

SELF MANAGED SUPERANNUATION FUNDS**AS WE COUNT DOWN TO 30 JUNE 2017, WHAT STEPS DO YOU NEED TO TAKE?**

Timing – Make sure all contributions to your super fund are cleared through the funds bank account by Friday 30th June. We suggest you have all transactions processed by the week ending Friday the 23rd June.

Things to do or consider before June 30:

1. Make sure you have paid the minimum pension amount that we advised you of during the year (if you are in pension or transition to retirement phase) (see our article on page 4)
2. Consider making a contribution that may attract the Government co-contribution (see our article on page 3).
3. Make rent payments on freehold property owned by your SMSF that are rented to your business venture (see other side of this page).
4. Make any tax deductible contributions well before the end of June so that they are cleared through the bank by June 30.

**Leasing your business premises from your SMSF**

It is important to ensure that all lease payments for business real property, that your super fund leases to your business are paid to your SMSF before 30 June.

If your business rents business real property (e.g. commercial property or farm land) from your SMSF all lease payments need to be made prior to 30 June to ensure there is no breach of your lease agreement.

Any lease in place must be at market value and meet the terms and conditions in line with that of a typical commercial lease agreement.

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How much can I contribute?

Concessional contributions (tax deductible) include:

- Employer contributions (including contributions made under a salary sacrifice arrangement); and
- Personal contributions claimed as a tax deduction by a self-employed person.

The concessional contribution limit for the 2016-17 year is:

- \$30,000 for all individuals less than 49 years of age on 1st July 2016
- \$35,000 for all individuals 49 years or over on the 1st July 2016

If you have more than one fund, all concessional contributions made to all of your funds are added together and count towards the cap.

From 1st July 2017, the concessional contribution limit will be reduced to \$25,000 for all ages.



Non-concessional contributions include:

- Personal contributions up to \$180,000 for which no income tax deduction has been claimed.
- People under 65 years are able to make contributions up to three times their annual cap – or \$540,000 – over a three-year period. This is known as the 'bring forward' option.

Under a "bring forward" arrangement, a member who is under 65 years of age in an income year can "bring forward" three years' worth of future non-concessional contributions entitlements. This is triggered automatically if contributions in excess of the annual cap (i.e. \$180,000 in 2016/17) are made in the financial year.

From 1st July 2017, the annual cap will drop down to \$100,000. From this date the non-concessional cap will always be 4 times the concessional cap. The maximum bring forward cap will be \$300,000.

Transition to Retirement (TTR) Phase

Under the transition to retirement rules, if you have reached your preservation age, you may be able to reduce your working hours without reducing your income. You can do this by topping up your part-time income with a regular 'income stream' from your super savings.

Under the transition to retirement rules you can only access your super benefits as a 'non-commutable' income stream. This generally means you cannot take your benefits as a lump sum cash payment while you are still working. You must take your super benefits as regular payments.

Your preservation age is generally the age you are allowed to access your super benefits when you stop working.

The table below shows your preservation age. Once you reach your preservation age, you can access your super benefits without retiring completely from the workforce.

Date of Birth	Preservation age
Before 1 July 1960	55
1 July 1960 – 30 June 1961	56
1 July 1961 – 30 June 1962	57
1 July 1962 – 30 June 1963	58
1 July 1963 – 30 June 1964	59
After 30 June 1964	60

Under the Transition to Retirement rules, there is a requirement that a minimum of 4% and a maximum of 10% of the member's account balance must be drawn and paid to you each year.



Getting some superannuation from the Government... Superannuation Co-Contribution

The superannuation co-contribution has continued in the 2016-17 year with the maximum government co-contribution being \$0.50 for every \$1 personally contributed. The maximum co-contribution of \$500 is available to taxpayers who earn less than \$36,021 and contribute \$1,000.

Above this income amount, the maximum co-contribution will be reduced by 3.333 cents for each dollar of income earned and to phase out completely when income reaches \$51,021.

How much could I get?

Assessable income	Contribution required for co-contribution	Maximum super co-contribution
\$36,020	1000	500
\$36,020	600	300
\$40,000	1000	368
\$40,000	600	168

If you are eligible, your co-contribution amount will be forwarded to your superannuation fund with remittance advice. It is important to include this remittance advice letter with your taxation information at year end.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

If you believe you would be eligible for the Government Co-Contribution, make sure your contribution is made to your SMSF by 30 June.

Minimum pension payments for funds in pension/transition to retirement phase 2016-17

AGE	Minimum pension amount
55 – 64	4%
65 – 74	5%
75 – 79	6%
80 – 84	7%
85 – 89	9%
90 – 94	11%
95 +	14%

One of the benefits of starting superannuation pensions is the tax exemption provided to some or all of the fund's investment income as a result of being in pension phase.

Safe Tax cover for 2017-18 Superannuation Funds (the growth area in compliance audits)

It is highly likely that your SMSF will be audited by an Australian Government Authority within the next five years.

The experience can be unpleasant and can disrupt your business and your life. The cost of professional advice and assistance given during a tax investigation will be a further unwelcome surprise.

Safe Tax offers you **professional support, pre-paid to agreed fee limits**, if your SMSF taxation affairs are subject to an audit.

For a fraction of the potential cost (a tax-deductible fee paid annually) we will support you when you are audited. Subject to an agreed limit, no additional professional fees will be rendered for our work.

Our Safe Tax service includes access to specialist taxation advisors and includes your BAS and IAS returns.

This means we will be there when the Government is!

Those clients with their own self-managed superannuation fund should **DEFINITELY TAKE OUT THE SAFE TAX COVER** as it is likely that once every five years your fund will be audited.

The time involved in handling these audits is extensive and comes to a minimum of \$2,000 per audit. The fees could get up to \$5,000 with a complex fund. The bottom line is that many more audits can be expected on superannuation funds.

If you have a superannuation fund you need this cover.

We will be sending Safe Tax applications out during June, so please fill in the application and return to us as soon as possible to ensure that your SMSF is covered for the 2017-18 year.



Superannuation contributions on behalf of your spouse 2017

You can make contributions to a complying superannuation fund or a retirement savings account (RSA) on behalf of your spouse (married or de facto) who is earning a low income or not working.

You may be entitled to a tax offset of up to \$540 per year if:

- the sum of your spouse's assessable income, total reportable fringe benefits amounts and reportable employer superannuation contributions was less than \$13,800
- the contributions were not deductible to you
- the contributions were made to a superannuation fund that was a complying superannuation fund for the income year in which you made the contribution
- both you and your spouse were Australian residents when the contributions were made, and
- when making the contributions you and your spouse were not living separately and apart on a permanent basis.
- Make a contribution of up to \$3,000.

A spouse can be of the same or opposite sex and can include de facto relationships.



Adams Accounting Superannuation Fund tax preparation checklist

- If records are prepared on computer
 - Backup disk of accounts (e.g. QuickBooks) including bank reconciliation at year end
 - Bank statements
- If records are not prepared on computer
 - Bank statements with details of each transaction (either receipts or notes on bank statements) for whole year.
 - Cheque books
 - Deposit books
- Term deposit statements (if any)
- Details of contributions (i.e. who made contributions and how much)
- Details of rollovers including rollover forms received from old super funds.
- All investment documentation:
 - dividend statements
 - annual managed trust taxation statements
 - share purchase/sale documents
- If you have property in your SMSF:
 - A copy of most recent rates notice showing Capital Improved Value (CAV)
 - Rental statements and invoices for expenses paid
 - Lease agreements
 - Current water right notices (if any)
 - Current insurance policy documents
 - Copy of title (if new property purchased/transferred during year)
- Any other details of asset transactions i.e. purchases, sales etc.
- Government co-contribution correspondence received during the year.

