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This fact sheet provides you with important information about the early access of superannuation benefits in circumstances of (i) severe financial hardship and/or (ii) compassionate grounds.

Who can apply?

You must be a member or investor in the following:

- Triple S
- Super SA Select
- Flexible Rollover Product
- Income Stream (Non-commutable allocated pension (NCAP) only)
- SA Ambulance Service Superannuation Scheme
- Lump Sum Scheme (Rollover Account only)
- Pension Scheme (Rollover Account only)

How is my application assessed?

The early release of superannuation is subject to Commonwealth legislation, namely the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Regulations 1994 (Regulations)* under the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993 (Act)*. In considering an early release application, Super SA must be satisfied that the individual's circumstances meet one or more of the specified grounds as defined in Commonwealth government legislation.

What is severe financial hardship?

In order to qualify for early release of benefit on the grounds of severe financial hardship, you must meet the following:

1. If you have not reached your preservation age:
 - a. You need to be in receipt of Commonwealth government income support payments and you have been receiving these benefits for a continuous period of at least 26 weeks and
 - b. You are unable to meet reasonable and immediate family living expenses; **OR**

Your Commonwealth Government preservation age depends on your date of birth:

Date of birth	Commonwealth Government preservation age
Before 1 July 1960	55
1 July 1960 to 30 June 1961	56
1 July 1961 to 30 June 1962	57
1 July 1962 to 30 June 1963	58
1 July 1963 to 30 June 1964	59
After 30 June 1964	60

2. If you have reached your preservation age plus 39 weeks (See Table):

- a. You need to be in receipt of Commonwealth government income support payments for a continuous period of 39 weeks from the time you reached your preservation age and
- b. You have not been gainfully employed on a full-time or part-time basis.

Documentary evidence requirement:

If you apply for severe financial hardship, you will need to produce written evidence that you are in receipt of Commonwealth government income support payments. This evidence must be dated no more than 21 days before the date you lodge your application.

What are compassionate grounds?

For early release under a compassionate ground, you must be able to show that you meet the specified criteria **and do not have the financial capacity to meet the expense/s relating to that compassionate ground.**

More information can be found in the table on the following page.

The form to apply for the early release of superannuation benefits on specified grounds is not available on the website. Contact Super SA on 08 8207 2094 or 1300 369 315 to obtain one.



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Reason	Documentary evidence requirement
<p>Medical treatment/Medical transport</p> <p>To pay current and future expenses for medical treatment or medical transport for yourself or a dependant.</p> <p>In accordance with the Commonwealth legislation, the treatment is not readily available to you or the dependant through the public health system and the medical treatment must be necessary to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. treat a life threatening illness or injury, or ii. alleviate acute, or chronic, pain, or iii. alleviate an acute, or chronic, mental disturbance. <p>Funds cannot be released for medical transport unless the necessity of the medical treatment is certified by two medical practitioners in the manner set out above.</p>	<p>You must provide certification from two registered medical practitioners (at least one of whom must be a specialist) to support the necessity of the medical treatment and copies of any unpaid medical bills or estimates from your doctor of future expenses.</p>
<p>Foreclosure of a mortgage on your home</p> <p>To allow you to make a payment on a loan to prevent the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. foreclosure of a mortgage on your principal place of residence or ii. exercise by the mortgagee of an express, or statutory, power of sale over your principal residence <p>Please note that you can only apply once within a 12 month period (beginning on the date of the first payment released on this ground) and the amount cannot exceed the sum of three months' repayments and/or 12 months' interest on the outstanding balance of the loan.</p>	<p>You must provide a written statement from the mortgagee (ie your bank or lender) that you require funds on this ground. The statement must include the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The amount that is equal to 3 months' repayments under the mortgage and b. The amount that is 12 months' interest on the outstanding balance of the loan at the time the statement is made. c. The payment is overdue and if the payment is not made, the mortgagee will foreclose on the mortgage of the principal place of residence or exercise its express or statutory power of sale over the principal place of residence.
<p>Special Needs</p> <p>To pay for modifications to your principal place of residence, or vehicle, to accommodate your special needs or the special needs of your dependant as a result of a severe disability.</p>	<p>You must provide a letter from a medical practitioner or professional carer to support the proposed modifications to your home or vehicle and provide a quote for the cost of the modifications.</p>
<p>Palliative Care in the case of Impending Death/Funeral/Burial expenses</p> <p>To pay for expenses associated with palliative care for yourself or a dependant in the case of impending death or to pay for expenses associated with a dependant's death, funeral or burial.</p>	<p>You must provide a letter from a medical practitioner to confirm that you or your dependant have a terminal illness and that palliative care is required and detailed quotes and/or invoices for the required care; OR</p> <p>You must provide the death certificate for your dependant or a current letter from a registered doctor confirming the death and naming the deceased. You must also provide proof of expenses associated with the death/funeral/burial of your dependant.</p>



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What is the definition of a dependant?

Most compassionate grounds allow expenses to be claimed for you or a dependant. Under the Commonwealth rules, a dependant includes your spouse, child, or a person with whom you have an interdependency relationship.

Documentation supporting the dependant's dependency should also be provided, such as a medical certificate that confirms that you provide personal domestic support and/or medical care to the person.

Can Lump Sum and Pension Scheme members apply?

As a Lump Sum or Pension Scheme member you can apply for early release of superannuation on compassionate grounds and/or severe financial hardship from the Rollover Account component of your scheme only. Release cannot be granted from your Member Account or Defined Benefit component.

What tax is payable?

Generally, any superannuation benefits that are released prior to reaching your preservation age are subject to tax. The tax payable is based on the components of your benefit and your age.

If a benefit is approved, Super SA will release an amount to you net of any tax payable.

How will an early release reduce my retirement benefits?

It is important to understand that any release of benefits from your superannuation account will reduce the amount you will receive in retirement. Super SA recommends that you seek financial advice before making any decision about superannuation and in particular early release.

How do I apply?

You will need to complete an application form and provide the required documentary evidence to support your application. **Please contact Super SA to discuss your eligibility and obtain a copy of the application form.**

You must provide a certified copy of your current identification (eg driver's licence or current passport) with your application. A full list of the identification documents that can be accepted can be found at www.supersa.sa.gov.au.

You will also need to provide a copy of your current bank statement.

These applications need to be posted to Super SA or hand delivered to the Super SA Member Contact Centre. We are unable to accept electronic applications at this time.

How much can I receive?

If your application is approved on Compassionate grounds, you will receive a single lump sum payment (net of tax). The amount released to you will depend on the evidence provided and the amount needed to cover the expenses presented in your application. In order to allow for any tax that must be paid, Super SA will need to deduct a higher amount from your super account. You should take this into account when determining the amount you are applying for to be released.

For example: A member applies for the amount of \$9,000 for medical treatment. Tax on this amount (subject to age and the tax components applicable to the member) may mean that \$13,235 is released from the superannuation account, comprised of (1) \$4,235 to account for tax and (2) \$9,000 payment to the member.¹

If you are under preservation age and your application is approved on the grounds of severe financial hardship, you will receive a single lump sum between \$1,000 and \$10,000 (inclusive of tax). The amount released will depend on the evidence provided.

¹The above calculations are for illustration purposes only and should not be relied upon for tax purposes or tax rates.



The Commonwealth Government has rules to help prevent money laundering and counter terrorism activities. This means that you'll be required to provide proof of identity to verify who you are when withdrawing money from your super.

When making an application, you will need to provide a bank statement of the account you wish us to pay into. The statement needs to be current (ie less than 12 months old) and must show your BSB, account number and your full name on the account.



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In order to allow for tax that must be paid on the payment(s), Super SA will need to deduct a higher amount from your super account, up to a maximum of \$10,000 in a 12 month period (inclusive of any tax).

For example: A member applies for the amount of \$6,000 for financial hardship. Tax on this amount may mean that \$8,824 is released from the superannuation account, comprised of (1) \$2,824 to account for tax and (2) \$6,000 payment to the member. The maximum single lump sum amount that a member may withdraw is \$10,000 in any 12 month period, so after allowing for tax (of up to \$3,200) the maximum the member could receive to alleviate severe financial hardship is \$6,800.¹

¹The above calculations are for illustration purposes only and should not be relied upon for tax purposes or tax rates.

If you are over preservation age and your application is approved on financial hardship grounds, you can

withdraw up to your account balance and any tax will be deducted from the payment. It is important to understand that in all cases, the actual amount that will be approved for release will be determined by Super SA, based on the assessment of your application.

What kind of expenses can I claim?

A benefit may not be released for an expense that has already been paid. This includes a debt that has been incurred in order to pay the expense (ie money borrowed from a commercial lender, family or friends).

What happens if I already applied for early release to the ATO or DHS?

If you already applied directly to the Commonwealth agency (ATO or DHS) for the release of benefits and the Commonwealth approved the release, Super SA may accept this approval and release the funds. You must forward this approval from the ATO to Super SA for processing.

Definitions – Early Release on Compassionate Grounds

Registered medical practitioner

Must be a medical doctor or specialist registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. Physiotherapists, psychologists, chiropractors and occupational therapists are not registered medical practitioners and their reports are not considered to be certified evidence, but they can supply additional information.

Specialist

Must be a registered medical/dental practitioner who has had further medical training, holds further qualifications and is a fellow of a specialist medical college or is registered in their state as a specialist. This includes a consultant physician. Any specialist giving an opinion should be specialised in the area in which they are giving that opinion. Consultant physicians should clearly state their areas of specialisation in the certification.

Life threatening

Where it is likely that within 12 months the patient will die or suffer an irreversible degeneration of a condition that if left untreated would result in premature death if the individual does not receive the recommended treatment.

Medical transport

Includes transport (land, water, air) to access medical treatment such as taxi, public transport, vehicle repairs and running costs or the purchase of a reliable second-hand vehicle. The certification also needs to confirm that the transport is required to access medical treatment, the frequency of the medical treatment, the location of the medical appointments and the length of time the treatment is required.



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How long will the process take?

Once your application and all documentary evidence has been received, you should receive notification of the decision within 15 business days. This assumes that all of the required documentary evidence to support your claim is correct and complete.

Please allow a further 10 business days for the benefit to be paid.

Contact us

Address

Ground floor, 151 Pirie Street
Adelaide SA 5000 (Enter from Pulteney Street)

Postal

GPO Box 48, Adelaide, SA 5001

Call (08) 8207 2094 or 1300 369 315
(for regional callers)

Email supersa@sa.gov.au

Website www.supersa.sa.gov.au

The superannuation schemes administered by Super SA are exempt public sector superannuation schemes which are not regulated by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) or the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA). Super SA is not required to hold an Australian Financial Services Licence to provide general advice about its products.

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