

# 2 Minutes on Super

NEWS, REMINDERS AND TIPS ABOUT YOUR SAVINGS

DECEMBER 2018



## First-home benefit on its way

In consultation with the Commissioner and the Police service organisations, we will be offering members a first-home withdrawal facility. We are still finalising details, but our intention is to mirror the KiwiSaver first-home withdrawal facility. This means you will be able to access your savings in both your employer and member accounts towards a first home. We know that many members will be keen to access this benefit, and we are moving with speed to implement it. Expect an update on timing soon.

## Improving the security of your online account

Mercer will soon be adding a new security feature to the secure part of the scheme website, known as multi-factor authentication (MFA).

MFA combines your username and password/PIN with an additional security factor – usually a temporary numeric code sent to you – to confirm your identity and keep your information secure. You're probably familiar with this feature from your bank or social media websites and apps.

Shortly, when you sign in to your account at [policessuper.co.nz](http://policessuper.co.nz), you'll be asked to add an extra level of protection to confirm your identity to access your personal account. You'll only need to do this once, unless you sign in to your account from another device.

Although MFA will provide an additional layer of security, choosing a strong password/PIN and keeping it safe is still very important. We recommend using strong, unique passwords/PINs for your online accounts. You can now set your own password/PIN using your own combination of letters and numbers. To do this, sign in to your account and update your password/PIN under 'Your details'.

[Read more about multi-factor authentication](#)

## Market updates

In our last survey, some members asked for more information about investment markets. Our investment manager Mercer prepares regular market updates, which we will post on the website each month under 'Latest returns'.

[View the October update](#)

## Volatility returns to markets

Share markets have taken investors on a roller coaster ride this year. Prices rallied strongly in January and then fell, rose and fell in February and March to close the first quarter weakly. From that point they recovered to reach new highs in September. October and November saw prices fall before rebounding somewhat. At the time of writing, share prices were about the same as they were in early January (see chart). Periods of volatility in share prices are not uncommon and are to be expected as economic cycles unfold. In fact, what's more remarkable is that, up until this year, share prices have been steadily rising for such a long time. The current bull market – the longest in history – began in early 2009 following a fall in prices triggered by the global financial crisis.



The S&P 500 index covers 80% of the US equities market (by capitalisation). The index is widely seen as an indicator of the health of the US economy.

The current volatility in share markets is a good reminder that you need to review your investment choice from time to time to make sure it's appropriate. Generally, the best option depends on when you need to access your money.

[Read more about choosing an option](#)

[Assess your options using our risk profiler](#)

## Retirement income calculator

We've progressively added features to the retirement income calculator to make it a more flexible and useful tool for planning your income in retirement. The calculator lets you:

- factor in multiple career breaks for you and/or your partner
- allow for different scenarios on your partner's income, including comparing scenarios with/without your partner's income factored in
- choose a different retirement age for you and your partner
- allow for an earlier or later retirement age than 65 (for both you and your partner)
- allow for your partner also being in the PSS
- nominate a different salary and member and employer contribution rate when you choose the career change option
- choose to move to a KiwiSaver scheme under the career change option
- incorporate a lump sum withdrawal at retirement to retire debt
- allow for multiple income streams (such as part-time work or rental income)
- adjust projections for inflation, pay increases and promotions.

We're working on a tips sheet for the website that explains how to access these and other features.

Access the calculator by signing in to your account at [policiesuper.co.nz](https://policiesuper.co.nz) and selecting the link on the 'Your super' page. The calculator will pre-populate your contribution and account details.

## Investment switches only take a few days

We can action investment switches within a few business days. This is because we use daily unit pricing. At the end of each trading day, we declare a unit price for each option – just like a share price. The main benefit for members is that, if you change your investment choice, you no longer need to wait until the beginning of the following month for your change to take effect.

## Benefit payments over the holidays

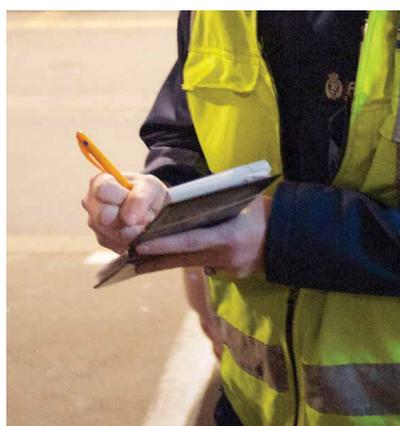
The last payment date for benefits for 2018 will be Thursday 20 December. This applies to all benefits including partial withdrawals, leaving service payments, significant financial hardship payments and withdrawals from deferred member accounts. If you would like a payment to be made prior to Christmas, Mercer needs to have received a completed form from you (or Payroll in the case of leaving service payments) by **Thursday 13 December**. The cut-off date has already passed for payments in cases where a charge is registered against your super. Payments in the new year will be processed from Thursday 3 January 2019. If you want to change your investment choice over this period, please make your change by Thursday 27 December. Investment changes in the new year will be processed from Thursday 3 January.

## Latest returns

Unit prices are updated on the website each business day. Each month, we also post returns based on the change in unit prices over a given period expressed as a percentage. This provides another way for you to follow the performance of your investment.

	NET RETURN %			
	Growth	Balanced	Stable	Cash Plus
November 2018	0.37	0.36	0.08	0.13
5 months to 30 November 2018	(1.80)	(1.21)	(0.47)	0.68
Year to 30 June 2018	7.09	5.31	3.54	1.61

These returns are after tax and fees.



## Got a question?

[policiesuper.co.nz](http://policiesuper.co.nz)

You'll find plenty of information about the PSS and your membership online. Our website is optimised for mobile phones and tablets and has lots of features to help you manage your super.

**0800 PSSHEME (0800 777 243)**

The helpline hours are 9.00am to 7.00pm, Monday to Friday (except public holidays).