

You can transfer some of your superannuation contributions to an account for your spouse, which may save tax or allow you to access your super earlier.

WHAT IS CONTRIBUTION SPLITTING?

Contribution splitting is a process that allows you to transfer some of the contributions made to your superannuation into an account for your spouse (including de facto of the same or different sex).

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You may transfer contributions to your spouse's account once per financial year. Only contributions made in the previous year may be split.

You may only split concessional (beforetax) contributions. These are generally your salary sacrifice, your personal tax deductible contributions and your employer's contributions.

You may transfer to your spouse, up to 85% of the gross concessional contributions made to your account. This is the same as the net contribution after 15% contribution tax has been deducted.

If you have a Defined Benefit account, you will usually only be able to split the voluntary contributions you have made.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

There are two possible benefits of splitting your contributions with your spouse. It may allow access to your super earlier, and could be used to boost your spouse's superannuation balance.

Earlier access

If your spouse is older than you, they will reach their 'preservation age' sooner. This is the age at which super may be accessed.

Your spouse will then be able to start a super income stream or, if they have retired from the workforce, take a lump sum.

If the contributions had remained in your account, you would not have been able to access them until you reach preservation age.

DATE OF BIRTH	PRESERVATION AGE
Before 1 July 1960	55
1 July 1960 to 30 June 1961	56
1 July 1961 to 30 June 1962	57
1 July 1962 to 30 June 1963	58
1 July 1963 to 30 June 1964	59
1 July 1964 and after	60

Note: Your spouse must be under age 65, and if aged between their preservation age and 65 must not be retired to be eligible to receive your split contributions.

BOOST YOUR SPOUSE'S SUPER

If you have more super than your spouse, you can use contribution splitting to boost their super balance. This can also result in tax savings when you both reach retirement age and start accessing your super. Splitting your contributions could allow you to make better use of your two transfer balance caps. The transfer balance cap is a limit on the total amount of super that can be transferred into the retirement phase. For the 2024-25 financial year, the general transfer balance cap is \$1.9 million.

Here's an example

Jody and Mark intend to retire at 65 and take their super as a pension. Jody's super balance is \$200,000 and Mark's is \$2 million.

Jody has not accumulated as much super, because she has worked part time in the past, and left work to take care of their children.

Scenario 1

Mark does nothing and the couple each start a pension with their super.

Jody's pension balance is \$200,000—any withdrawals are tax free, and the investment earnings are not taxed.

Mark can only transfer a maximum of \$1.9 million to Jodie's account—keeping to this limit means investment earnings are not taxed. The remaining \$100,000 can remain in his super account where the investment earnings are taxed up to 15%.

Scenario 2

Mark transfers some of his super contributions to Jody's account each year, and as a result when they reach age 65, Jody has a balance of \$300,000 and Mark has a balance of \$1.9 million.

Jody can transfer \$300,000 to Mark's account and Mark can transfer \$1.9 million to Jodie's account—keeping to these limits means any withdrawals are tax-free, and the investment earnings are not taxed.

¹ Tax of 17% including the Medicare Levy on the amount above the tax free threshold of \$235,000. Assumes total balance is made up of taxable component.

To make a spouse contribution splitting application, use the Contribution Splitting Application Form. You can download this form from russellinvestments.com.au/forms or ask for a form by calling us on 1800 555 667.

You may also wish to open an account in the Russell Investments Master Trust for your spouse, which you can split

your contributions into. For more information, download a copy of our iQ Super – For Life Product Disclosure Statement. There is no fee for splitting contributions with your spouse's account.



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- call **1800 555 667** (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm AEST)
- email iq@russellinvestments.com.au
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