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The early release of a superannuation benefit on compassionate grounds

This fact sheet outlines conditions to gain the early release of your superannuation benefit on compassionate grounds

Super is a means of saving for retirement. It's for this reason that the government places strict rules around when you can access your super savings.

Generally speaking you can't access your super until you reach your preservation age. Depending on when you were born and what your employment status is, this is usually between ages 55 and 65 years.

However in certain circumstances you may be eligible for the early release of your super benefit (or a portion of it) on compassionate grounds.

If you are a temporary Australian resident, you will be unable to apply for the early release of your super. Please contact Prime Super to discuss what options are available to you. If you have been unable to work due to illness or injury, please contact us to determine whether you have any insurance cover in place.

You can apply to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) if you require early access to your super for any of the following reasons:

Reasons for release

You can make a claim on one or more of the specified compassionate grounds:

- Medical treatment – if you need to pay for medical treatment, for yourself or your dependant.
- Medical transport – if you need to pay for transport to medical treatment, for yourself or your dependant.
- Mortgage assistance – to prevent your mortgage lender from selling your principal place of residence.
 - to make a payment on a loan to prevent exercise by the mortgagee of an express or statutory power of sale over your principal place of residence.
- Accommodating a disability – if you need to pay for the following to accommodate a severe disability for you or your dependant
 - modifications to your home
 - modifications to your vehicle
 - disability aids
 - a modified vehicle
- Care for terminal medical condition – if you need to pay for palliative care for a person with a terminal medical condition, whether it is yourself or a dependant. Please note if the palliative care is for yourself, there may be other options available to you which could be more tax effective. Contact us to discuss your options.
- Funeral assistance – if you need to pay for expenses associated with a dependant's death, funeral or burial.

call 1800 675 839
visit primesuper.com.au
email administration@primesuper.com.au



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surprisingly straightforward

Dependants

Generally, the definition of a dependant for this purpose is:

- A spouse, regardless of whether they are financially dependent on you. A spouse also includes a de facto or same-sex partner.
- A child of any age including a biological child, an adopted child or a step-child.
- A person with whom you have an interdependency relationship. Two people may have an interdependency relationship if:
 - They have a close personal relationship.
 - They live together.
 - One or each of them provides the other with financial support.
 - One or each of them provides the other with domestic support and personal care.

Tax payable

If the ATO approves a payment to you on compassionate grounds, you may be liable to pay tax on the amount released to you. The tax payable will depend on your age and your superannuation tax-free and taxable components.

Applying to the ATO

If you believe you meet one or more of the compassionate grounds conditions you must apply directly to the ATO for approval.

You can apply for compassionate release of superannuation online from the ATO website www.ato.gov.au. Alternatively, you can request the form by calling ATO on 13 28 65.

Once the ATO has assessed your application, they will write to you with their decision and their reasons for that the decision. If they approve your claim, you will be issued with a release notification and you will need to contact Prime Super to arrange payment.

Applying to Prime Super

If the ATO approves the early release of your benefit on compassionate grounds, we will require the following documentation before we can make a payment:

- A completed Early Release of Super on Compassionate Grounds or Financial Hardship Benefit payment form. (Please call us on 1800 675 839 to have one sent out to you).
- The original letter approving your claim from the ATO.
- Instructions for filling out the early release form on compassionate grounds
- Select "Compassionate grounds" in Section 1
- Complete all sections of this form except Sections 4 and 8 (note Section 3 and 7 are optional)
- Ensure you provide proof of your identity in Section 5
- Send the completed application for early release of super form and proof of Identity to Prime Super

Proof of identity

It is important to provide the right proof of identity. If you are using paper copies of certified documents please ensure the certification is completed correctly.

You have two options to prove your identity.

Option 1 – Electronic verification

We can verify your identity online using the GreenID service or certified hard copies. GreenID is an online leading identity verification service within Australia and abroad and ensures privacy and protection of your personal information.

You can use any two of the following documents to verify your identity

- Medicare card
- Driver's licence
- Australian passport

Option 2 – Paper copies of certified documents

If you choose to prove your identity using paper-based verification all pages must be certified as a true copy of the original document on each page.

The certification must include the certifier's signature, printed name, qualification (e.g. police officer), a contact number and the date. A certification must contain an original signature.

The identification must be current (i.e. valid and not expired within the last two years) and the copy must have been certified in the last three months prior to being received by Prime Super. Please note that Prime Super does not accept documentation that has been certified by family members.

Please ensure that all the documents are provided to avoid any delays in assessing your application.

To send these documents via mail please forward to:
Prime Super
Reply Paid 85860
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
No stamp required

Please refer to the documents requirement factsheet on primesuper.com.au.

Further information

We're committed to helping you grow, manage and protect your wealth and retirement income. For more information on early release of super benefits on compassionate grounds please see

www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Super/Accessing-your-super/Early-access-to-your-super/

or give us a call on **1800 675 839** or email **administration@primesuper.com.au**

primesuper.com.au