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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.

If you are making the contribution, you are the contributing spouse. If the contribution is made on your behalf, you are the receiving spouse.

Who qualifies as a spouse?

A spouse is defined as a person (of any gender) who:

- You are legally married to, or
- Lives with you on a bona fide domestic basis (a de facto spouse)

You and your spouse must not be living separately on a permanent basis at the time you contribute.

Check if you qualify

To make or receive spouse contributions, the following criteria must be met:

- You and your spouse must be in an eligible spouse relationship (this includes same-sex couples)
- You and your spouse are both Australian residents
- The receiving spouse is under 75 years of age¹

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 contributions, they count towards your spouse's non-concessional contribution cap.

Note: any investment earnings on the spouse contributions will be taxed like any other investment earnings of the super fund. Generally, this is at a tax rate of 15%.

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 total income is less than \$37,000 a year, the first \$3,000 of spouse contributions are eligible for an 18% tax offset (of up to \$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.

Note: First Home Super Saver release amounts are not counted towards an individual's total income.

For more information, or a definition of these terms (including 'total income'), see the Australian Taxation Office's website at ato.gov.au.

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 contributions are deductible by you
- The contributions are made to satisfy a family law obligation to split contributions with your spouse
- The receiving spouse has exceeded their non-concessional contributions cap for the financial year
- The receiving spouse's total super balance is equal to or exceeds the transfer balance cap (currently \$2.1 million) on 30 June immediately before the financial year

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

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 above to check your spouse is eligible.

¹ We can accept contributions received within 28 days following the end of the month in which the receiving spouse turns 75 years old.

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 – 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 under *Roll in other super*, or visit Member Online and follow the links.

Note: once your spouse's GESB Super account has been opened, they can have their employer contributions paid into that account, even if they don't work in the WA public sector.

Choose an investment option

We offer a range of investment options 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 options 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 welcome letter (which they will receive when joining GESB), they can change their investment option at any time through Member Online or by completing the GESB Super *Investment choice form*.

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

When can spouse contributions be accessed?

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

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 us

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 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 contribution and 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 considered your personal circumstances including your investment objectives, financial situation or needs. We are not licensed to provide financial product advice. Before acting or relying on any of the information in this document you should review your personal circumstances, and assess whether the information is appropriate for you. You should read this document in conjunction with the relevant product information booklet and disclosure documents at gesb.wa.gov.au/brochures. You should seek advice specific to your personal circumstances from a suitably qualified adviser.

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

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 contribution form*.

If you are making the contribution, you are the contributing spouse. If the contribution is made on your behalf, you are the receiving spouse.

We will send an acknowledgement letter to the receiving spouse once the contribution has been processed.

Section 1 Your details

Contributing spouse's details

GESB member number

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other

Last name

Given name(s)

Date of birth / / Male Female

Email address

Mobile phone number

Receiving spouse's details

GESB member number (if applicable)

WIN No. Office Use Only

() the account that you would like to apply this to.

GESB Super West State Super

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other

Last name

Given name(s)

Date of birth / / Male Female

Residential address

Postcode

Postal address (if different from residential)

Postcode

Email address

Work phone number

 ()

Mobile phone number

Section 2 Initial contribution

Contributing spouse

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

Please note, we don't accept foreign cheques.

Section 3 Declaration and signature

Both partners

By 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 be under the age of 75.¹

By 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 option. If I have not nominated an investment option, all monies will be invested in the My GESB Super option (the default investment option)

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¹ We can accept contributions received within 28 days following the end of the month in which the receiving spouse turns 75 years old.



- 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 Date

Receiving spouse

Your signature Date

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

To be read and completed by receiving spouse.

While we are authorised to collect your TFN for certain purposes, you are not obligated to provide your TFN to us. However, if you don't provide your TFN, and we don't already hold your TFN, we will not be permitted to accept spouse contributions (as they are personal after-tax contributions).

Before you provide us with your TFN please note:

We may disclose your TFN to other super funds, when your benefits are being transferred, unless you request in writing that we don't.

It's not an offence should you chose not to provide us with your TFN. However giving your TFN to us will have the following advantages (which may not otherwise apply):

- We will be able to accept all types of contributions to your account(s)
- The tax on contributions to your super account(s) will not increase
- Other than the tax that may ordinarily apply, no additional tax will be deducted when you start drawing down your super benefits, and
- It will make it much easier to trace different super accounts in your name so that you receive all your super benefits when you retire

If you do not provide your TFN:

- You may pay more tax on your super benefits than you have to
- Additional tax may be applied to super contributions made by your employer (including salary sacrifice contributions)
- We may be unable to accept your personal, after-tax contributions which could affect your eligibility for the Australian 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 providing 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 ato.gov.au or call the ATO Superannuation Helpline on 13 10 20.

Receiving spouse's details

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other

Last 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

Date

Section 5 Checklist

- This is your first spouse contribution. If not, use the *Additional spouse contribution 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 us.

Send your contribution and completed form to us:

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 at gesb.wa.gov.au/privacy 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
 PO Box J 755, Perth WA 6842

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