

Government contributions

July 2024

SUPER CO-CONTRIBUTIONS

Super co-contributions are a Government initiative to help people on low to medium incomes save for their future. For eligible members who make a personal after-tax contribution, the Government will make a super co-contribution up to a maximum amount of \$500. The super co-contribution depends on your income and how much you contribute. To be eligible for a super co-contribution, you must:

- Make a personal after-tax contribution to a super fund in the income year (and not obtain a tax deduction on the contribution)
- Earn at least 10% of your total income (assessable income, reportable fringe benefits total and reportable employer superannuation contributions) from employment and/or running a business.
- Have a total income less any relevant business deductions of less than \$60,400 for the 2024/2025 financial year
- Be under age 71 at the end of the financial year in which you make the contribution
- Lodge your tax return for the year in which you make the contribution
- Not hold a temporary visa at any time during the income year, unless you are a New Zealand citizen or you hold a prescribed visa
- Not have exceeded your non-concessional contributions cap for that year; and
- Have a total superannuation balance at 30 June of the previous financial year (including any pension balances but excluding any structured settlement amounts) that is less than \$1.9 million for the 2024/2025 financial year.

How much you could be eligible for

If you earn less than \$45,400 for 2024/2025 financial year and make a \$1,000 contribution, then you may get the maximum \$500 super co-contribution. As your total income increases, the maximum amount of super co-contribution is reduced. If you earn more than \$60,400 for 2024/2025 financial year you will not get a super co-contribution.

If your total income is between these two thresholds, your maximum entitlement will reduce progressively as your income increases. If your super co-contribution is less than \$20, you will be paid the minimum amount of \$20.

How you will receive super co-contributions

If you are eligible, your co-contributions will be automatically paid into your super account, provided that:

- You have lodged your tax return; and
- Your super fund has lodged a record of your super contributions with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) – this will be done by 31 October.

The ATO will determine if you're eligible for a co-contribution. If you are, the co-contribution will be paid directly to the superannuation account where you made your contribution (subject to the fund rules). You can nominate another fund to the ATO if you prefer - your nomination form will need to be received by the ATO before you lodge your tax return.

The payment should be made by 30 June of the year following your personal contribution. If not, you should follow up with the ATO.

Contributions for low income earners

The Government may provide a Low Income Super Tax Offset (LISTO) contribution if you satisfy all the requirements:

- You or your employer pay concessional (before tax) contributions for the year to a complying super fund, and
- Your adjusted taxable income is \$37,000 or less, and
- You earn at least 10% of your total income from employment and/or running a business, and
- You were not a temporary resident of Australia during any part of the financial year (however, New Zealand citizens in Australia are eligible).

Your adjusted taxable income includes:

- Taxable income
- Adjusted fringe benefits
- Net total investment losses
- Reportable employer superannuation contributions
- Deductible personal superannuation contributions, and
- Tax free government pensions, benefits and foreign income
- Less any child support you paid.

How much you may be eligible for

If eligible for a LISTO, you will receive 15% of the concessional contributions that you and/or your employer paid to your super in the prior year, up to a maximum of \$500 per year.

How you will receive the contribution

You don't need to apply for the LISTO. If the ATO determines that you are eligible, they will pay the contribution to your super account, even if you do not lodge an income tax return. To receive a LISTO, you will need to make sure your super fund has your Tax File Number (TFN). Without your TFN, your super fund cannot accept a LISTO payment.

Concessional contributions

Concessional contributions can include:

- Employer contributions (including compulsory superannuation guarantee, voluntary employer contributions and salary sacrifice) from all employers
- Personal contributions to super for which you claim an income tax deduction
- Certain allocations from reserves of a super plan and
- Notional taxed contributions if you are a defined benefit super fund member.
- Certain contributions made by any other third party (parent, relative or friend if you are 18 years or older) other than an employer or your spouse.
- Some types of transfers from an overseas fund.

Note: The concessional contributions are taxed at the 15% rate and they will need to be received by your fund by 30 June

IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION

You can read more about super co-contributions, the LISTO, the various income measures used and concessional contributions by visiting the ATO's website at ato.gov.au

We recommend that you speak to a licensed, or appropriately authorised, financial adviser to work out how co-contributions and the LISTO might apply to you.