



# Member News

## Our response to COVID-19

During the challenges of recent months, ElectricSuper has continued to work hard to help you manage your super, and we reassure our members that all services remain operational as usual. Our Board and sub-committees have been meeting as scheduled, with our Investment Committee meeting more frequently to monitor market movements and adjust ElectricSuper's investment strategy where necessary. The Trustee Office staff continue to work closely with the ElectricSuper Helpline and administration teams, to meet and maintain the service levels expected by our members.

## Site visits

Although site visits have been put on hold for now, we are always happy to catch up with you about your super by phone or video conference, or (from 6 July) in person in the Trustee Office (using appropriate physical distancing and hygiene precautions). If you would like an appointment to talk about your super, you can use the 'Meet with us' links on our website [www.electricsuper.com.au](http://www.electricsuper.com.au) or email us at [inquiries@electricsuper.com.au](mailto:inquiries@electricsuper.com.au) to organise a convenient time.

## Winter 2020

[Our response to COVID-19](#)

---

[Site visits](#)

---

[New Member Services Officer](#)

---

[Temporary early release of super](#)

---

[Changes to minimum pension drawdowns](#)

---

[Improving online security](#)

---

[Do we have your email or mobile number?](#)

---

[Investment markets](#)

---

[Centrelink eligibility for pensioners](#)

---

[Board re-election](#)

---

[Pre-tax contribution limits – what if you go over the \\$25k?](#)

---

[Annual member statements](#)

---



## Changes to minimum pension drawdowns

In response to the coronavirus pandemic's effect on sharemarkets (and pension balances), the Federal Government has reduced minimum drawdown amounts from account-based pensions by 50%. This will apply for payments in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years.

If you are currently receiving the minimum amount from your account-based pension, **unless you instruct us otherwise**, your pension payments will automatically be reduced by 50% from the first payday in July 2020. If the lower payments are acceptable, then you don't need to take any action.

If you wish to **maintain your 'pre-1 July 2020' (higher) payments**, you will need to update the amount of your income stream payments via your online record, or by completing the 'Request to vary your Pension Payment Details' form on the website. For more information, please call our Helpline on **1300 307 844**.

## Improving online security

The next time you login to your record on the ElectricSuper website, you will be asked to choose a new, more secure, password. You will also be requested to nominate either an email address or a mobile number, so that you can receive an additional verification code to use as part of your login process. (This code is temporary, and a new code will be sent to you via email or SMS each time you login.)

If you have any queries or problems with the new login system, please call our Helpline on **1300 307 844**.

## Do we have your email or mobile number?

Working remotely means that we often need to use email or text messages to contact members with important information which might affect their ElectricSuper account, plus give tips to make the most of their super. To receive information on your super as quickly and efficiently as possible, please ensure that we have a valid email address and mobile number for you. Update your details online or call **1300 307 844**.

## New Member Services Officer

As part of our commitment to supporting members through this uncertain and difficult period we have appointed an additional Member Services Officer. ElectricSuper would like to officially welcome Martin Dabrowski to the team. Martin has over 20 years experience with varying positions in the superannuation industry. He is excited to be back in the role of meeting directly with members and imparting the knowledge that he has acquired. Martin will join Mel to ensure that more of our members are meeting with us more often.

## Temporary early release of super

The Federal Government is allowing people who are financially affected by COVID-19 to access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation prior to 30 June 2020 and up to a further \$10,000 prior to 24 September 2020.

If you are considering accessing some or part of your super we would strongly urge you to seek financial advice before making the decision. Withdrawing from your super now could have a significant impact on your retirement lifestyle. On the ElectricSuper website there is a list of FAQs to help you navigate your way through the temporary early release process.

All applications are made via the ATO website ([www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)). Please be aware of scamming activity during this time.

## Investment markets

The latest investment returns can be found on the ElectricSuper website at [www.electricsuper.com.au](http://www.electricsuper.com.au).

The investment returns (after tax and investment fees) to **31 May 2020** were:

| Investment Option   | Last 10 yrs | Last 5 yrs | Last 12mths | YTD    |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| High Growth         | 8.69%       | 6.03%      | 0.68%       | -1.78% |
| Balanced Growth     | 7.43%       | 5.09%      | 0.67%       | -0.89% |
| Conservative Growth | 5.38%       | 3.82%      | 1.19%       | 0.63%  |
| Cash                | 2.28%       | 1.46%      | 0.80%       | 0.70%  |

For comparison, the Board's target return for the Balanced Growth option (CPI plus 3%) over the last 10 yrs to **31 May 2020** was 5.01%.

For account-based pensioners, the investment returns to **31 May 2020** (including tax rebates) were:

| Investment Option   | Last 10 yrs | Last 5 yrs | Last 12mths | YTD    |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| High Growth         | 9.42%       | 6.68%      | 0.94%       | -1.75% |
| Balanced Growth     | 8.16%       | 5.71%      | 0.86%       | -0.88% |
| Conservative Growth | 5.96%       | 4.30%      | 1.35%       | 0.71%  |
| Cash                | 2.67%       | 1.72%      | 0.93%       | 0.80%  |

This update is for information purposes only and no action is required on your part unless you wish to change your chosen investment option.

If you want more information about the investment option you are in, please call the ElectricSuper Helpline on **1300 307 844** and speak to a consultant. They can take you through the things that you should be thinking about when choosing an investment option or a combination of the investment options. There are no fees to change your investment option.

## Centrelink eligibility for pensioners

The recent market downturn and record low interest rates on cash have had a significant impact on retirement savings and income for many Australian retirees. It is possible that where you were previously ineligible for the Aged Pension you may now be eligible. For those already receiving a part pension it is also possible that you may be eligible for an increase.

Did you know that Centrelink offers a free service to help Australians understand their eligibility? It is called the Financial Information Service and actively provides strategies to help you maximise every available benefit. We recommend that you book a one on one appointment to discuss your personal situation. If it has been a while since you contacted Centrelink now could be a great time.

## Board re-election

Member-elected Board positions have also been finalised for the term starting on 1 April 2020. Mark Vincent was re-elected for the male position. Janette Bettcher was re-elected for the female position. The Board would also like to thank Jason Lailey for his preparedness to run for the Board. Congratulations to Mark and Janette. (Due to a mailing house oversight, the reply-paid voting envelopes were not included in the initial voting pack. The Board apologises for any confusion.)

## Pre-tax contribution limits – what if you go over the \$25k?

These days the impact of going over the \$25k limit on concessional (pre-tax) contributions is not as significant as in the past. The ATO uses the contribution data from ElectricSuper (and your other funds if applicable) to determine whether you have exceeded the limit. If you do, any excess over \$25k will simply be subject to income tax at your marginal rate (less the 15% already paid), plus a charge levied by the ATO because you paid the tax later than usual. In a nutshell, any excess pre-tax contributions effectively become post-tax contributions, plus the 'late' charge. The ATO will send you a notice advising the tax/charge payable (and you can have this paid from your ElectricSuper account if you wish).

To keep track of your concessional contributions during the year, go to the 'Concessional contributions' page of your online record, or refer to the Contribution Limits flyer on our website.

## Annual member statements

The ElectricSuper Annual Review for 2020 is underway, and member benefit statements are expected to be sent to members in early September. So that your statement can reach you, please ensure that your contact details are up-to-date (including your email address and mobile phone number). These details can be updated via your personal website record or by calling the ElectricSuper Helpline on **1300 307 844**.

## We're here to help...contact us!

**Helpline** 1300 307 844

**Website** [www.electricsuper.com.au](http://www.electricsuper.com.au)

**Email** [inquiries@electricsuper.com.au](mailto:inquiries@electricsuper.com.au)

**Street Address**

Level 7, 70 Pirie Street, Adelaide SA 5000

**Postal Address**

GPO Box 4303, Melbourne VIC 3001

### Ring us to get help with:

- Contributing to super
- The right investment strategy for you
- The insurance needs of you and your family

This is at no cost to you, other than your time. Call 1300 307 844 during business hours or email on [inquiries@electricsuper.com.au](mailto:inquiries@electricsuper.com.au).

### Visit [www.electricsuper.com.au](http://www.electricsuper.com.au) for more information including:

- Details of how your benefits are calculated
- Investment strategies and choices available to you, include past investment returns
- Insurance benefits available to you
- Forms and publications
- Access to newsletters and annual reports

### Login to your account and see your personal superannuation details:

- See your investment strategy
- Check your transactions and current benefits
- Check your level of death and disablement insurance
- Change your address and phone details
- Advise your Tax File Number
- Contributions paid during the year (including concessional contributions)

Electricity Industry Superannuation Board (the 'Board') ABN 57 923 283 236 as Trustee of the Electricity Industry Superannuation Scheme

Disclaimer: This flyer is for the purpose of providing you with information about the products available from the ElectricSuper. The information is subject to change from time to time. The ElectricSuper Rules (the 'Rules') are the final authority should there be a discrepancy between this flyer and the Rules. The Board recommends that if you intend to act in connection with any information contained in this flyer you should first consult a licensed or appropriately authorised financial consultant.

SuperRatings does not issue, sell, guarantee or underwrite this product. Go to [www.superratings.com.au](http://www.superratings.com.au) for details of its ratings criteria.

