



Pension update

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Opt-in to our online services

You can now receive your CPI letter and PAYG payment summary online. We hope to minimise our carbon footprint and speed-up the delivery of your CPI letter and PAYG payment summary by having as many pensioners sign-up to receive their documents online.

Benefits of online delivery include:

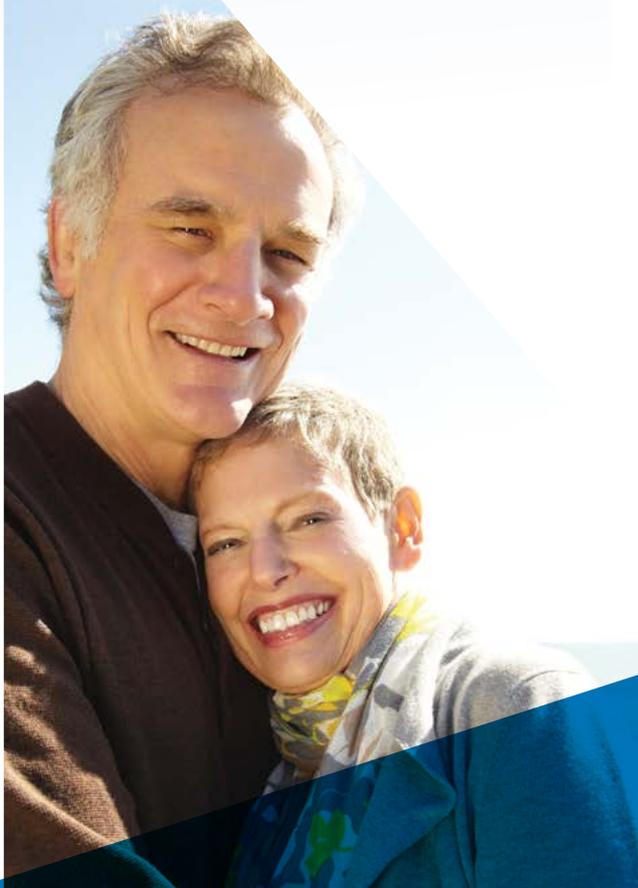
- > Its quicker and more convenient for you
- > Greater delivery security
- > You can access your CPI letter and PAYG payment summary any time
- > All your information is conveniently available in one secure place.

If you'd like to take advantage of our online service and receive your CPI letter and PAYG payment summary quicker than via the post, we encourage you to visit our website where opting-in to receiving your future CPI letter and PAYG payment summary online is now made easy for you; simply:

- > log into **Pensioner Services online** at css.gov.au;
- > under **My Statements/My CPI and Tax Information** section change your communication preference to 'Electronic'.

If you haven't previously used the Pensioner Services Online section of the CSS website, you will need an access number. To receive one, call our Customer Information Centre on **1300 001 877** and we'll issue you with your individual access number.

The Pensioner Services online section of the website also enables you to view and update personal details, including your bank account details, view previous CPI letters and PAYG payment summaries, and view pension payment transaction histories.



January 2017 CPI rate

On the first payday in January and July each year your pension is indexed in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The CPI is determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and takes into account a range of factors. These include goods and services, such as food, clothing, health and transportation.

Once the CPI figures are announced, we determine if your pension is due for an increase. If the CPI figure exceeds the previous relevant March or September CPI figure, your pension is increased. If the new CPI figure does not exceed the highest of these figures there is no increase.

On 26 October 2016 the ABS announced a CPI figure of 109.4 for the September 2016 quarter. As this is higher than the 108.2 figure for March 2016 an increase of 1.1% is payable.

Government super changes, caps and tax-exemption

You will be aware of the significant changes to Australia's superannuation system proposed in the May 2016 Federal Budget, most of which were planned to take effect on 1 July 2017.

Amendments to this package of reforms were announced by the Government on 15 September 2016. These changes are to:

- > replace the lifetime non concessional contributions cap with lower annual caps for non concessional contributions, only available to people with account balances less than \$1.6 million;
- > defer commencement of carry forward arrangements for concessional contributions; and
- > not proceed with measures to increase the flexibility for contributions for people aged 65 to 74.

Please note the recent announcement did not make reference to any of the proposed budget changes or how they would specifically apply to Defined Benefit schemes. Clarity is still being sought on a number of items relating to these changes. However, the impact of these latest amendments will also need to be assessed to determine how they may impact Defined Benefit scheme members.

We will shortly provide additional information about these changes and how they may apply to members on css.gov.au



Frequently Asked Questions

What happens when I pass away?

When the time comes, your family should ensure we are notified at the earliest opportunity. They should gather important documents such as a Will, birth and marriage certificates and the death certificate (when it becomes available). They should then complete the benefit application form and submit it with the required identity documents (which are outlined in the form). The form is available from the CSS website.

When will my pension cease/ run out?

Your pension is payable to you for your lifetime. Following your death, a reversionary pension may be paid to an eligible spouse and/or any dependant children.

Centrelink have asked me to complete a 'Details of Income Stream Product form' (SA330), can you help me with this?

This form asks CSC to provide information about your income to assess eligibility for Centrelink benefits. You can call the Customer Information Centre on 1300 001 777, and we can email, post or fax our response to you.

Will the age pension affect my pension?

Our pensions are not means tested against any other income support payments. If you are receiving a pension from Centrelink or DVA, it may be affected by our pension. Please contact Centrelink or DVA for more information.

I have recently become a pensioner, but I cannot access my online account.

When you start receiving a pension from us you will need a new access number to login to Pensioner Services Online. Call 1300 001 777 to receive one. We will need to verify your identity first so have your 1922 or PNG reference number handy.

The 3rd Act – Freedom in Retirement



The 3rd Act program was created to encourage and support members and pensioners in taking a more holistic approach to retirement. The program gives you access to seminars, workshops, articles and stories covering a range of topics such as preparing for change, family and lifestyle, working and volunteering, finances and healthy mind and body.

Question: What can you learn from other people's journey into retirement?

With this question in mind we recently asked you, our pension members, to share your retirement journey story. (You may remember this request in a previous 'Pension update')

The result was 40 highly personal and wonderfully unique stories coming to us by email and post. The stories covered similar themes sharing the highlights and challenges of transitioning to and living in retirement.

We recently shared some of these stories on our 3rd Act website and we'll continue to share more over time. So why not grab a drink, sit back and enjoy some interesting reading at the3rdact.com.au

While you are on the 3rd Act website, take a moment to sign-up to receive the electronic newsletter. This will keep you in touch with future stories, articles and events from the program.

SCOA guide to planning for and coping with bereavement

The Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association (SCOA) is a retiree organisation that represents the interests of government defined benefit scheme pensioners. SCOA has published a guide to help your family, friends and those acting upon your wishes following your death.

The **Planning for and coping with bereavement** booklet is available free of charge to SCOA members, although you are asked to contribute \$5 for postage. If you are not a member of SCOA, you can purchase a copy for \$15 including postage, by contacting SCOA's Federal Office on **02 6286 7977** or by downloading an order form from scoa.asn.au/bereavement-book



For more information about SCOA, including how to become a member, visit scoa.asn.au

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Disclaimer

Any financial product advice in this document is general advice only and has been prepared without taking account of your personal objectives, financial situation or needs. Before acting on any such general advice, you should consider the appropriateness of the advice, having regard to your own objectives, financial situation or needs. You may wish to consult a licensed financial advisor. You should obtain a copy of the **CSS Product Disclosure Statement (PDS)** and consider its contents before making any decision regarding your super.

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Trustee of the 1922 Scheme

Trustee of the Papua New Guinea Scheme (PNG Scheme)