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Get the latest news.

Fast.

Here’s a snapshot of things you might need to know.

Over 65? There’s a growing incentive to downsize your home

On 1 July 2018, the Government is introducing an incentive for people aged over 65 to downsize their homes.

You’ll be able to downsize and make super contributions of up to $300,000 (or $600,000 as a couple) regardless of other contribution caps and restrictions that generally apply.

Be careful though – strict rules, limits and timescales apply.

Contact us or visit www.ato.gov.au to learn more.

Don’t miss out on a tax deduction

If you’re under age 75, 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.


Pay a lot into super? Don’t be caught out

From 1 July 2017, your annual before-tax contributions to super (like those your employer pays and salary sacrifice contributions you make) have been limited to $25,000*.

A catch up system will be available from 1 July 2018, where unused amounts of your cap each year can be carried forward for up to five years. To be eligible, you must have less than $500,000* in your account.


* Limits for the 2017/2018 year. Your total super balance may also affect these limits.

Age Pension eligibility age on its way up

The earliest age you can access the Age Pension started to rise last year. It’s currently 65.5 and will gradually increase to age 67 between now and July 2023.

The Government also says it is committed to boosting the pension age to 70 between 2025 and 2035, although legislation hasn’t yet been proposed. We know that many Cbus members will struggle physically to work that long, so we’re advocating against this change and trying to ensure you don’t have to wait even longer between accessing your super and starting the Age Pension.

For help on how this could affect your retirement plans, contact the Cbus Advice Team on 1300 361 784.
How healthy are we?

It’s not just our laid back lifestyle and stunning coastline that makes Australia so appealing – we also have one of the highest life expectancies in the world (behind Japan, Switzerland and Singapore).

But despite the longer lives we’re living, seven out of 10 deaths around the world are caused by preventable factors like our diet, obesity and drug use. Locally, some of the biggest killers are heart disease, lung and bowel cancer and strokes.

While none of us like to think the worst, it helps to be prepared. Think about your own lifestyle and family history – even small changes today can make a difference to your life tomorrow.

Keep fit and healthy

It might sound obvious, but as you get older it’s more important than ever to stay active and in control of your diet. Maybe it’s time to give kale a go, review your portion size or get on the bike that’s been gathering dust in the garage?

Get your brain active

Many age-related changes like memory loss are said to be lifestyle related and can improve with mental exercises like games, reading and learning new things. Maybe now’s the time to learn a new language?

Stay social

Looking after each other and being part of a community is even more vital as we get older. Why not give your social life a boost with a local club like Men’s Sheds (www.mensshed.org) or one of the thousands of local meet up groups (www.meetup.com).

Stay on top of your finances

You’ve spent years planning for retirement, but even the best laid plans can go awry. Schedule regular financial health checks and call the Cbus Advice Team if you’re worried. As a Cbus member, you’re not alone.

Will you outlive your retirement savings?

Living longer, happier and healthier lives sounds great. But can you afford it?

If you’re aged 55 today, you could live another 30 years or so on average. None of us have a crystal ball but, as these figures are averages, around half of us are likely to live even longer! This means it’s vital your super lasts as long as you do.

As you approach your own retirement, there are steps you can take now to help your savings last:

1. Think about
   - When you can start accessing your super.
   - How long you’ll need your savings to last – and how long you’ll need to wait until the Age Pension.
   - How much you think you’ll spend – use our Retirement spending planner (see below) to help.

2. Adjust your strategy (if you need to)
   - Do you want to retire completely – or gradually reduce your hours?
   - Could a different investment option help your savings grow more?
   - Could you use a Transition to Retirement strategy to top up your savings and pay less tax?

3. Review regularly
   - Your annual statement is a great time to take stock and give your savings a health check.

Strong returns from shares were a significant contributor to performance at the end of December 2017. In fact, the Australian share market finished the year at its highest point for almost 10 years.

Overseas, the US share market continued to hit new highs and very strong returns were also seen from emerging markets. Strong economic data, low inflation and ongoing low interest rates have supported growth in many countries across the world. Unlisted property and infrastructure continued to show their value as part of an overall portfolio mix, with a solid contribution to returns over the year. Low interest rates saw returns from cash and fixed interest remain low.

These conditions proved good news for your super, with strong returns above the SuperRatings fund averages. The Growth (Cbus MySuper) option returned an impressive 6.49% for the six months to 31 December 2017. Over 10 years (which includes negative years from the global financial crisis) it delivered an annual average return of 6.06%, outperforming the fund average by 0.85%.

Looking ahead, the outlook for 2018 is positive. Global growth and the expectations for growth in company profits are strong. If inflation rises sharply that could spark some movement in share markets during the year.

We pay close attention to the investment environment and adjust the portfolio based on our medium to longer-term views.

### Performance to 31 December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>7 years (% per year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cbus²</td>
<td>SuperRatings fund average²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Growth³</td>
<td>15.09%</td>
<td>14.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth (Cbus MySuper⁴)</td>
<td>12.15%</td>
<td>10.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative Growth⁵</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative⁶</td>
<td>6.36%</td>
<td>5.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Savings⁷</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. ¹Investment performance 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. ²(Median) SuperRatings investment performance surveys, 31 December 2017. ³SuperRatings SR25 High Growth Median. ⁴SuperRatings SR50 Balanced Median. ⁵This option commenced on 1 July 2017 so historical returns and performance information is not available. ⁶SuperRatings SR50 Capital Stable Median. No relevant peer comparison available. SuperRatings is a ratings agency that collects information from super funds to enable performance comparisons – visit [www.superratings.com.au](http://www.superratings.com.au).

Higher returns help your account grow, giving you more money to spend in retirement. So we’re pleased to report we’ve delivered another bumper year of returns for members.


### 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?
Going Green By Design

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.

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

– Cbus Property chief executive, Adrian Pozzo

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.

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Since joining the industry at age 20, Les has had a varied career across construction and oil. We caught up with him working as a delegate on the new $1.6 billion Perth Stadium site. "The atmosphere here has been really good with the workers," says Les. "We had 1,400 people working on the project at one stage, and around 7,000 over the project... It'll be a real highlight of a lot of people to come and see a game here."

With the Perth Stadium reaching completion, Les was contemplating his next move. The big question in his mind was whether he'd be able to secure a new job or whether it was time to give retirement a go. "Sometimes you feel like you want to keep working, but sometimes you're not too sure! It can be pretty terrifying when you get close to retirement and think, what am I actually going to do? And how much super have I got put away to do it?"

"They talk about a comfortable lifestyle being around $60,000 a year for a couple, but it really depends on your lifestyle – if you're a traveller, you're going to need more money, if you're a fisherman, probably not half as much!"

Les says he wishes he could have built up more super over the years, but a life of contracts can make it hard for people in his industry. So, to top up his savings, he's hoping to get a little creative with his hobby. "I'm really into music and memorabilia, so when I have a bit more time on my hands I might get into selling it on eBay. I've got a few things there that you probably can't buy anymore, so I'm hoping I might actually make a profit."

"I get a bit from overseas and generally try and pick up stuff I think is really worth it. There's no point paying an arm and a leg for something you can't sell for an arm and a leg!"

Recognising there's a lot to try and figure out before retirement, Les told us it was time to speak to an expert. "I started a conversation with the Cbus Advice Team a few years ago, and it's time for me to pick that up again. The Cbus operation is so different to all of the others – the people I've dealt with are always very hands on and helpful."


Ease into retirement with a regular income stream

Are you starting to plan for retirement? A super income stream can provide a regular, flexible and tax-effective income during your final years of work and into retirement.

You can set up an income stream using funds from your existing Cbus super account or from any other super fund.

You simply decide:

1. How much you want to invest in your income stream.
2. How much you want to receive as a regular payment.
3. How often you’d like to receive payments.

Your regular payments will be deposited directly into your nominated savings account.

One of our qualified financial advisers can help you understand if an income stream is right for you. Call the Cbus Advice Team on 1300 361 784.
Making your insurance easier

If you’re applying for cover or trying to make a claim this year, you’re likely to notice some important improvements.

**Easier applications**
- You can now apply online to increase or decrease your cover, change your occupation category, and transfer or cancel your insurance.
- Once you’ve applied our Insurer will now call you if they need more information. This saves you time and gets you covered sooner.

**More claims support**
- Making a claim can be a daunting and emotional process, so we’re working to ensure you get the best possible support and guidance.
- Our new dedicated Claims Assist team will explain the claims process more simply and clearly, provide a point of escalation, 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 if you can no longer work.


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**RECONNECT with the workforce**

If you’re trying to get back into the workforce, our REconnect program could help.

Looking for work can be a stressful and emotional time, particularly as we get older. Since 2016, we’ve partnered with SuperFriend to deliver a REconnect program to help you get back into work. This year we’re launching the program as an ongoing service to Cbus members.

In six specially designed online topics, we’ll guide you to relevant articles and tips to help you on your journey back to work:
- access job sites you might not have tried yet and learn how to write a great resume
- get tips on maintaining a healthy mind and body to keep you motivated
- learn how to manage your stress – before it gets you down
- understand the value of socialising when you’re out of work
- hear how to live well on a smaller budget.

“It’s relevant to people looking for work and looking for support. It even touched on if people were feeling depressed... it’s very supportive.”

– REconnect participant

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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