

# Contributing to super

## Fact sheet

Making extra contributions to your super account is a great way to help you reach your retirement goals.

There are two types of extra contributions you can make:

- **before-tax** (or concessional) contributions
- **after-tax** (or non-concessional) contributions.

### Before-tax contributions

Money going into your super account is generally taxed at a lower rate than money that goes into your bank account each payday. So adding extra to your super from your salary before tax is taken out can mean you pay less income tax while boosting the money in your super account. These extra contributions are called concessional, or before-tax contributions.

Before-tax contributions include the Superannuation Guarantee (SG) contribution your employer makes for you, other employer contributions above the SG, and any voluntary salary sacrifice payments you make.

### Your SG contributions

If you're eligible\* for super, by law your employer has to pay contributions into your super account. This contribution is called the Superannuation Guarantee (or SG). The amount of SG your employer pays is set by the government. Right now, the SG is 9.5% of your salary - this will go up to 12% of your salary by 2025.



### Contributions calculator

To see how making additional before or after-tax contributions could boost your super, explore our contributions calculator at [rest.com.au/calculators](https://rest.com.au/calculators)

### Salary sacrifice

Salary sacrifice means your employer pays some of your before-tax salary (on top of the SG) into your super account, rather than paying it to you as your take-home pay.

Salary sacrifice contributions are generally taxed at only 15% (which can be a lot less than your personal rate of up to 47%), so this can mean more super savings (and less tax paid) for you. Not all employers offer salary sacrifice arrangements, so check it out with them first. And if your annual income is more than \$250,000 (including before-tax super contributions), you might pay extra tax on these contributions.

If your employer doesn't offer salary sacrifice, you may still enjoy the same advantages by claiming a tax deduction on your after-tax contributions.

If you want to claim a tax deduction on your after-tax contribution, you'll just need to send Rest a 'Notice of intent to claim a deduction for personal super contributions' form before you lodge your personal tax return.

You can find this form, and all the details about eligibility and when to claim, at [ato.gov.au](https://ato.gov.au) We'll take out the 15% tax and you can then claim the deduction when you do your tax return.



### Super tips

**Download the Rest App, your 24/7 online access to your Rest account so you can:**

- give Rest your Tax File Number so your before-tax contributions won't be taxed at a higher rate, and we can accept your after-tax contributions
- keep an eye on your contributions to see if you're getting close to your contribution limits (see 'Know your limit' over the page).

Download the Rest App and stay connected to your super. Visit [rest.com.au/app](https://rest.com.au/app) to download or learn more.

## After-tax contributions

You can also add some extra to your super after tax has been taken out of your pay. This is called a non-concessional or after-tax contribution. As you've already paid tax on this money, it isn't taxed again. After-tax contributions include personal contributions and spouse contributions.

### Personal contributions

You can make regular after-tax contributions, or make a payment in one go – it's up to you. Just use one of our convenient contribution methods such as BPAY®, or direct debit from your bank account or through your employer. If you make an after-tax contribution and earn less than \$54,837 (for 2020-21), you may also be eligible for a co-contribution from the government. Visit [rest.com.au/co-cont](https://rest.com.au/co-cont) to learn more.

### Spouse contributions

If your spouse earns less than \$40,000 per annum and you make a voluntary contribution into their super, you may be eligible to receive a tax offset for that contribution. To receive the maximum offset of \$540 per financial year, your spouse would need to be earning less than \$37,000 per annum, and you would need to make a \$3,000 contribution to their super.

If your spouse earns between \$37,000 and \$40,000 you may still be eligible for the offset, but won't receive the maximum amount.

## Know your limit

There are limits (or caps) on how much you can contribute to your super before or after tax.



### Advice when you need it

Making a before or after-tax contribution to your super will depend on your circumstances, so you might like to have a chat with a financial adviser to help you decide.

Rest Advice is all about helping you make good decisions with your super. For more information about how Rest Advice can help, visit [rest.com.au/advice](https://rest.com.au/advice) or call us on **1300 300 778**.

**Before tax** - \$25,000 per financial year (includes all before-tax contributions including the SG)

**After tax** - \$100,000 per financial year (if your total super balance is more than the eligibility limit - currently \$1.6 million - you can't make any after-tax contributions)

You may be able to contribute over these limits by making a 'carry forward' contribution (before-tax contributions) or taking advantage of the 'bring forward' rule (after-tax contributions). There are rules around these, so go to [rest.com.au/grow](https://rest.com.au/grow) to learn more.

Remember, these limits apply to all your super accounts, so you'll need to add up the contributions you make to all the funds you have and count them towards the limit. If you make a contribution into your spouse's super, the contribution will count towards their after-tax limit, not yours.

If you go over the limits, there may be tax penalties. Visit [rest.com.au/facts#3](https://rest.com.au/facts#3) for more information about what happens if you breach the limit.



### Over 67?

If you're aged between 67 and 74, you'll need to meet a condition called the 'work test' to salary sacrifice, make after-tax contributions or claim a tax deduction on after-tax contributions.

The work test requires that you've worked at least 40 hours within 30 consecutive days in the financial year.

If you make a contribution into your spouse's super, they will also need to meet the work test.

If you're over 75, you're not able to salary sacrifice, make after-tax contributions or claim a tax deduction on your after-tax contributions.

Effective 1 July 2019, if you haven't met the 'work test', you may be eligible for the 'work test exemption'. Available only once, this would allow you to make voluntary contributions into your super for the remaining of the financial year.

To be eligible for the 'work test exemption', you must have met the 'work test' in the previous financial year and have a total superannuation balance below \$300,000 at the end of the previous financial year.

## If there's anything we can do

 [rest.com.au](https://rest.com.au)

 **Live Chat at rest.com.au**

Monday to Friday 8am - 10pm, Saturday 9am - 6pm  
and Sunday 10am - 6pm AEST

 **1300 300 778**

Monday to Friday 8am - 10pm AEST

 **Download the Rest App**



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\* To be eligible for super, you must be earning \$450 or more a month (before tax). If you're under 18, you also need to be working more than 30 hours per week. Rest financial advice is provided by Rest Advisers as authorised representatives of Link Advice Pty Ltd ABN 36 105 811 836, AFSL 285145. This information has been prepared without taking account of your objectives, financial situation or needs. Before acting on the information or deciding whether to acquire or hold a product, consider its appropriateness and the relevant PDS which is available at [rest.com.au](https://rest.com.au). The cost of providing financial services is included in the fees as disclosed in the relevant PDS. Rest and the Fund do not charge additional fees or obtain commissions for the advice provided. Rest employees are paid a salary and do not receive commissions. They may receive a performance related bonus that takes into account the financial services provided. Super Investment Management Pty Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Rest, manages some of the Fund's investments. Rest has no other relationships or associations with any related body corporate or product issuer that might reasonably be expected to influence Rest in providing financial services. For more information, contact us at [rest.com.au/contact-us](https://rest.com.au/contact-us). Issued by Retail Employees Superannuation Pty Ltd ABN 39 001987 739 as trustee of Rest (Retail Employees Superannuation Trust ABN 62 653 671 394).

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