

Solutions for the self-employed

November 2025

As a self-employed person, you're responsible for managing your own super contributions, unlike employees whose employers contribute on their behalf.

We recognise that if you're self-employed, you have particular needs and questions when it comes to making decisions about saving for your retirement. This fact sheet outlines what you need to consider when you want to make contributions into super.

Why contribute into super?

There are some important reasons why you should contribute to super.

Peace of mind

It's easy to put saving for retirement on the back burner but by contributing part of your earnings into super now, it is helping you have a nest egg when you finish working. Contributing to super helps diversify your retirement savings, so you're not relying solely on the sale of your business or the Age Pension.

Tax Effective Saving

Super is a tax effective way of saving for your retirement. If you are self-employed, contributing to super is not compulsory. However, if you make personal contributions to your super you may be eligible to claim a tax deduction. If you start young and contribute regularly, it can help you maintain your lifestyle once you finish working.

Low cost and flexible insurance

Did you know, as a self-employed individual, you may be eligible to apply for additional insurance with your super fund? Insurance within super is usually based on discounted group rates, so it is normally more cost-effective than individual insurance outside of super. You can also choose how much insurance you want to suit your lifestyle or change your cover if your circumstances change. Insurance through super can provide financial support to you or your family in the event of death, disability, or illness.

Tax benefits

Pre-tax (concessional) contributions and earnings are generally taxed at 15%, rather than at your marginal tax rate until retirement.

Tax-free payments after 60

Once you turn 60 and meet a condition of release, you may be able to receive tax-free payments from a super income stream.

How much can I contribute?

You can make either pre or post-tax contributions up to certain limits. Concessional (pre-tax) contributions for self-employed people can be treated as tax-deductible personal contributions. Contributions for self-employed people can be treated as tax-deductible personal contributions if an ATO's Deduction for Personal Super Contributions form (NAT 71121) is submitted correctly.

Members under 75 years old can make contributions to super, subject to the annual contribution caps. If you are aged 67 to 74 years and wish to claim a tax deduction for personal contributions, you must meet the work test by working at least 40 hours over a 30-day period in the financial year, unless eligible for the work test exemption.

The following contribution limits apply:

Concessional (Pre-tax) contributions cap	Non-Concessional (Post-tax)
\$30,000 per annum	\$120,000 per annum

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Prime Super



Did you know?

- If your total superannuation balance is less than \$500,000, you may be able to carry forward any unused concessional contributions for up to five years, allowing you to contribute more than the annual cap in a future year.
- If you are aged under 75 years, you may be eligible to make non-concessional contributions of up to 3 times your annual limit under the bring forward rule. Eligibility also depends on your total superannuation balance.

Your total superannuation balance is the total value of your accumulation account plus any amount in your income stream account, less any payments received as a result of illness or injury into your super fund.

For more information, visit primesuper.com.au/member/super/grow-your-super/maximum-contributions

How to claim a tax deduction

You can claim a tax deduction for your before-tax super contributions up to \$30,000 a year, or unused cap limits through the carry forward rule. To claim a tax deduction for your contribution you must complete the ATO's *Deduction for Personal Super Contributions form* (NAT 71121) and send it to us.

The 'Intent to Claim a Tax Deduction' form is used to notify your super fund and the ATO that you want to claim a tax deduction for your personal super contributions. This allows your contributions to be treated as concessional (tax-deductible) and ensures your tax return matches your super records. Without this form, you cannot claim the deduction.

Once you receive the acknowledgement letter, you can include the contribution and claimed deduction in your annual income tax return.

How to make a contribution

Once you are a member of Prime Super it's easy to make a contribution.

1. BPAY® – quick, secure and 24/7
 Biller code: 584581
 Reference number: log on to your MemberOnline account or call us on 1800 675 839
2. Direct Debit – just complete a direct debit form online.

Get a super boost from the Government

If you make after-tax contributions to your super, you may be eligible for the government co-contribution scheme which is a super boost from the Government of up to \$500.

Eligibility depends on factors such as your income (currently below \$62,488), your total super balance, and meeting other ATO conditions.

If you have employees

You need to pay compulsory employer super guarantee (SG) contributions to either your employee's nominated super fund or to your default fund.

You pay super no matter whether your employee:

- is full-time, part-time or casual
- earns less than \$450 per month
- receives a super pension or annuity while still working – including those who qualify for the transition-to-retirement measure
- is a temporary resident – when they leave Australia, they can claim the payments you made through a 'departing Australia superannuation payment'
- is a company director
- is a family member working in your business – provided they are eligible for SG.





Other useful information about paying SG

- the SG is currently 12% of an employee's ordinary time earnings
- you must pay and report super electronically in a standard format, ensuring you meet SuperStream requirements
- your super payments must go to a complying super fund – most employees can choose their own fund
- if you don't pay the SG on time, you may have to pay the SG charge
- you must pay the SG at least four times a year, by the quarterly due dates.

Quarter	Period	Payment due date
1	1 July – 30 September	28 October
2	1 October – 31 December	28 January
3	1 January – 31 March	28 April
4	1 April – 30 June	28 July

Find out more

We're committed to helping you grow, manage and protect your wealth and retirement income. If you have any questions about solutions for the self-employed please see:

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