

What are spouse contributions?

Spouse contributions allow you to contribute money to your spouse's super account. This helps grow your joint retirement savings and you may also receive a number of tax benefits.

Who qualifies as a spouse?

A spouse is defined as:

- Your husband, wife or defacto partner who lives permanently with you on a bona fide domestic basis (including same sex partners). You and your spouse must not be living separately or apart on a permanent basis at the time you contribute

What are the tax benefits of making spouse contributions?

There are a number of potential tax benefits in making spouse contributions. Spouse contributions are treated as 'non-concessional (after-tax) contributions', which means that, in your spouse's account, they are not subject to contributions tax and are tax-free upon withdrawal. You may also receive an 18% tax offset on the contributions you make to your spouse's account. As spouse contributions are non-concessional (after-tax) contributions, they form part of the spouse's non-concessional contribution cap.

Tax offset of 18%

Making spouse contributions is particularly beneficial if your spouse is not working or is a low income earner. If your spouse's assessable income plus reportable employer super contributions and reportable fringe benefits (total income) is less than \$37,000 a year, the first \$3,000 of spouse contributions are eligible for an 18% tax offset. This is up to the maximum offset of \$540 per year.

If your spouse's total income is higher than \$37,000, the tax offset gradually reduces and ceases when your spouse's total income reaches \$40,000.

The table below illustrates how the tax offset works:

| Receiving spouse's annual income | Amount paid into receiving spouse's account | Maximum amount eligible for tax offset | Tax offset available to you |
|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|
| \$20,000 | \$5,000 | \$3,000 | \$540 |
| \$37,000 | \$5,000 | \$3,000 | \$540 |
| \$38,000 | \$5,000 | \$2,000 | \$360 |
| \$39,000 | \$5,000 | \$1,000 | \$180 |
| \$40,000 | \$5,000 | Nil | Nil |

No tax offset is available where the receiving spouse has exceeded their non-concessional contributions cap or their super balance is \$1.6 million or more.

¹ Your Commonwealth preservation age is dependent on your date of birth. For more information on your preservation age, read the 'Accessing your super' brochure available at gesb.wa.gov.au/brochures

In order to receive spouse contributions, you and your spouse must satisfy the below criteria:

- You and your partner must be in a qualifying spouse relationship (this includes same-sex couples)
- You and your partner are both Australian residents
- Your partner is under 65 years of age, and
- For spouses aged over 65, but less than 70, you can only contribute if they have worked at least 40 hours in a period of no more than 30 consecutive days in this financial year

A contributing spouse then claims the tax offset through their personal tax return.

Lower tax on final benefit

Payments from your spouse or partner's super account may attract a lower tax rate than benefits paid from your super account. For example, if your spouse or partner has reached their Commonwealth preservation age¹, is under 60 and accumulates a limited amount of super benefits before they retire, their Final Benefit may fall below their low rate cap and therefore their Final Benefit may be taxed at a lower rate or not at all.

For more information on low rate caps, refer to the '**Contributing to your super**' brochure and relevant Product Information Booklet available at gesb.wa.gov.au/brochures or call your Member Services Centre on 13 43 72.

Opening an account for your spouse

If your spouse doesn't have an eligible GESB account, we will open one for them. See the 'Who qualifies as a spouse?' section to check your spouse is eligible.

Consolidate and save

If your spouse consolidates all of their super into one account it will not only make it easier to manage, but they may also save on fees and charges if they only have one fund. It's now easier than ever before – in most cases, all they need is their tax file number (TFN).

Your spouse can consolidate their super by completing a '**Super consolidation**' form available at gesb.wa.gov.au/forms or visit Member Online and follow the links.

Notes:

- Other funds may charge a fee when super benefits are withdrawn and you should consider the impact that withdrawal will have on other benefits such as insurance cover.
- We can only accept Superannuation Guarantee (SG) contributions from a State government employer. If your spouse is employed but not in the State public sector, they must retain a super account that can accept their SG contributions.

Choose an investment plan

We offer a range of investment plans targeting different levels of risk and return, designed to give our members a choice as to how their money is invested.

Before making an investment choice, your spouse should read the **'Investment choice'** brochure and the **'GESB Super Product Information Booklet'** to learn about the investment plans and decide which one best suits their needs. These documents are available at gesb.wa.gov.au/brochures

Once your spouse has received their new member kit they can change their investment plan at any time online via Member Online or by completing the GESB Super **'Investment choice'** and **'Super contributions'** forms and submitting them along with a cheque or money order to GESB.

If they don't choose an investment plan, their funds will be invested in the default option for GESB Super members which is the 'My GESB Super' plan.

When can spouse contributions be accessed?

Spouse contributions are subject to the same conditions of release as any other contributions.

Your spouse's contribution can be accessed once your spouse reaches age 65, or their Commonwealth preservation age or permanently retires.

For more information read the **'Accessing your super'** brochure, available at gesb.wa.gov.au/brochures or call your Member Services Centre on 13 43 72.

How to make a spouse contribution to GESB

There is no minimum amount for any contribution to your spouse's account. If your spouse doesn't have an existing eligible GESB account, we will automatically open a GESB Super account for them.

To start making contributions on behalf of your spouse, follow the simple steps below:

Step 1 Complete the attached form

You and your spouse will need to complete and sign the attached **'Spouse contributions'** form.

Step 2 Enclose a cheque or money order

Make a cheque or money order payable to GESB.

Step 3 Post the form to us

Send the contribution with the completed form to:

GESB
PO Box J 755
Perth WA 6842

Step 4 Receive confirmation from us

Once we have processed the first contribution, your spouse will receive confirmation in writing.

Step 5 Future contributions

For each subsequent spouse contribution you will need to complete an **'Additional spouse contribution'** form, to verify that you are still living permanently together on a bona fide domestic basis. We will send an acknowledgement letter to your spouse for every contribution processed.

If you have any questions, contact your Member Services Centre on 13 43 72 or visit gesb.wa.gov.au

Disclaimer: the information contained in this document is of a general nature, and does not constitute legal, taxation or personal financial advice. In providing this information, we have not taken into account your investment objectives, financial situation or needs. We are not licensed to provide financial product advice. You should read this document in conjunction with other relevant disclosure documents GESB has prepared for its members including the relevant Product Information Booklet for your scheme. You may also wish to consult a suitably qualified adviser to ascertain whether the information contained in this document is appropriate for you.

How to contact us

T Member Services Centre 13 43 72
PO Box J 755, Perth WA 6842

F 1800 300 067

W gesb.wa.gov.au



Spouse contributions

Making your first contribution



Complete this form if you are making a spouse contribution for the first time. If you have previously made a spouse contribution, use the 'Additional spouse contributions' form.

Section 1 Your details

Contributing spouse's details

GESB member number

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other

Surname (family name)

Given name(s)

Date of birth / / Male Female

Email address

Daytime phone number

Receiving spouse's details

GESB member number (if any)

WIN No. Office Use Only

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other

Surname (family name)

Given name(s)

Date of birth / / Male Female

Residential address

Postcode

Postal address (if different from residential)

Postcode

Email address

Telephone – home

Telephone – work

Telephone – mobile

Section 2 Initial contribution

Contributing spouse

- A cheque or money order must accompany this form
- Contributions cannot be made by via BPAY® as an acknowledgement must accompany each contribution (Section 3)
- For every additional spouse contribution you must complete an 'Additional spouse contributions' form

Specify the amount you are contributing on your spouse's behalf.

\$

Make the cheque or money order payable to GESB and send it to us together with this form.

Section 3 Declaration and signature

Both partners

In signing this form we confirm:

- At the time of making this spouse contribution we live permanently together on a bona fide domestic basis as a married couple or de facto partners (including same sex partners) and are Australian residents.

Receiving spouse

To be able to receive contributions from your spouse, you must meet the following conditions.

Tick one box to confirm your eligibility:

I am under the age of 65.

I have reached age 65 but not age 70, and I have worked at least 40 hours in a period of no more than 30 consecutive days in this financial year.

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In signing this form I acknowledge that:

- I understand that the contribution will be allocated to my eligible GESB account and invested in my nominated investment plan. If I have not nominated an investment plan, all monies will be invested in the My GESB Super plan (the default investment plan).
- I have read the 'GESB Super Product Information Booklet' and the 'Spouse contributions' brochure and understand that they contain general information only and do not take into account my investment objectives, financial situation or needs.
- I understand that any benefits accruing on my behalf in my GESB account are subject to rules and conditions of release applicable to that scheme, including preservation standards (see the 'GESB Super Product Information Booklet').

Contributing spouse

Your signature

x

Date

/ /

Receiving spouse

Your signature

x

Date

/ /

Section 4 Receiving spouse's tax file number (TFN)

To be read and completed by receiving spouse.

GESB is authorised to collect your TFN for certain purposes, however you are not obligated to provide your TFN to us. As spouse contributions are personal after-tax contributions, GESB can only accept your spouse contributions if you provide your TFN.

Before you provide us with your TFN please note:

If you provide your TFN, it will only be used for purposes approved by the law. The purposes currently authorised include:

- Taxing super benefits at concessional rates
- Locating and amalgamating your super benefits where other information is insufficient
- Passing your TFN to the Australian Tax Office (ATO) where you receive a benefit
- Passing your TFN to the ATO so they can determine any Super Contributions Surcharge that may be payable
- Passing your TFN to another super fund that will be receiving any benefits you may transfer

You are not required to provide your TFN. Declining to provide your TFN is not an offence. However, if you do not provide your TFN:

- You may pay more tax on your super benefits than you have to
- Super contributions made by your employer (including salary sacrifice contributions) may be taxed extra
- We may be unable to accept your personal, after-tax contributions which could affect your eligibility for the Commonwealth Government Super Co-contribution
- You may be unnecessarily liable for the Super Contributions Surcharge in relation to contributions pre-1 July 2005
- It may be more difficult to locate and amalgamate your super benefits in the future

The purpose for which your TFN can be used and the consequences of not quoting it may change in the future as a result of changes in the law.

For more information on providing your TFN to your super fund visit www.ato.gov.au

Receiving spouse's details

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other

Surname (family name)

Given name(s)

Tax file number (TFN)

I do not wish for my tax file number to be passed onto another super fund.

Receiving spouse's signature

x

Date

/ /

Section 5 Checklist

- This is your first spouse contribution. If not, use the 'Additional spouse contributions' form.
- You and your spouse have signed the acknowledgement in Section 3.
- You have enclosed a cheque or money order made payable to GESB for your spouse contribution.
- Your spouse has completed Section 4 if they have not previously provided their TFN to GESB.

Send your contribution and completed form to:

GESB
PO Box J 755
Perth WA 6842

Note: we have a privacy statement that sets out how we handle private information about individuals responsibly. Our privacy statement is available on our website or can be obtained by contacting your Member Services Centre on 13 43 72.

How to contact us

T Member Services Centre 13 43 72

F 1800 300 067

W gesb.wa.gov.au

PO Box J 755, Perth WA 6842

Government Employees Superannuation Board ABN 43 418 292 917