

Welcome to the first 2025 edition of SuperNews, designed specifically for FireSuper members!

As we step into 2025, we are excited to share a few insights and updates that can help you navigate your journey with FireSuper. Firstly, we have included an article on setting meaningful goals for the year ahead, along with information about the tools that Sorted has to offer.

As well as a reminder about the valuable benefits that were added for FireSuper members in 2024 and how these are being maximised by some members already.

We have also included guidance for members considering becoming a Deferred Member or utilising FireSuper's Life Cycle investment option, which automatically changes the asset allocation from growth to income assets as members get closer to retirement age.

It is also important to note that there have been changes to the login process as of January 2025. We encourage you to familiarise yourself with this change to ensure a smooth experience when accessing your account.

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@mercer.com or by calling **0800 MY SUPER (0800 69 78737)**.

Regards,

FireSuper Trustee

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Reminder of the enhancements made in 2024

As we celebrate one year since the enhancements to FireSuper were implemented on 1 March 2024, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the positive impact these changes have had on our members.

The enhancements were designed to better support our members' financial goals, and included change of name and simplified terminology, new early withdrawal facilities, updated top-up entitlements, expanded contribution rate options in the Complying Fund Section and more.

Key highlights:

- » **Homeownership success:** We are thrilled to announce that 35 members successfully utilised their FireSuper savings to purchase their first homes. Congratulations to these members on this significant milestone in their lives!
- » **Support in hard times:** We recognise that some members faced significant financial hardships over the past year. We commend their resilience and are glad that they were able to access their funds to support them during these challenging times. We wish them all the best as they navigate their journeys.

[Read more about these enhancements here](#)

Setting goals and helpful Sorted tools

Setting financial goals is a crucial step in achieving long-term financial stability and success. Whether you are planning for retirement, saving for a home, or preparing for unexpected expenses, having clear and achievable financial goals can guide your decision-making and help you stay focused on your objectives.

The first step is to assess your current financial situation. This includes understanding your income, expenses, debts and savings. Once you have a clear picture, you can set specific, measurable and time-bound goals. For instance, instead of setting vague goals like “I want to save money,” a better approach would be to say, “I want to save \$10,000 for a home deposit within the next two years.” This clarity will help you create a structured plan to reach your goals.

Now that you have set your goals, we have listed some useful tools below that are designed to not only help you save money but also to promote healthier financial habits, support effective budgeting and facilitate long-term financial planning.



Budgets act as essential guides for managing your finances, allowing you to monitor your spending and savings effectively. This tool provides a clear visual overview of your income and expenditures, enabling you to optimise your financial resources.

[Budgeting tool » Sorted](#)



Evaluate your current financial situation to see if you are on track to achieve the retirement lifestyle you desire. This calculator helps you assess whether you are financially prepared for the future.

[Retirement calculator » Sorted](#)



This tool allows you to see how your savings can grow over time, particularly through the power of compounding interest. It provides a clear picture of your financial progress.

[Savings calculator » Sorted](#)



What are your aspirations? Many of life's goals require financial planning. This goal-setting tool assists you in taking the initial steps towards achieving your dreams.

[Goal planner » Sorted](#)



Wondering how soon you can be free from debt? This tool can consolidate your loans and helps outline the quickest path to financial freedom.

[Debt calculator » Sorted](#)

Becoming a deferred member

If you leave* Fire and Emergency New Zealand, you may be able to keep your retirement savings in FireSuper by becoming a deferred member. This means you can continue to invest your savings.

How to become a deferred member: To become a deferred member, you need to act promptly. You have one month from your departure date to make this choice. Here's what you need to do:

- 1. Complete the FS10 'Cessation Advice' form:** Make sure to tick the 'Continue membership' box in both Part 1 and Part 2 (if applicable).
- 2. Submit your form:** Return the completed form to NHQ Payroll. If you want to withdraw part of your benefit at that time, you'll also need to fill out the FS11 'Deferred Member Withdrawal Request' form and send it to FireSuper's Administration Manager, Mercer.

You can find both forms on FireSuper website, by contacting the Helpline or by emailing nzfire.super@mercer.com.

What happens next? Once your FS10 form is processed, your account will be updated to reflect your status as a deferred member and will allow your retirement savings to remain in FireSuper.

Key points to remember:

- » You must keep a minimum balance of \$5,000 in your account. If your balance falls below this, your membership will cease, and you will receive your full benefit.
- » You can make up to four withdrawals each financial year (1 April – 31 March) without any fees. However, the fifth and any additional withdrawals will incur a fee of \$94.90.
- » As a deferred member, neither you nor your employer can make contributions to FireSuper.
- » You have the option to supplement other retirement income by making regular monthly withdrawals.

Becoming a deferred member can be a great way to keep your retirement savings on track while you decide your next steps or if it's right for your personal circumstances. To learn more, please read this fact sheet:

[FireSuper Deferred Membership Fact Sheet](#)

*If you leave due to resignation, redundancy, retirement, dismissal or health reasons.



Life Cycle investment option

Depending on whether you want to take control of your investment strategy or prefer to set-and-forget, the Life Cycle investment option may be a smart way to invest your FireSuper retirement savings in.

The Life Cycle option automatically adjusts your investment mix based on your age and how close you are to retirement. When you're younger, the option changes your asset allocation to invest more in growth-oriented assets which have the potential for higher returns. As you get older and approach retirement, it gradually shifts to include more income assets which are considered more stable to help protect your investment.

Why choose the Life Cycle option?

- 1. Simplicity:** You don't have to worry about constantly managing your investments. The Life Cycle option does the heavy lifting for you.
- 2. Tailored to you:** The investment strategy is designed to match your life stage, helping you grow your retirement savings when you have time on your side and protecting them as you near retirement.
- 3. Peace of mind:** With a diversified portfolio that adjusts over time, you can feel more secure knowing your investments are being managed with your future in mind.

To learn more about this option, please read the [Life Cycle Investment option fact sheet](#), which includes answers to many of the questions you may have when considering if this option is right for you.

How to get started

If you're interested in the Life Cycle investment option (or are considering any changes to your investment strategy), it is important to seek financial advice. You can visit the [Financial Advice web page](#) to find resources available to you.

When you are ready to make a change, please log into your FireSuper online account and select the investment option you have chosen, by completing both sections **Current Investments** and **Future Contributions**.

You can also find more information in the [Member Investment Choice Booklet](#).

Important: For members invested in the Life Cycle option, please note that due to the reporting timeframe, switches received between 21 February and 20 March 2025 will be processed once the March interest rates have been advised around 20 April 2025. The switch will be processed effective 1 April 2025, however this change will only be visible online, two to three days after the 20th April.

Changes to the login process in January

From 22 January 2025, the way you login to your online account has changed. The change simplifies the login process to only your email address and password. After you activate your online account for the first time following these changes, you will no longer need a member number to log in or need to contact the Helpline for PIN resets.



Log in to your account

Email

This field cannot be left blank

Password

Log In

[Forgot your password?](#)

[Need Help?](#)

Haven't activated your online account? [Activate Now](#)

If you haven't set up your new log in details yet, your first sign-in will require a one-time activation where you'll need to provide your membership number, date of birth and email address. Please ensure you click on the **"Activate Now"** link when you are signing in for the first time.

Once you have activated your account, you'll establish security methods such as email, password and mobile number for multi-factor authentication. If you have any issues, contact the Helpline at **0800 MY SUPER (0800 69 78737)**. For any further queries regarding the new sign in process, we have prepared a set of FAQs. You can access them on the website:

[New login process FAQs](#)



Market update

Global share markets performed well in the December quarter, with the MSCI ACWI Index - Net returning 12.4% in unhedged New Zealand dollar (NZD) terms. Much of the gains were driven by US markets, which rose strongly in the wake of Donald Trump's decisive victory in the country's presidential election. Trump's proposed policies, including promises of lower taxes and less corporate regulation, are generally considered to be more growth friendly. In saying that, Trump's win did raise concerns that his pro-growth policies, together with the threat of tariffs, could stoke inflation and impact the pace of US interest rate cuts.

New Zealand shares also made good gains in the fourth quarter; the local market returning 5.6%. Stocks benefited from the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ)'s decision to cut its official cash rate by 0.50% at each of its October and November meetings. Inflation in New Zealand is now close to the midpoint of the RBNZ's 1-3% target range, while economic growth and the labour market remain weak.

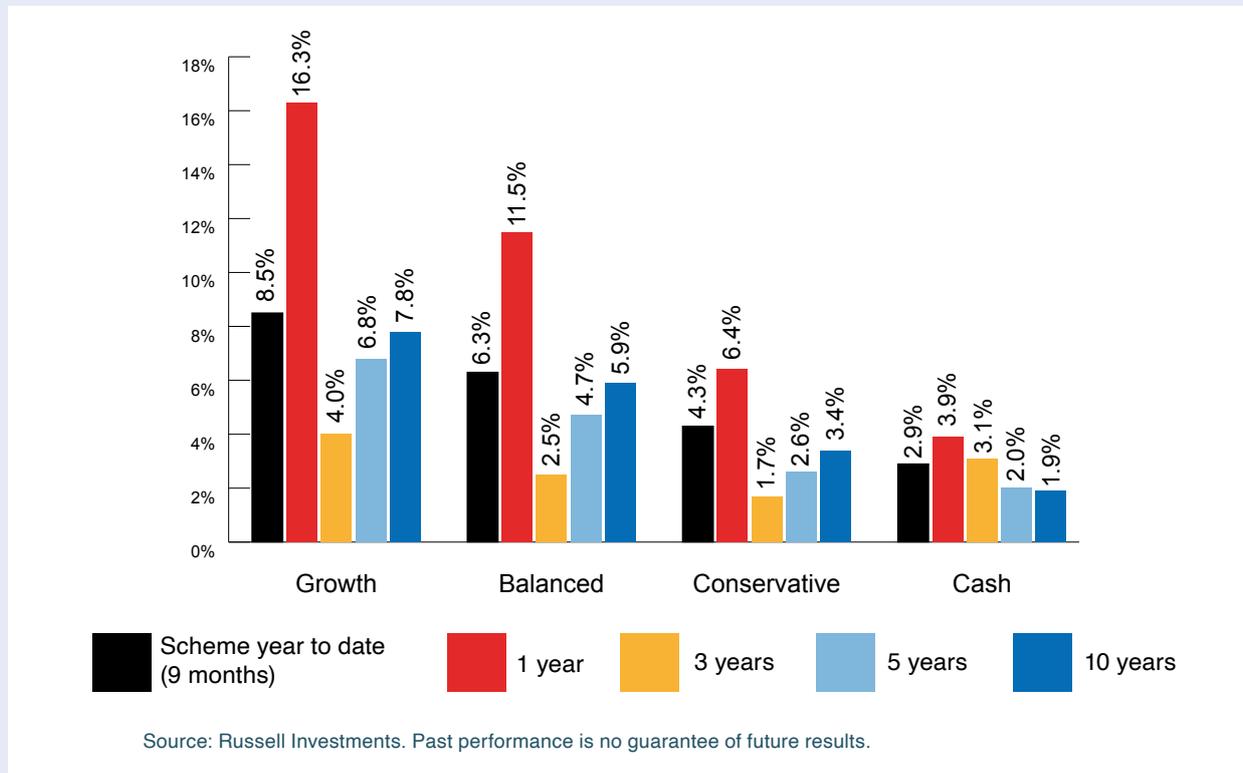
[Read more](#)

Source: Russell Investments | Quarter ended 31 December 2024

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 2024 through to 31 December 2024**), 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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