

Current topics

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Current topics

Investment update

For the latest news about the CSS investment performance visit the **CSS monthly investment performance online**.

Learn more about your options in a volatile market

Find out more about the economic downturn and what it means for your super.

Finding out more about your CSS super

To get the most from your super, you need to know how your scheme works. Are you a contributing member or a deferred member? Do you know how much you should be contributing and how much you will need to retire on?

- > First it is important to know the CSS is a hybrid super fund. This means it is a combination of two types of funds — a defined benefit fund and an accumulation fund.
In a defined benefit fund, member benefits are 'defined' by a formula. In the CSS, the defined benefit part is generally the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-indexed pension which is defined by a formula based on your final super salary, your length of contributory service and your age at exit. The accumulation part is your contributions plus fund earnings (known as the 'member component') and your employer's fortnightly contributions to your super (known as the 'productivity component'). To find out more about how investment performance affects your benefit see the **Investments** page at www.css.gov.au.
- > Take a look at the **i-Estimator** to get an up-to-date projection of your potential super benefit. You can alter the factors that affect the growth of your benefit—like salary growth, fund crediting rate and CPI—based on your own prediction of long term future financial indicators.
- > It is also useful to have an idea of how much retirement is likely to cost you. Take a look at the Westpac ASFA retirement standard which is a guide to the costs of a modest or comfortable retirement—the costs may surprise you.

Come along to one of our free super workshops. Our presenter will explain the structure of the CSS, how contributions work, what being in a defined benefit means and the implication of things like tax and how it may affect your super. See the article on the next page for dates, times and how to book an At Work for You workshop.

New legislation to recognise de facto couples in family law

The *Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) Act 2008* came into effect on 1 March 2009. The new legislation updates the *Family Law Act 1975* to provide for opposite-sex and same-sex de facto couples to access the federal family law courts on property and maintenance matters. The changes also include recognition of financial agreements between de facto couples and superannuation splitting where determined by court proceedings.

For further information call 1300 000 277.

Getting to know your scheme with At Work for You

Our At Work for You public workshops restarted in February. Remember, if you would like a workshop at your workplace, email atworkforemployers@aria.gov.au or call 02 6263 6999.

Here are the dates of our public workshops in March:

City	Date, time and location	Scheme
Sydney	9.30am, 11 March at Medina Executive	CSS

How to contact us

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