

Super strategies

Top-up your super with help from the Government

If your income is under a certain threshold, then making personal after-tax super contributions could enable you to qualify for a Government co-contribution and take advantage of the low tax rate payable in super on investment earnings.

How does the strategy work?

If you earn¹ less than \$57,016 pa (of which at least 10% is from eligible employment or carrying on a business) and you make personal after-tax super contributions, the Government may also contribute into your super account.

This additional super contribution, which is known as a co-contribution, could make a significant difference to the value of your retirement savings over time.

To qualify for a co-contribution, you will need to meet a range of conditions, but as a general rule:

- the maximum co-contribution of \$500 is available if you contribute \$1,000 and earn \$42,016 or less
- a reduced amount may be received if you contribute less than \$1,000 and/or earn between \$42,017 and \$57,016, and
- you will not be eligible for a co-contribution if you earn \$57,017 or more.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) will determine whether you qualify based on the data received from your super fund and the information contained in your tax return for that financial year.

As a result, there can be a time lag between when you make your personal after-tax super contribution and when the Government pays the co-contribution.

If you're eligible for the co-contribution, you can nominate which fund you would like to receive the payment.

Alternatively, if you don't make a nomination and you have more than one account, the ATO will pay the money into one of your funds based on set criteria.

Note: Some funds or superannuation interests may not be able to receive co-contributions. This includes unfunded public sector schemes, defined benefit interests, traditional policies (such as endowment or whole of life) and insurance only superannuation interests.

Other key considerations

- You can't access super until you meet certain conditions.
- You may want to consider other ways to contribute to super, such as salary sacrifice or personal deductible contributions.

Seek advice

A financial adviser can help you determine whether you should make personal super contributions and assess whether you will qualify for a Government co-contribution.

¹ Includes assessable income, reportable fringe benefits and reportable employer super contributions, less business deductions and assessable First Home Super Saver amounts. Other conditions apply.

Important information and disclaimer

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