

# Coronavirus and early release of super

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

From time to time we all go through life changes, whether it's a change in circumstances or changing jobs. When this happens, it's a good idea to understand your options, so you can make a decision that's right for you.

**Below is a list of frequently asked questions to help get your super sorted**

### Coronavirus and early release of super

#### 1. I'm not working due to the coronavirus, can I apply to access my super early?

If you're an eligible individual who has been financially impacted by the coronavirus you can apply to withdraw up to \$10,000 from your super during the 2020-21 financial year up until 31st December. You will need to apply to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) – you can't apply for this through Rest. Before you apply to withdraw super early, it might be worth reviewing if you're eligible for any other forms of **support**.

#### 2. Who is eligible for these early release of super payments?

To be eligible for early release, you must satisfy one or more of the following:

- be unemployed;
- be eligible to receive a JobSeeker payment, youth allowance for jobseekers, parenting payment (which includes the single and partnered payments), special benefit or farm household allowance; or
- On or after 1 January 2020:
  - you were made redundant; or
  - your working hours were reduced by 20% or more; or

- if you're a sole trader — your business was suspended or there was a reduction in your turnover of 20% or more.

No tax will be paid on any of super amounts released early based on the above.

You can only apply for ONE determination of up to \$10,000 this financial year.

You must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or a permanent citizen to be eligible and satisfy the above requirements.

#### 3. If I want to access my super early, what are the other things I need to consider?

Before you make your decision, there are a few other things to consider. Do you have insurance in super? If you withdraw money from your super, your insurance cover will end if there isn't enough money left in your account to pay your monthly premiums. So, if you need to withdraw money and also want to keep your insurance cover, you should consider leaving enough in your account to pay the premiums. If you take out all the money in your super account, your account will be closed.

## Coronavirus and Insurance

### 4. Can I claim on my Income Protection due to coronavirus?

It's important to remember our default Income Protection (IP) is designed to cover members who are unable to work due to illness or injury. While we don't exclude pandemics such as coronavirus, you'd have to be sick and unable to work during your waiting period (in most cases this is 60 days unless you have chosen otherwise) before your claim could be reviewed. In most cases the symptoms of coronavirus don't result in people being off work ill for more than 60 days. It's important to check your waiting period, which you can do by calling us, or online in the 'Insurance' tab of **MemberAccess**.

### 5. What if I've been stood down or made redundant from my job because of the coronavirus?

Income Protection covers people who are too sick or injured to work for an extended period. Unfortunately, being stood down or made redundant is not covered by Income Protection insurance. You may be eligible for **Centrelink benefits**.

### 6. Will my Income Protection still cover me if I'm working from home?

Your income protection cover will not be impacted if you've been asked to work from home by your employer, so long as you are otherwise eligible to claim.

## Change in circumstances and super

### 7. If I don't get a job, what does this mean for my insurance?

Now may be a good time to review your insurance needs. If you have Income Protection it's important to contact us if you stop working for an extended period of time. The IP benefit paid for a claim is based on income earned from working over the last 12 months, so if you stop working, it could affect your ability to receive a benefit payment or the amount of benefit payment.

### 8. Do I have to keep contributing?

No, you can keep your Rest account without having to make ongoing contributions. However if your balance is under \$6,000 on 30 June or 31 December each year and you do not have insurance, your account balance will be transferred to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) if there is no activity on your account over the past 13 months, such as a contribution or switching investment options.

If you have an inactive, low balance account and would like to stay with Rest, you can make a written declaration that you are an active member by filling out this **form**.

If you have insurance cover and your account becomes inactive for 13 consecutive months your cover will be switched off. However there is an option to elect to keep your insurance cover even if it becomes inactive; go online in the 'Insurance' tab of **MemberAccess**.

### 9. Can I contribute without my employer?

Yes, you can make **personal contributions** (also known as after-tax contributions) directly into your Rest account. These are subject to limits (caps). If you are over the age of 67, extra requirements may apply, and it may be a good idea to get advice.

### 10. Can I get Centrelink if I lose my job?

You would need to contact **Centrelink** to find out if you qualify. There are waiting periods that may apply and other requirements (e.g. assets and income tests).

### 11. What happens to my super if something happens to me?

If you pass away, your super can be paid to your dependants or estate. If you have a **valid binding nomination**, then Rest must pay a death benefit to your chosen dependant(s). A non-binding death nomination is not binding on Rest but will act as a guide in determining who will receive your money. Tax may be payable where a death benefit is paid to a non-dependant.

## If there's anything we can do

🔗 [rest.com.au](https://rest.com.au)

💬 **Live Chat at rest.com.au**  
Monday to Friday 8am - 10pm, Saturday 9am - 6pm  
and Sunday 10am - 6pm AEST

☎️ **1300 300 778**  
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