

Welcome to the second 2025 edition of SuperNews, designed for FireSuper members. In this edition we cover steps you can take if you're considering the First Home Withdrawal benefit or a full withdrawal, the recent changes to government contributions, the power of voluntary contributions, and a reminder about the member survey.

Lastly, you will find our latest investment commentary, offering insights into market trends as well as the FireSuper returns.

If you have any feedback or suggestions regarding this newsletter or FireSuper in general, please reach out to us by emailing [nzfire.super@mercero.com](mailto:nzfire.super@mercero.com) or by calling **0800 MY SUPER** (0800 69 78737).

Regards,

FireSuper Trustee

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## The member survey is now open!

The **FireSuper member survey** is your opportunity to share your feedback on how we can improve our services and enhance your experience.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, and responses are anonymous. By completing the survey, you'll also go in the draw to win a \$200 Woolworths gift card (Terms and Conditions apply). Survey closes **5:00pm Thursday 14 August**.



## Considering a withdrawal? Read this first

If you're thinking about applying for the First Home Withdrawal benefit or a full withdrawal of your FireSuper accumulations, now is a good time to consider some strategic decisions, particularly given the ongoing uncertainty in investment markets.

FireSuper offers a range of investment choices, including the Life Cycle option and four other options: Growth, Balanced, Conservative and Cash. This flexibility allows you to select an investment option(s) that best fits your personal circumstances and risk appetite.

If you are planning to make a withdrawal, you could consider the Cash option. This option has historically shown a low level of risk, which means your accumulation will be less affected by market fluctuations. The relatively stable nature of the Cash option also means that you may avoid processing delays for your withdrawal application. If you remain in any of the other investment options at the time of your withdrawal application, especially during periods of high market volatility, FireSuper investment consultants may need to assess the interim earning rates to calculate a new earning rate, which determines your final withdrawal amount and can take several days to process.

Before you switch investment options or apply for a withdrawal, FireSuper recommends you seek independent financial advice. Visit the Financial Advice page on our website, [www.firesuper.org.nz/financial-advice](http://www.firesuper.org.nz/financial-advice) for resources available to you.

Want to learn more about your investment options? Review the **Member Investment Choice Booklet**.

## Changes to government contributions from 1 July 2025

The Government released its new budget in May 2025, which included changes to government contributions to the Complying Fund Section, effective from 1 July 2025. For every \$1.00 you contribute to the Complying Fund Section, under current legislation the Government contributes \$0.25, up to a maximum Government contribution of \$260.72 per year. This has changed from \$0.50 for every \$1.00 of member contributions, subject to a maximum of \$521.43.



Members earning above \$180,000 per annum (this is your 'taxable income' as defined by the Income Tax Act 2007, which is all assessable income less allowable deductions and losses claimed) are no longer eligible for the Government contribution.

If you are also contributing to a KiwiSaver scheme, the Government contribution will be paid to whichever scheme applies first to Inland Revenue.



## Reaching your goals faster

In today's rapidly changing financial landscape, achieving your financial goals efficiently is crucial. Whether you're planning for retirement or looking to pay off your mortgage, reaching these milestones sooner prepares you for the future. By taking proactive steps now, you can enhance your financial security.

As a FireSuper member, you can work towards a more secure financial future by increasing your voluntary contributions. Active members, including those currently employed and contributing to FireSuper, can make additional contributions through the Fire and Emergency New Zealand payroll system, subject to Trustee approval.

Members can voluntarily contribute up to 10% of their eligible salary (this is on top of your Regular Section and/or Complying Fund Section contributions, and is up to a maximum of 16%), as set by regulations. Alternatively, you can contribute a smaller amount or take a break from voluntary contributions and start again when it suits you.

Remember, the earlier you start contributing, the more time your money has to grow through compound earnings, which can lead to significant gains over time.

For more information, check out the [Voluntary Contributions Information Sheet](#), which highlights any associated costs. The fact sheet has a table illustrating the compounded value of voluntary contributions based on various interest rates and payment levels so you can see the potential growth of your contributions.

For any further information, please call our Helpline on **0800 MY SUPER (0800 69 78737)** or email [nzfire.super@mercero.com](mailto:nzfire.super@mercero.com).

## Reminder to review annual report

The FireSuper Annual Report and Annual Confirmation for the year ended 31 March 2025 were distributed at the beginning of July. Copies were sent via email or post, depending on your communications preference.

For your convenience, these documents are also available on the website – just [log in](#) to access them. We strongly encourage you to review the information, as it includes key insights about FireSuper's performance and any updates that may affect you.

If you have any questions regarding your account or the documents, don't hesitate to call the Helpline at **0800 MY SUPER (0800 69 78737)** between 9am and 7pm Monday to Friday. We're here to help!



## Market update

Global share markets made good gains in the June quarter, with the MSCI ACWI Index - Net returning 4.1% in unhedged New Zealand dollar (NZD) terms. Much of the gains were driven by encouraging trade developments; notably US-China trade relations. The relationship between the world's two largest economies sunk to new lows in April following US President Donald Trump's 'Liberation Day' announcement; the day on which he revealed higher-than-expected 'reciprocal' tariffs on over 180 countries and territories, including China. However, the two sides, who for more than a month had exchanged tit-for-tat tariff hikes, came together for talks in Geneva in early May, with officials agreeing to significantly reduce tariffs against one another for 90 days, effective immediately. Washington agreed to lower tariffs on Chinese imports from 145% to 30%, while Beijing said it would reduce levies on US goods from 125% to 10%.

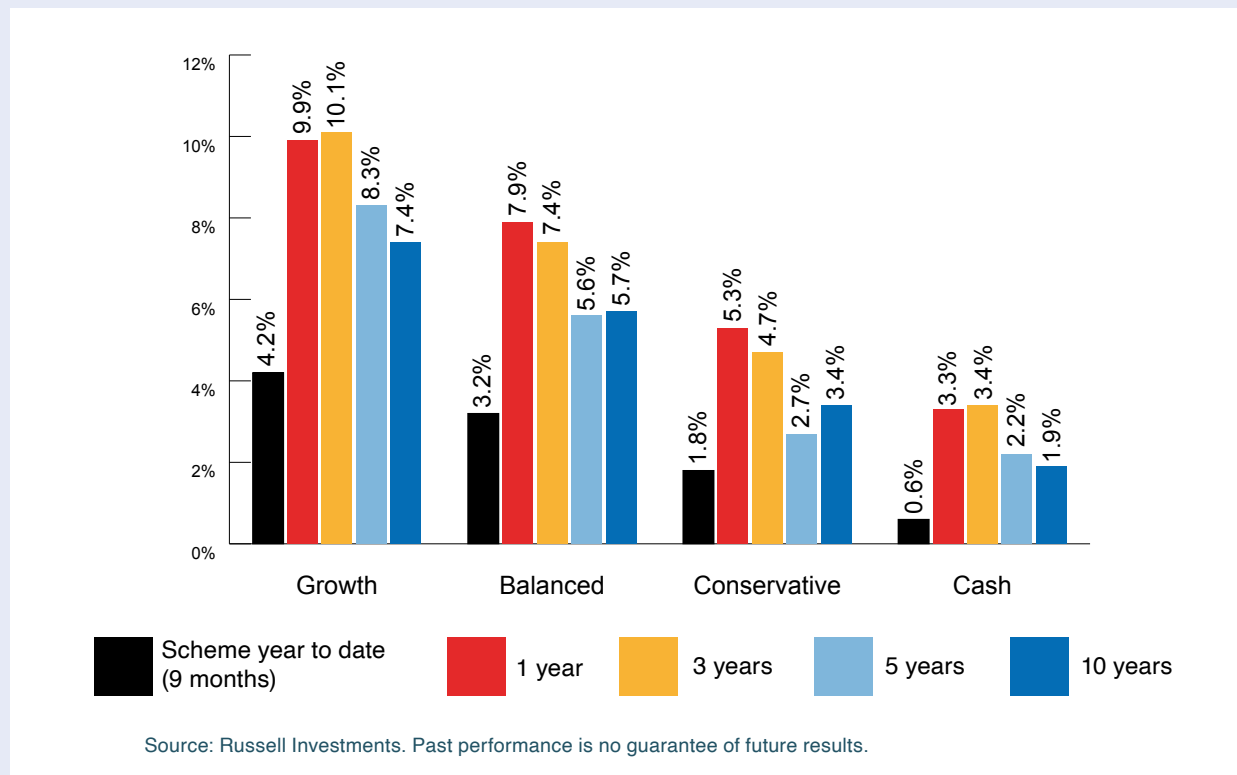
[Read the full article here](#)

Source: Russell Investments | Quarter ended 30 June 2025

## FireSuper returns

(Cumulative year-to-date interim returns)

The chart below shows the earning rates for each investment option over the fiscal year-to-date period (**from 1 April 2025 through to 30 June 2025**), and returns over the long term; 1, 3, 5 and 10 years. The returns are net of fees and tax. The Life Cycle option uses the Growth, Balanced, and Conservative options as building blocks and progressively reduces members' risk/return profile over time.



You can find the [latest earning rates](#) and general information about how financial markets are performing on the [FireSuper website](#).



Helpline  
0800 69 78737



Retirement  
planning



Financial advisers  
at FMA



FireSuper  
website

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This document has been prepared by Mercer (N.Z.) Limited ('Mercer') on behalf of the Trustee.