

# USE SUPER TO SAVE TAX

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**Superannuation** plays an important part in securing your lifestyle in retirement. Apart from the compulsory super contributions made by your employer (called super guarantee or SG), you can contribute extra to your super at any time to help increase your savings for the future. However, there are limits on how much you can contribute before you pay extra tax.

## CONCESSIONAL (BEFORE-TAX) CONTRIBUTIONS

Concessional contributions are contributions made into your super fund **before** any tax is paid on them.

They can include:

- Compulsory super payments (SG) made by your employer.
- Salary sacrifice contributions.
- Costs your employer pays on your behalf, such as super administration fees and insurance premiums.
- Some personal contributions such as super payments you make if you're self-employed – if an income tax deduction is allowed.

Once in your fund, these contributions are taxed at 15%.

## NON-CONCESSIONAL (AFTER-TAX) CONTRIBUTIONS

Non-concessional contributions are generally contributions you make into your super fund **after** tax has been paid on them.

They include:

- Personal contributions you make from your after-tax pay that you are not allowed to claim as an income tax deduction.
- Contributions your spouse makes to your fund on your behalf.

## CONTRIBUTION CAPS

From 1 July 2017, the general concessional contributions cap is \$25,000 per annum for all individuals regardless of age.

### THIS INCLUDES:

- Employer contributions.
- Salary sacrificing.
- In some cases, life insurance premiums.

### ONCE THIS CAP IS BREACHED, THE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

- An extra 34% tax applied to the existing 15% contributions tax.
- Excess contributions penalty, levied on the estimated earnings of the current excess contribution (beginning of previous tax year, July 1).
- Contribution type is also classified as a taxed component of your fund.

### STRATEGIES TO REDUCE THIS POTENTIAL LIABILITY:

- Monitor your salary sacrifice contributions.
- Ensure you take advantage of the current CAPS.
- If you are on a work Visa speak with Financial Decisions first.

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