

When can I access my super money?

There are two conditions which must be satisfied to access your super;

1. Reaching your 'preservation age' which may be between 55 and 60 years of age depending on your date of birth.
2. Satisfying a 'Condition of Release' which means giving up a job and intending never to work for 10 hours or more a week.

Preservation Age

The table below summarises preservation age based on date of birth:

Date Of Birth	Perservation Age
Before 1 July 1960	55
From 1 July 1960 to 30 June 1961	56
From 1 July 1961 to 30 June 1962	57
From 1 July 1962 to 30 June 1963	58
From 1 July 1963 to 30 June 1964	59
On or after 1 July 1964	60

Condition Of Release

First you have to meet your preservation age. Now it gets tricky. After that you have to 'cease a gainful employment arrangement' which means to stop working at a job. This could mean a part-time job whilst still continuing employment in a full time job.

Stopping the part-time job, satisfies the condition of ceasing gainful employment, hence you can continue in a full time role and access all your super, start a pension and enjoy tax free earnings from the pension investments.

There are many scenarios possible depending on your type of employment. We will assume you have reached preservation age.

To ensure you make the best decision for your individual circumstances please contact us:

Here are some examples:

Does this satisfy a Condition of Release?

You intend to reduce your working hours to less than 10 hours a week and your current employment is the only job you have ever had.

No, you have not ceased a gainful employment arrangement.

You intend to reduce your working hours to less than 10 hours a week and you have changed jobs numerous times in your career.

Yes, you have ceased a gainful employment arrangement some time in the past. This does not have to be after reaching preservation age or a recent event. Note: This would be a No if you want to work for more than 10 hours a week.

You met a 'Condition of Release' a couple of years ago and receive an account based pension. You have now decided to go back to work. What happens then?

The existing pension remains unchanged from a tax point of view however any new super contributions since the original condition of release will be preserved and subject to earnings tax until a new condition of release has been met. At that point a second account based pension could be commenced.

You are a self-employed sole trader whose employment involves contracting to provide services to many different businesses and you often pay others to assist in the delivery of these services. You have finished a contract to provide services and are not doing any other work.

No, for self-employed clients, a gainful employment arrangement involves their entire self-employment arrangement.

You have 2 employment arrangements, one part-time weekend job and one full-time position. You intend to cease the part-time role.

Yes, you have met the requirement simply by ceasing a gainful employment arrangement. Note that ceasing the full-time role would also pass the release test.

You are taking a promotion with the same company that you are currently working with.

No, you have not ceased a gainful employment arrangement, you have merely changed it.

You have agreed with your employer to change from a full-time role to a part-time role.

No, you have not ceased a gainful employment arrangement, you have merely changed it.

You have agreed with your employer to terminate your current employee position and be rehired as a contractor.

Note: Unpaid leave does not constitute an end to an employment arrangement.

No, in this situation there is a clear understanding to continue to provide services to the company for gain or reward. If there was a gap in time for say more than 3 months before being rehired as a contractor with this or any other company then this would be more likely to satisfy the release condition.