

ROE NEWS

MARCH 2020 - ECONOMIC SUPPORT



Super and Pension Provisions for members affected by COVID-19

Over the weekend, the Australian Government announced its economic support package to help Australians who are under financial hardship as a result of the Corona-virus.

Two of the support measures announced include the early release of superannuation for those financially affected by the Corona-virus and temporarily reducing minimum pension payment requirements for retirees.

The following pages detail what you need to know about these measures and how you can apply.

Please note: The exact timing of these measures will depend on the passage of the relevant legislation.

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Looking after you

Early release of super

From mid-April (subject to legislation), eligible Australians will be able to withdraw up to \$10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20, plus a further \$10,000 in 2020-21. These payments are tax-free and will not affect any Centrelink or Veterans' Affairs payments you receive. Members will be required to apply directly to the ATO, rather than through their super fund.

For more information, you can read the Government's [Fact Sheet](#).

Am I eligible?

To apply for early release of your super, you must satisfy any one or more of the following requirements:

- you are unemployed; or
- you are eligible to receive a job seeker payment, youth allowance for job-seekers, parenting payment (which includes the single and partnered payments), special benefit or farm household allowance; or
- on or after 1 January 2020:
 - you were made redundant; or
 - your working hours were reduced by 20% or more; or
 - if you are a sole trader, your business was suspended or there was a reduction in your turnover of 20% or more.

How much of my super can I withdraw?

Those eligible can apply to access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation before 1 July 2020. They will also be able to access up to a further \$10,000 from 1 July 2020 for approximately 3 months, depending on exact timing of passage of legislation.

How do I apply?

- You will be able to apply for early release of your superannuation from mid-April 2020.
- If you are eligible, you must apply directly to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) through the [myGov website](#).

YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPLY THROUGH YOUR SUPER FUND.

- The ATO will issue you with a determination and, if you are successful, direct your super fund to release your super payment.
- Your fund will then make the payment to your nominated bank account.



Temporary reduction of minimum pension payments

To provide retirees with more flexibility in managing their retirement incomes, the Government has announced it is reducing the minimum pension payment requirement for account based pensions and similar products by 50% in both 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Who is eligible?

- All account based pension holders.

By how much can I reduce my pension payments?

The amount by which you can reduce your pension payment will depend on your age:

Age	Minimum annual pension payment	New minimum annual pension payment for 2019-20 and 2020-21
Under 65	4%	2%
65-74	5%	2.5%
75-79	6%	3%
80-84	7%	3.5%
85-89	9%	4.5%
90-94	11%	5.5%
95+	14%	7%

Minimum percentages are calculated on account balance at commencement of pension and at start of each subsequent financial year.



Be aware of scams involving Corona-virus

Visit the [Stay Smart Online website](#) for information about Corona-virus scams and how to stay safe. If you think you have been scammed, you can make a report on the [Scamwatch website](#), and find more information about [where to get help](#).

To learn more about these measures, you can read the Australian Government's [announcement](#). Legislation is required to be enacted to permit these measures and I will continue to keep you updated.