



Splitting super contributions in the SA Metropolitan Fire Service Superannuation Scheme

The trustee of the SA Metropolitan Fire Service Superannuation Scheme recommends that you seek advice from a licensed, or appropriately authorised, financial adviser regarding your super before you make any decision in relation to super contributions splitting.

What is super contributions splitting?

Contributions splitting allows members to transfer eligible contributions from their own super account to an account in the name of their spouse in a complying superannuation fund. Conditions apply as to what contributions can be split and when a member can split contributions.

Contributions splitting may be of use for:

- People intending to retire before age 60
- Couples with significant age differences
- Couples wishing to rebalance their super accounts for general reasons

Who can contributions be split with?

Contributions can only be split with an eligible spouse who has not permanently retired or reached age 65.

A *spouse* is a person:

- who is legally married to the member;
- with whom the member lives on a genuine domestic basis in a relationship as a couple (including a same-sex partner); or
- with whom the member is in a registered relationship under a law of State or Territory (including a same-sex partner).

What contributions can be split?

You will generally be able to request a contributions split of up to 85% of concessional contributions* made during the relevant financial year. Concessional contributions include employer and salary sacrifice contributions, any contributions allocated from surplus and any deductible contributions (i.e. those for which you have advised the trustee that you will be claiming a tax deduction).

The maximum amount of taxed contributions a member can split in a financial year is the lesser of 85% of the concessional contributions and the concessional contributions cap for that financial year.

From 1 July 2019, the concessional contributions cap may be increased above the general concessional cap if you are eligible. To be eligible you must make concessional contributions in excess of the general concessional cap, have a total superannuation balance less than \$500,000 immediately prior to the financial year, and have unused concessional cap space from the previous 5 years (with 2018-19 financial year being the first year you can accrue unused concessional contributions). Your concessional contributions cap will equal the general concessional cap plus the previously unused concessional contributions made in excess of the general concessional contributions cap. This is your increased concessional contributions cap. Your increased concessional contributions cap will be used to determine the maximum amount of taxed splittable contributions

For details about the Concessional Contributions cap for the current financial year, please contact the Helpline.

* You can only split 85% of concessional contributions as the trustee must make an allowance for the deduction of the Government's 15% contributions. When you request a split of a concessional contribution amount, you will need to nominate whether the amount is net or gross of contributions tax (see the Contributions Splitting Application form for more details).

Members will only be able to request a split for additional contributions that have been made into the accumulation component of their superannuation benefit.

The following cannot be split:

- member contributions (but excluding those contributions for which you have advised the trustee that you are claiming a tax deduction), eligible spouse contributions and government co-contributions, and untaxed contributions
- amounts rolled over or transferred into the SA Metropolitan Fire Service Superannuation Scheme
- lump sum payments from an overseas super fund
- employment termination payments
- notional contributions relating to a member's defined benefits.

There may be other circumstances in which the legislation restricts or prohibits contributions splitting depending on a member's individual circumstances. We will advise you if this applies at the time you make a request to split contributions.

When can you request a contributions split?

The super contributions splitting rules work on a financial year basis (ie year ending 30 June).

Splitting periods will comprise the twelve months from 1 July to 30 June each year.

Generally a member will be able to split once per financial year and will have twelve months to make a request to split all or part of a previous year's contributions once that year is over.

If you are withdrawing your entire superannuation benefit from the Scheme you may also elect to split contributions made to your super account during the current financial year. However, this can only take place if your request to split contributions is provided to the trustee on or before the time that your super is paid out, rolled over or transferred to another super fund.

How can you request a contributions split?

To request a contributions split you should complete the 'Contributions Splitting Application' form which is available by calling the Manager on 08 8204 3826.

When should you lodge the form?

Your application to split your contributions should be lodged with the Fund after the completion of each financial year (eg. after the 30th of June).

An application to split your contributions can only be lodged once for each financial year and must be lodged before the following 30th of June (or before requesting payment if leaving the Fund).

Please note that the trustee has 90 days from the receipt of your application form to process your request.

Your spouse can join the Scheme

If you're thinking of taking advantage of super contributions splitting, it's worth noting that your spouse may be able to open their own super account in the Scheme.

For details or to obtain a copy of the relevant Member Benefit Guide call the Manager on 08 8204 3826.

If you need help

For assistance or information on super contributions splitting please call the Manager on 08 8204 3826.