

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR PLANNING

With 30 June approaching, now is the perfect time to get your financial affairs in order. We have compiled a list of items that should be high priority for everyone.

Remember, 30 June falls on a Sunday this year, so it is particularly important to plan ahead to ensure any pre-30 June transactions are completed well in advance. Timing is everything!

Concessional contributions (pre-tax)

The current annual concessional cap is \$27,500. Concessional contributions include employer contributions, salary sacrificed amounts, and personal contributions claimed as personal deductions. These contributions are subject to a 15% tax rate.

For high-income earners – individuals earning \$250,000 or more – an additional 15% tax applies on top of the standard 15%.

Clients should review their concessional contributions and taxable income for this financial year to determine if making additional contributions is beneficial. Additionally, it is worth considering the potential for a carry-forward concessional contribution strategy, as discussed below.

Starting from 1 July 2024, the concessional contributions cap will increase to \$30,000, and the Super Guarantee (SG) rate will increase to 11.5%.

Carry-forward concessional contributions

Since 1 July 2018, any unused amounts in an individual's concessional contributions cap can be carried forward on a rolling five-

year period if the individual has a total superannuation balance under \$500,000 at the end of the previous 30 June.

For example, if David made concessional contributions of \$10,000 during the previous five financial years, and his total superannuation balance on 30 June 2023 was \$200,000, David could make a \$107,500 concessional contribution during the 2023-2024 financial year (previous unused caps plus 2023-2024 financial year cap).

This strategy is particularly advantageous if taxable income was higher than average during the year, possibly due to an asset sale. Clients should check MyGov to determine their eligibility for this strategy.

Non-concessional contributions (post-tax)

The annual limit for non-concessional contributions is \$110,000 if an individual's total superannuation balance is below \$1.9 million as at 30 June 2023.

The bring-forward rule allows eligible members to contribute up to three years of non-concessional contributions (\$330,000) in one year. To qualify, members must not have triggered the bring-forward rule in the past two financial years and must have a total superannuation balance

below \$1.68 million as at 30 June 2023.

Individuals with a member balance between \$1.68 million and \$1.79 million can utilise part of the bring-forward rule.

For example, James, aged 58, is starting to plan for retirement. He has \$500,000 in cash in his name and a total superannuation balance of \$800,000. James decides to use the bring-forward rule to contribute \$330,000 to superannuation as a non-concessional contribution in the FY23-24, aiming to invest in the share market. After this, he cannot make further non-concessional contributions for the next two financial years.

The non-concessional cap will increase to \$120,000 from 1 July 2024. However, because the \$1.9 million restriction remains unchanged, the bring-forward balance restrictions will reduce. Always seek professional advice before proceeding with any contribution.

Superannuation contribution work test

The work test is still a requirement for anyone over age 67 wishing to make a concessional contribution to superannuation before 30 June. To satisfy the work test, an individual must be gainfully employed for at least 40 hours during a consecutive 30-day period in the same financial year as the contribution is made.

Work test exemption (WTE)

Individuals aged 67 to 74 may be able to make additional voluntary contributions for up to 12 months from the end of the financial year in which they last met the work test.

They will need to meet the following criteria:

1. Their total superannuation balance was under \$300,000 on 30 June in the previous financial year.
2. They met the work test in the previous financial year.
3. No WTE contributions were received in the previous financial year.

For example, Steven aged 68, retired on 30 June 2023 with a total superannuation balance of \$150,000. On 12 August 2023, he sold his investment property to realise the capital gains during the year he was not working, thus lowering his taxable income. Following this, he used the proceeds to make both a concessional and non-concessional contribution before 30 June 2024.

As non-concessional contributions no longer require the work test to be met, the work test exemption only applies to personal concessional contributions.

Superannuation pension payments

Pension payments and minimum and maximum limits should be reviewed. Accurate figures must be obtained for each member as penalties may be imposed for over or underpayment.

The standard and revised minimums are as follows:

Age	Standard Minimum
Under 65	4%
65-74	5%
75-79	6%
80-84	7%
85-89	9%
90-94	11%
95+	14%

The maximum transition to retirement pension remains at 10%.

For example, Jane, aged 68, had an SMSF valued at \$480,000 on 1 July

2023. Her usual minimum is \$24,000 (5%) which she generally elects to draw as a single payment in June.

Stage 3 taxation changes

The redesigned stage 3 tax cuts will take effect from 1 July 2024. All taxpayers earning above the tax-free threshold of \$18,200 will receive a tax cut.

The tax rates for the current and next financial year are as follows:

CURRENT		STAGE 3 TAX CUTS	
Taxable income	Tax rate	Taxable income	Tax rate
\$0 - \$18,200	0c	\$0 - \$18,200	0c
\$18,201 - \$45,000	19c	\$18,201 - \$45,000	16c
\$45,001 - \$120,000	32.5c	\$45,001 - \$135,000	30c
\$120,000 - \$180,000	37c	\$135,000 - \$190,000	37c
\$180,001 +	45c	\$190,001 +	45c

The end result will see an individual with an income of \$50,000 save \$929 in tax while an individual earning \$200,000 would save \$4,529.

As an individual's tax rate this year will be higher than next year, consideration should be given to strategies to bring forward deductions into the higher tax year, such as carrying forward unused concessional contributions, using SMSF reserving strategies, and bringing forward non-super related tax deductions. If possible, consideration should also be given to deferring income into the next financial year by delaying retirement to receive unused leave entitlements next year and postponing a capital gains tax (CGT) event.

Superannuation contribution splitting

The pension transfer cap on funds in the tax-free pension phase has made it more important than ever for couples to maintain even

account balances. Superannuation splitting allows a member with a higher account balance to transfer up to 85% of their concessional contributions to their spouse (the 15% contributions tax is deducted before splitting).

The receiving spouse must be less than their preservation age or between their preservation age and 65 and not retired. The splitting application should be completed in the financial year immediately after the financial year in which the contribution was made or in the same financial year if the account is going to be closed.

Consider whether you have met a condition of release

Anyone who has reached age 60 should be aware of the potential conditions of release that would allow them access to their superannuation and commence a tax-free Account Based Pension. As part of an end of financial year review, determining if a condition of release is met could provide significant benefits.

The most common conditions of release include retiring post preservation age and reaching age 65 regardless of work status. However, a little known condition is ceasing an employment arrangement on or after the age of 60. This condition is even met if you have two employment arrangements and only cease one while the other continues.

Government co-contribution

Anyone with an adjusted taxable income of less than \$58,445 can take advantage of the government co-contribution, however, the maximum benefit of \$500 begins to taper down when their taxable income exceeds \$43,445.

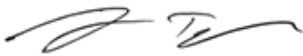
The government co-contribution is not available to individuals who exceed the non-concessional contribution cap or the total superannuation balance cap of \$1.9 million.

Spouse contribution

If an individual has an assessable income of less than \$40,000 then their spouse can make a non-concessional contribution on their behalf and claim a tax offset. The maximum offset is \$540, where your spouse's assessable income is \$37,000 or less. The offset reduces as the receiving spouse's assessable income increases above \$37,000 and is phased out at \$40,000.

Get in touch

If you would like to discuss any of these strategies further, please contact your Bell Potter adviser.



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