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Save for your first home through super

From 1 July 2018, you can apply to withdraw some of your super for a first home deposit. You won’t be able to withdraw your employer’s contributions, but you can withdraw extra contributions you’ve made since 1 July last year (e.g. via salary sacrifice).

Topping up your super can boost your savings because you benefit from tax concessions and investment earnings. In fact, the Government says this could boost savings by at least 30% compared with saving in a bank account (see the Federal Budget paper, 2017/18).

Be careful though – rules and limits apply. And if you don’t end up buying a home, this money will be locked in super until you retire.

Visit www.ato.gov.au to learn more.

Don’t miss out on a super tax deduction

Did you know you can now apply to claim a tax deduction for personal (after-tax) contributions you make to super?

This could help if you want to pay more into super, but your employer won’t let you make salary sacrifice contributions. Limits and conditions apply.


The banks are after your super

The banks are pushing for changes to the super system to increase profits at the expense of your hard-earned super.

They want to remove default funds like Cbus from EBAs and awards to sell more of their own super fund products. On average, bank-owned funds underperform industry super funds like Cbus, so this would leave you with less money to retire on.

Alongside this, as a result of growing public concern about the banks, the Government recently established a Royal Commission into the banks and other financial service providers.

Remember, who looks after your super can make a big difference to your future.

Find out what’s going on at www.banksarentsuper.com.

Are you owed a share of $3.6 billion in unpaid super?

While the majority of employers do the right thing, some unscrupulous operators aren’t paying what’s due to their workers – in fact around one in six Cbus members have reported experiencing unpaid super problems.

In late 2017, a number of proposals were introduced to parliament, including a change to the law so that super is paid at the same time as your wages. We welcome these proposals, but there’s still a long way to go to ensure you get your fair share.

If you think you’ve missed out, report it to the ATO at www.ato.gov.au and they’ll investigate.
Craig has been a member of Cbus since he was a 16-year-old apprentice plumber. Thirty years later he’s still enjoying life as a plumber, now working on Darwin’s Ichthys LNG site.

“I work for a local contractor – East Arm Civil,” says Craig. “On a major project like this, East Arm Civil are represented with a workforce of about 180 people. It’s just a local family company, out here having a go and they’re really good at it.

“I really like the camaraderie on the job here. Like most construction jobs, you make friends for life, and you can really move forward and better your skills on these jobs. I’m also pretty lucky because my wife lives up here with me.”

At age 46, Craig thinks he’s about 15 years off retirement, but that will depend on how much super he’s saved before then.

“I probably didn’t take super seriously enough when I was younger – like most young people. Now you look at it and you realise you’ve worked more than half your life and should have been preparing for it more.

“It’s an education thing, and it’s getting a lot easier for us now we’ve got Cbus Coordinators coming on site to help keep us informed... Mick’s not just a Coordinator, he’s a mate to people up here. He’s a long-term Territorian, and he’s got the respect of the community here.”

Craig and his wife are passionate fundraisers for the Variety Bash – an iconic event that sees old cars driven through the outback and regional Australia. They’ve helped raise more than $100,000 over the years and are hoping to continue their efforts well into retirement.

“I’ve been a Variety Basher for around 17 years. We do one or two a year in a couple of old Holdens I have, raising money and awareness for Variety – the Children’s Charity.

“Cbus have been great supporters of it. Some of their gifts are given out to kids around NSW, QLD and NT. You dress them up and throw a hat on them, and it just helps put a smile on their face.

“We’re hoping to keep doing this well into our retirement. There’s plenty of old Bashers in their 60s or so. It’s great to see them doing it, and it really helps inspire you... I’ve been able to give my family a good life with what I’ve done in construction, so it’s time to give back if you can. That’s the way we look at it.”
How fit are your finances?

You probably wouldn’t say no to a pay rise, but do you make decisions that make the most of what you have? Here are three things that could help.

Set a budget

Using our online Budget planner you can set up and manage your household budget in minutes. This means you can see – quickly and easily – where your money goes and whether you can afford to save a little extra each month.


Get financial advice through your super

Whether you need to get your finances under control, manage debt or are worried about your super, you can access commission free, professional financial advice through Cbus.

The Cbus Advice Team can help with advice on super, and if your query goes beyond that, we’ll refer you to a Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) who meets strict professional qualification and service criteria set by Cbus and the Financial Planning Association (FPA) of Australia.

The financial planner can offer you advice on a fee-for-service basis. Your first meeting is at no cost and any fees for advice will be agreed with you in advance. Best of all, you could be eligible to have the fees deducted directly from your Cbus account.

Check how much insurance you need

If something unexpectedly stops you from working, it pays to have a backup plan. Insurance cover could help provide you and your family with vital financial support – but how much cover is enough? Work out how much you might need from your super with our Insurance needs calculator.


As a Cbus member you’re not alone. Find out more about our advice service at www.cbussuper.com.au/getadvice.
You invest your super to help it grow. The higher the return, the more money you’ll have to spend in retirement.

Most members are invested in our award-winning Growth (Cbus MySuper) option, and we’re pleased to report we’ve delivered another year of outstanding returns. This includes an average return of 6.06% a year over the last decade (see opposite).

Returns can go down as well as up, but getting a good return over your working life might matter more than you think.

Milk matters

Back in 1984 a litre of milk cost you around $0.68. Today it’s more than $1.40.

The price of goods and services – like milk – increase over time (that’s inflation). So what you can buy with $10 today is a lot more than what you might be able to buy with that same $10 in 30 years’ time.

Your super needs to grow at a higher rate than inflation. Otherwise, you could be losing money without realising it! That’s why the Growth (Cbus MySuper option) targets a return of inflation + 3.25% over ten year rolling periods.

So while all investments involve some risk, you need to make sure this doesn’t distract you from the biggest risk of all: not having enough for retirement.

Performance to 31 December 2017

Growth (Cbus MySuper) option* 12.15% 6.06%
SuperRatings fund average# 10.72% 5.21%

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

*Investment performance for the Growth (Cbus MySuper) option is based on the crediting rates, which is the return minus investment costs and taxes, the Trustee Operating Cost and reserves. Excludes account keeping administration fees.


Your options

Think about what you really need from your investments and choose an option that suits you:

Your goals
- What sort of return above the cost of living (inflation) do you want each year?
- Will your selection provide an investment return that’s high enough?

Your timeframe
- How long is your money likely to be invested – a few years or many years?
- Do you have time to ride out ups and downs in performance?

Your current position
- Do you need to diversify your investments, so you don’t have all your eggs in one basket (e.g. property)?
- What level of risk are you willing to accept to reach your goals?
The typical Queenslander home has come a long way if 443 Queen Street is anything to go by. Standing at 47 storeys, it’ll be Brisbane’s first truly subtropical apartment tower – inspired by Queensland’s unique architecture.

The development forms part of a new generation of design for subtropical living that combines shading, sheltering, greenery and sustainability. Its build imitates raised stumps and protects its core using breezeways and walkways as an outer climate modifier – much like the traditional Queenslander’s verandah.

443 Queen Street can be opened up to the air, light and greenery. Around 60% of the energy used in residential buildings is from common areas, so by naturally ventilating and lighting these areas, it will significantly reduce its energy consumption.

And with a host of other green credentials, it’s set a transformative benchmark for Brisbane developments, creating around 2,000 jobs for local workers.

443 Queen Street symbolises a new way of working. In late 2017 Cbus Property launched its Green By Design mandate, which puts sustainability at the core of its approach to all existing and future commercial developments.

Australia’s 1,462 Green Star certified buildings already produce 62% less greenhouse gas emissions than average Australian buildings and use 66% less electricity, alongside many other environmental benefits.

“Australia has an opportunity to lead the world in creating urban environments that better the lives of all inhabitants.”

— Cbus Property chief executive, Adrian Pozzo

Going Green By Design


Notice something different about Cbus News?

In response to members’ feedback, we’re improving Cbus News to make it more relevant and easier to understand. We’d love to hear what you think – simply email us at marketing@cbussuper.com.au.
Play smart – are you gambling aware?

You might enjoy the odd sports bet or a go at the pokies, but around 1.4 million Australians may be at risk of (or already experiencing) harm from their gambling.

Did you know that Australians over age 18 lose around $1,200 a year on gambling? A quick win might seem appealing, but in reality most people lose a lot more than they gain.

David Clark, education and support team leader at one of our partners – Incolink – runs regular sessions with young building and construction workers to help them better understand the harm gambling can cause and what to do if you or a mate needs help.

Alongside practical tips, the group shares anecdotes about those whose gambling has cost them friends, jobs and cars.

“We’re not telling them that it’s wrong to gamble. We’re saying, only bet what you can afford to lose,” says David.

One attendee, second-year apprentice James Ivic, says the gambling industry should be open about the effect it has on people’s lives. “I know it creates a lot of jobs, but they don’t talk about the bad things that happen because of gambling,” says James.

Reduce your risk

Want to reduce your gambling risk? Incolink offers four tips:

1. **Stick to cash** – leave your ATM and credit cards at home when you go out.
2. **Use a two-pocket plan** – place the amount of money you’re prepared to lose in one pocket and once it’s empty, you’re done for the night.
3. **Set a time limit** – ask your mates to come and get you once your time is up.
4. **Avoid the temptation** – when you’re going out, try to choose a venue without pokies.

If you have concerns about your gambling, or are affected by someone else’s, call Gambler’s Help on 1800 858 858.

This article has been developed with support from Incolink and the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation.

Making your insurance easier

As a Cbus member, you gain access to affordable insurance to help if something goes wrong. And it’s becoming a lot easier to apply for cover and make a claim.

**Easier applications**

You can apply online to increase or decrease your cover, change your occupation category, and transfer or cancel your insurance.

**More claims support**

Our new dedicated Claims Assist team will explain the claims process more simply and help you get access to financial hardship or financial planning support if you need it.

**Better online tools**

Our Insurance needs calculator at [www.cbussuper.com.au/calculators](http://www.cbussuper.com.au/calculators) lets you see how much cover you could need to support your family, pay off any loans and pay for day-to-day expenses.

**How can Cbus cover you?**

Here’s a reminder of the cover most members can apply for through Cbus:

- **Death cover** – a payment, on top of your super balance, if you die or are diagnosed with a terminal illness.
- **Total and Permanent Disablement cover** – a lump sum benefit if you’re unlikely to ever work again due to illness or injury.

Income Protection cover is also available to members working in Non-manual and Professional occupations.

Your coordinators

Local Cbus Coordinators give you personal, face-to-face support when you and your worksite need it. Get in contact today if you need help or to organise a workplace information session.

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