



Ceasing PSS membership

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What you should know upfront

It is important that you read the disclaimer below. Before making any decisions, please read the **PSS Product Disclosure Statement (PDS)**.

Financial advice for your needs and goals

Obtaining professional advice from an experienced financial planner can help you reach your financial goals.

CSC's authorised financial planners provide 'fee for service' advice, which means you receive a fixed quote upfront. There are no obligations, commissions or hidden fees.

To arrange an initial advice appointment please call **1300 277 777** during business hours.

Who should read this?

PSS contributing members remaining in Australian Government employment planning to cease PSS membership.

If you plan to make any changes to your super arrangements after reading this factsheet, we recommend that you seek financial advice before making any decisions.



Public Sector
Superannuation
Scheme

What are your options?

From 1 July 2008 you can choose where your super goes.

You can:

Stay with PSS – The Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation’s defined benefit scheme established to meet the super needs of Australian Government employees with no fees, high employer contributions, automatic insurance and a range of benefit options which include an indexed lifetime pension.

Move to PSSap – The Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation’s accumulation plan set up solely to meet the needs of Australian Government employees with high employer contributions (15.4%), competitive fees, investment choice, and death and invalidity cover.

If you are unsure of your eligibility to join PSSap, check with your employer. If you are not eligible to go to PSSap, you can join another eligible scheme.

Move to PSSap and then exercise choice as once you join PSSap, the PSSap rules apply. This means you can leave PSSap at any time and move to another eligible scheme.

You can elect to cease PSS membership at any time. If you do opt out, you need to be aware that you can not return to PSS. At the time you cease PSS membership, we preserve your existing benefits. While preserved, the taxed component will accrue at the Fund earning rate and the untaxed component will accrue in line with CPI.

Before making a decision you should consider:

- your personal situation and retirement goals
- the benefits and features of PSS
- what happens if you decide to leave PSS
- seeking advice from a licensed financial advisor.

Who can elect to cease their PSS membership?

Contributing members of PSS who:

- are paying regular contributions into PSS
- have elected to contribute at 0%

or

- are on leave without pay, which counts towards service for superannuation purposes.

What happens if I elect to cease my membership and join another fund?

When you elect to cease PSS membership, one of the following two options will apply to you:

- If you are eligible to be a member of PSSap you will automatically join PSSap.

or

- If you are not eligible to be a member of PSSap you can elect to join a superannuation fund of your choice provided your employer agrees to make superannuation contributions on your behalf into that superannuation fund.

It is very important that you discuss with your employer your intention to cease PSS membership and the options available to you to join another superannuation fund.

Your PSS membership will not cease until you have become a member of another superannuation fund. It is not sufficient that you elect to cease PSS membership; you must also become a member of another superannuation fund for the cessation of your PSS membership to take effect.

If I join the PSSap, what rules will apply to me?

There are special PSSap insurance arrangements for former PSS members who elect to cease membership of PSS.

For further information

Refer to the PSSap Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) at csc.gov.au

What happens to my PSS benefit?

We will preserve your PSS benefit in PSS, until you meet a condition of release, although you may be entitled to withdraw all or part of your preserved benefit if you cease your Australian Government employment (see **If I leave my employment, what benefit options do I have?** on page 3). For more information, please read the **Preservation of Benefits** factsheet at csc.gov.au

Can I take my money out when I cease membership of PSS?

You can only take any money you have transferred from another fund into PSS at the time you elect to cease membership of PSS.

If I leave my employment, what benefit options do I have?

If you are a preserved member as a result of ceasing PSS membership and joining another fund and you have not yet reached your minimum retirement age, you will have the same benefit options as a PSS contributing member when you cease Australian Government employment. This applies where you are retrenched, resign or would have been entitled to a benefit following the sale of a government asset.

If you claim your benefit after you reach your minimum retirement age, you will be accessing a preserved age retirement benefit.

For more information, please read the **Preservation of benefits** factsheet at csc.gov.au

Can I rejoin PSS at any time?

No. It is important to note that once you have made a valid election to cease your PSS membership, we will preserve your benefit and there is no option to re-join the scheme at a later date.

By making the election to cease PSS membership, you do so in respect of all your PSS memberships, including concurrent memberships.

How can I get more information?

EMAIL members@pss.gov.au

PHONE 1300 000 377

FAX (02) 6275 7010

MAIL PSS
GPO Box 2252
Canberra ACT 2601

WEB csc.gov.au



For example

Lily is 47, works for the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), and has been a member of PSS since 1997.

On 1 September 2008, Lily elects to cease PSS membership, and joins PSSap. Her accrued PSS benefits are preserved in PSS.

On 1 September 2009, Lily resigns from the ATO and she has three options available in relation to her PSS benefit.

These options are:

- leave her entire benefit preserved in PSS
or
- take a refund of her member component, up to her SIS upper limit preserving the balance
or
- transfer the entire benefit to an eligible superannuation scheme.

Lily will also have a PSSap benefit.
For more information, please read the **Withdrawing your super** factsheet at csc.gov.au



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1300 000 377



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