

September 2023

# cbus news



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# From strength to strength

## A message from our CEO Kristian Fok



It's an honour to write to you for the first time as Cbus Super CEO and I'm pleased to be able to highlight some great progress we have made on your behalf.

### A win for members

We were pleased to publish our retirement strategy in July 2022 and have maintained our focus on delivering the retirement our members are looking for.

Developments this year have included updating our retirement calculators and contacting members at key points near and during retirement. Along with making advice and webinars available, Cbus is working hard to help you plan for the retirement you would like to have.

### Healthy returns

We're delighted to deliver a healthy return into your account this year, despite the uncertainty and volatility that's been the hallmark of financial markets this past year. I encourage you to read the related investment article in this *Cbus News* for further detail.

### New members

Another key event during the year was welcoming 17,000 new members in the energy and electrical sector, following our merger with EISS Super in May. Our member services and webinar teams have been working hard to keep our newest members up to date with their accounts.



**I would like to acknowledge the appointment of Marianne Walker as deputy CEO.**

Marianne works tirelessly in her role as Chief Member Officer and her appointment reinforces your fund's total focus on providing quality service for you, our members.

## Thank you and farewell, Frank O'Grady

We pay tribute to Frank O'Grady who retired this year, after serving 11 years as Member Director at Cbus Super.

Frank was an organiser for the Building Workers Industrial Union in Western Australia during the 1984 national campaign that won super for building workers and created Cbus Super (originally BUSS).

Through Cbus Super, workers didn't just get super, they gained access to affordable insurance that covered them in high-risk settings. Frank says it was the older members who campaigned hard because they wanted younger members to be able to access the benefits of superannuation in their retirement. Frank paid tribute to these rank and file members including Brian Churchill, Tony Farnham and Brian Freeman.

**"Unionism in the building industry is founded on fairness. You win gains not just for yourself but to improve conditions for others coming into the industry."**



# Fighting the good fight

In July 2023, Stephen Wise received an Award Of Merit for his contribution to the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) and its fight for a fair deal for Australian workers.

The award recognised Stephen's exemplary service with the Victorian Branch of the Printing and Kindred Industries Union/AMWU over 44 years.

Looking back at the beginning of his career, Stephen recalls being a somewhat rebellious teenager before he left high school for a cadetship in the merchant navy. He had a few different jobs after that, but found his niche in the printing industry, where he loved the physical work, being productive and making things with his hands.

In the late 70s Stephen joined the AMWU and in 1984 he became a delegate. "I liked representing the people in the industry - workers needed it. It was good timing – just after I became a delegate, we fought for the shorter working week and we won."

## The times they are a-changing

Alongside his career as a skilled bookbinder, his involvement in the AMWU grew. Stephen became an organiser, national president, state president and his last AMWU position was Victorian State councillor. Stephen's bedrock was doing what he thought was right, and what the people had elected him to do.

Times change but often things change for the better. One of his jobs was for a business that printed bank cheques - and while bank cheques will be phased out, Stephen has seen positive changes phased in.



"Superannuation was previously just for the executive staff – a sign of their superiority. In the early 90s we got super for the workers".

## Creating a comfortable retirement

Stephen was a Media Super member since its inception and has had a Cbus Super Income Stream account since the two funds merged last year. The flexibility of an income stream account means that he and his wife Mary can use some of their retirement savings for home renovations, but otherwise their money stays invested for the long term.

After years of hard work and years campaigning for the rights of others, Stephen is now enjoying the things he likes best: going to the footy, attending live theatre, pottering, making things, and fixing things in his shed. "My family call the shed 'Steve's emporium and art gallery'" he laughs. The future looks good.



If you have a question about your income stream, visit a front counter near you, call us or find your local Coordinator at [cbussuper.com.au/coordinators](https://cbussuper.com.au/coordinators).

# Super fit on any budget

Interest rates, rising rents and cost of living are the words on everyone's lips. But even if you don't have a lot of spare cash, there are still things you can do for your retirement savings.



## Two ways you could potentially boost your savings

1

**Almost fully retired?**

### When you open a Super Income Stream account, we'll boost your balance with a tax saving

If you use your existing Cbus Super or TTR account to start a Fully Retired income stream, you could be eligible for a tax refund. The amount you could get depends on your account balance and other factors. In April 2023 eligible Cbus Super members received an average refund of \$2,626 – a valuable boost to their retirement savings. Eligibility rules apply.

#### Find out how much you could get

**Online:** Log into your account and click on *balance quote*.

**By phone:** Call us on **1300 361 784** for a balance quote. We can provide advice about setting up a Super Income Stream for your retirement.

Or read the *Income Stream Tax Refund* fact sheet at [cbussuper.com.au/forms](https://cbussuper.com.au/forms).

2

**Thinking about downsizing?**

### It could help you boost your retirement savings

If you're considering selling your family home and you're aged 55 or over, you could invest that money back into your retirement savings.

Downsizer contributions let you make a once-off contribution to your super from the proceeds of the sale of your home. Both you and your spouse can contribute up to \$300,000 each (totalling up to \$600,000 combined) and contributions don't count towards any contribution caps.

There could be advantages of putting more money into your super or a new Super Income Stream account and because your money stays invested, your downsizer contribution could boost potential investment earnings as well.

Eligibility rules apply and you'll need to think about things like Age Pension rules, the transfer balance cap and any other Centrelink benefits. We'll help you work out what will suit your needs.

**Get advice:** Our Advice Services team are available on **1300 361 784**, 8.30am to 6.00pm (AEDT/AEST) Monday to Friday. We can help guide you and our service is included as part of your membership.

Or read the *Downsizer contribution* fact sheet at [cbussuper.com.au/forms](https://cbussuper.com.au/forms) for more information.



## Explore the simple ways you can save

If you manage to free up some cash, you might be able to pay down your debts faster or put some extra money aside for retirement. Either way, small amounts can make a big difference over time. Here are some ideas to get you started.



**Review your spending** > You can use an app, or simply review your last couple of credit card statements. Once you know where your money is going, you can see where to improve and start a budget.

Check out [moneysmart.gov.au](https://moneysmart.gov.au) – a great website with budgeting tools, tips, resources and advice for managing on a low income.



**Save energy** > Make a habit of turning off appliances that aren't in use, use cold water in your washing machine or have a think about solar panels.



**Energy bills** > Compare energy suppliers to make sure you're getting the best deal. Use the Government's Energy Made Easy website at [energymadeeasy.gov.au](https://energymadeeasy.gov.au).



**Rebates and assistance** > There are rebates, discounts and offers which could potentially help you save on costs, upgrade your appliances or make energy efficient upgrades to your home. Check out [energy.gov.au/rebates](https://energy.gov.au/rebates).



**Food for thought** > Plan your meals ahead to cut down on food waste, buy in bulk when you can, or try growing your own food.



**Shopping around** > Try using an app to help find the best petrol prices, and shop around for things like home and contents insurance and mobile phone providers.



**Pay off some debt** > Paying off your debts sooner could save you a lot of money in interest. If you have a few debts, it might make a lot of sense to pay off the debt with the highest interest rate faster.

If you need help getting on top of your debts, call the National Debt Hotline on **1800 007 007** from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, or go to [ndh.org.au](https://ndh.org.au) for more info.

These examples are provided for illustration purposes only and are not intended to replace financial advice. This information doesn't represent the benefits that you could receive or the fees and costs you may pay. It doesn't factor in your personal financial situation and needs – the outcome will depend on your personal circumstances.

# How we diversify your investment

Ever heard the saying don't put all your eggs in one basket? To reduce the risk of a big fall in your account balance, we invest your super in a variety of assets. This is called diversifying your investments.



Diversification works because not all assets perform in the same way at the same time – when one investment is performing poorly another may be performing well. Here are three examples of how we diversify your super.

## We invest directly

As well as investing in assets that are listed on stock exchanges, we invest in projects directly. One example is Cbus Property's latest project, Nine The Esplanade in Perth, where work started in April 2023.

The \$500 million, 19-storey office building will feature more than 4,800 square metres of on-site office, co-working and conferencing facility spaces with views across Elizabeth Quay and the Swan River.

## We invest in assets that provide stable returns

Since 2019 we've successfully lent over \$1.5 billion to a variety of Australian businesses. We also provided loans to support residential construction projects throughout the pandemic, with construction funding continuing to be part of our ongoing internal strategy.

Our investment in Australian loans is expected to provide consistent returns over the long term. This makes them complementary to other assets we own as they are expected to have lower sensitivity to the day-to-day movements in share markets.

## We look beyond our shores

By investing across the world, we reduce the risk of economic conditions in any one country having a large overall effect on the balances of our members' super. One example is our investment in Forth Ports, an owner and operator of eight commercial ports – seven in Scotland and one in London.

Forth Ports benefits from locations close to the North Sea oil and gas reserves, and access to the English Channel. Offshore wind also presents a major opportunity for its Scottish ports as construction and servicing work for new offshore wind farms is expected to be supported by Scottish harbours for years to come.



For more information about our investment options and how we manage your super, see our *Investment Handbook* at [cbussuper.com.au/forms](https://cbussuper.com.au/forms).

Cbus Property Pty Ltd is a wholly-owned entity of Cbus Super and is responsible for the development and management of a portfolio of Cbus Super's property investments.

# A healthy return for members

Despite a bumpy start to 2023 and ongoing uncertainty, we're proud to deliver a positive return for the 2022-23 financial year.



March was a particularly volatile period following the collapse of several US banks and the near collapse of Swiss bank, Credit Suisse. Quick action taken by regulators to address issues in the banking sector appears to have calmed investment markets.

## All eyes on inflation

While recent data shows employment growth remains strong in most developed economies, keeping unemployment rates low and labour markets tight, there is still plenty of uncertainty ahead. Despite appearing to have peaked in most developed economies, the most uncertain part of the current outlook remains inflation and how far central banks will go to keep it under control.

## The flow-on impact of rate rises

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) raised the cash rate at ten consecutive meetings, before finally holding it steady at its April meeting. Despite expectations that the cash rate would remain on hold in May, the RBA raised rates again by 0.25% to 3.85% causing the Australian share market to fall sharply. The RBA then raised rates again by 0.25% in June, to finish the financial year at 4.10%.

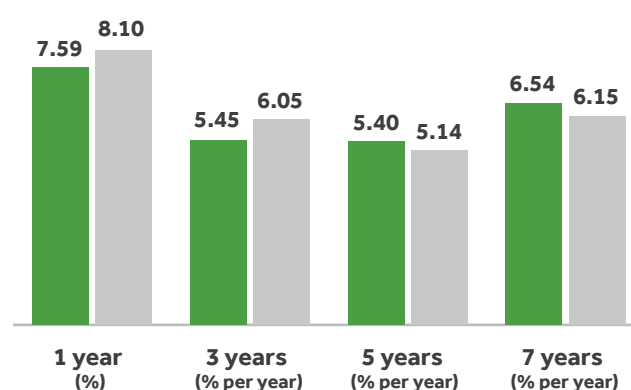
## Looking at the long-term picture

While periods of uncertainty may be concerning, it's important to remember that our investment options are designed to ride out the ups and downs because they're invested in a diverse range of assets. We're proud to deliver a positive return of 7.59%\* (fully retired) and 6.63%\* (transition to retirement [TTR]) for the 2022-23 financial year for our Conservative Growth option. This option has also delivered 6.93%\* (fully retired) and 5.23%\* (TTR) since it started‡.

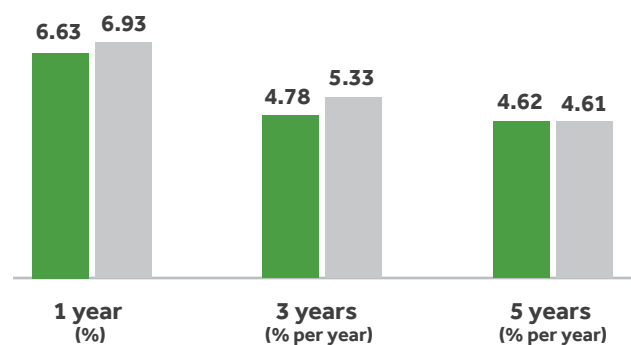
## Performance (%) to 30 June 2023

■ Conservative Growth (default)\*  
■ SuperRatings fund median†

### Fully Retired



### Transition to Retirement



\* The return for the Conservative Growth option is based on the crediting rate, which is returns minus investment fees, taxes and until 31 January 2020, the percentage-based administration fee. Returns are as at 30 June 2023. Excludes fees and costs that are deducted directly from members' accounts. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

† Median returns are taken from the SuperRatings SRP25 Conservative Balanced PFCR Survey for the period ending 30 June 2023 for the Fully Retired option, and SuperRatings SR25 Conservative Balanced AFCR Survey, for the period ending 30 June 2023 for the TTR option. SuperRatings is a ratings agency that collects information from super funds to enable performance comparisons – visit [superratings.com.au](https://www.superratings.com.au).


‡ Inception dates for the Conservative Growth option are 2 December 2013 for Fully Retired and 1 July 2017 for TTR.



## Minimum income stream payments have returned to pre-Covid levels




To help limit the impact of the pandemic and investment market volatility, the Government temporarily halved minimum income stream payments back in 2020. The Government later extended this until 30 June 2023, but it hasn't been extended further. Minimum payments have gone back to normal levels from 1 July 2023.

 Log into your account if you need to update your payments or call us if you have questions.

## Do you receive a pension and have plans to work?



Under the Government's changes to the work bonus, you could continue to earn up to \$11,800 a year before your pension is reduced. The Government has extended the temporary increase to the maximum income bank for eligible pensioners, until 31 December 2023. The Work Bonus maximum balance will reset to \$7,800 on 1 January 2024.

 Head to [servicesaustralia.gov.au](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au) to learn more about your Work Bonus income bank.



## An award-winning pension, built for you

We're delighted to share that **Money magazine Best of the Best awards** awarded us **Best Growth Pension for 2023**.

Money magazine noted our Super Income Stream offers strong long-term returns and low fees – a winning formula that helps members like you enjoy a dignified retirement.

Visit [cbussuper.com.au/awards](https://cbussuper.com.au/awards) for details of more of our awards.

## Contact us

Find us on 



**1300 361 784** 8am to 8pm (AEST/AEDT)  
Monday to Friday, closed on national public holidays



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Log in to chat to us online



Visit us in person in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. Details: [cbussuper.com.au/contact](https://cbussuper.com.au/contact)

Cbus has fact sheets available in your language to help you understand your superannuation. You can download a copy at [cbussuper.com.au](https://cbussuper.com.au)

Cbus 提供中文说明书，帮助您了解退休金。您可以访问 [cbussuper.com.au](https://cbussuper.com.au) 下载说明书。

Cbus ima prospekte na vašem jeziku kako biste mogli lakše razumjeti sve što je vezano za vašu mirovinsku štednju (superannuation). Primjerak ovog prospekta možete učitati na internetskoj stranici [cbussuper.com.au](https://cbussuper.com.au)

Η Cbus έχει ενημερωτικά φυλλάδια στη γλώσσα σας για να σας βοηθήσει να καταλάβετε τα πάντα για τη συνταξιοδότησή σας. Μπορείτε να βρείτε και να κατεβάσετε ένα αντίγραφο στη διεύθυνση [cbussuper.com.au](https://cbussuper.com.au)

لدى سياس صحائف حقائق بلغتك لمساعدتك على فهم ادخارك التقاعدي. بإمكانك زيارة موقع [cbussuper.com.au](https://cbussuper.com.au) لتنزيل نسخة.

Cbus ha a disposizione delle schede informative nella vostra lingua per aiutarvi a comprendere tutto quello che riguarda il vostro pensionamento. Potete scaricare una copia sul sito [cbussuper.com.au](https://cbussuper.com.au)

Cbus는 연금에 대한 이해를 돕고자 한국어로 된 안내서를 마련했습니다. [cbussuper.com.au](https://cbussuper.com.au) 로 가서 안내서를 다운로드 받으실 수 있습니다.

Cbus raspolaga со брошури на вашиот јазик за да ви помогне да разберете сè околу вашите пензиски влогови. Доколку сакате да преземете копии од овие брошури, посетете го [cbussuper.com.au](https://cbussuper.com.au)

Cbus нуди информативне листове на вашем језику који вам помажу да разумете све што се тиче вашег пензијског фонда. Примерак можете преузети на интернет презентацији [cbussuper.com.au](https://cbussuper.com.au)

Cbus tiene hojas de datos en su idioma que le permitirán comprender su super. Usted puede descargar una copia en [cbussuper.com.au](https://cbussuper.com.au)

Cbus có các tờ thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị để giúp quý vị hiểu về hưu bổng của mình. Quý vị có thể truy cập trang web [cbussuper.com.au](https://cbussuper.com.au) để tải về bản sao.