed
- Taxable component – element untaxed.

The components depend on the underlying source of the funds.

Personal contributions for which you have not claimed a tax deduction will be included in the tax-free component. This also includes spouse contributions, the government co-contribution, downsizer contributions and amounts contributed under small business CGT rules.

Employer contributions, personal deductible contributions, insurance payouts and earnings generated within the fund are all included in the taxable component. An untaxed element is included if the fund is an unfunded scheme (ie contributions tax was not deducted) or you have received an insurance payout.

Each withdrawal you make is split proportionally across the components. The tax-free component is withdrawn with no tax payable. However, lump sum tax is payable on the taxable components.

What are the lump sum tax rates?

Lump sum taxation may be payable if you are under age 60 or your superannuation fund is an unfunded scheme. It is important to identify other lump sums previously withdrawn as these may affect the tax on the amount withdrawn now.

No tax is payable on the tax-free component. The lump sum tax rates for 2019/20 on the taxable component are shown in the table belowⁱ.

Component		Threshold
Under preservation age	Taxable (element taxed)	20%* on whole amount
	Taxable (element untaxed)	30%* tax on first \$1.515million ⁱⁱⁱ then 45%* on remaining balance
Preservation age < 60	Taxable (element taxed)	No tax on first \$210,000 ^{iv} then 15%* on remaining balance
	Taxable (element untaxed)	15%* tax on first \$210,000 ⁱⁱⁱ 30%* on amount above \$210,000 to \$1.515 million ⁱⁱⁱ , and 45%* on remaining balance
Age 60 and over	Taxable (element taxed)	No tax
	Taxable (element untaxed)	15%* tax on first \$1.515 million ⁱⁱⁱ then 45%* on remaining balance

* Plus Medicare Levy.

What other tax implications may apply?

If you withdraw a taxable component and tax is paid on this amount, it is added to your assessable income. This may impact your entitlement to other tax offsets or benefits. This may mean you pay more tax than you expect on other income in that year.

ⁱ Definition of “preservation age” in SIS Regulation 6.01

ⁱⁱ ATO website: Super lump sum tax table

ⁱⁱⁱ ATO website: Untaxed plan cap amount

^{iv} ATO website: Low rate cap amount

Our services

Health

- Health insurance
- Overseas visitors cover
- Dental services
- Chronic disease management
- Hospital in the home

Wealth

- Investments
- Estate planning
- Trust and estate administration services
- Financial planning
- Investment, education and funeral bonds
- Banking and home loans
- General insurance

Living

- Aged care and accommodation
- Personal and business insurance
- Aboriginal home care
- Disability services
- Retirement communities

