

Welcome to the final 2025 edition of SuperNews.

If you have any feedback regarding this newsletter or FireSuper in general, please email nzfire.super@mercer.com or by calling **0800 MY SUPER** (0800 69 78737).

Regards,

FireSuper Trustee

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Benefit spotlight: Life Cycle option

Have you heard about the Life Cycle option? This benefit, available to all members, is a simple way to manage your retirement strategy if you prefer a 'set and forget' approach.

Unlike the other four investment options (Cash, Conservative, Balanced and Growth) which have their own distinct risk/return profile, the Life Cycle option automatically reduces your exposure to riskier assets as you approach retirement age. This means your savings gradually shift from growth-focused investments to more historically stable income assets without the need to regularly review and align your investment choices to your life stage.

Here's how it works:

Up to age 45, your savings are invested in 85% growth assets and 15% income assets. From then, the percentage of growth assets gradually reduces to 20% at age 64.

How to change your investment option

To switch your investment option, log into your account via the [FireSuper website](#) and click 'Investments' on your dashboard to view and edit your investment selection.

Remember, your first switch in the Scheme's financial year is free. Fees are charged for subsequent switches. We always recommend seeking independent financial advice before making any change to your retirement strategy. Visit the [Financial Advice page](#) on our website for tools and resources. Remember, past performance does not guarantee future results.

For more information on investment options, refer to the [Member Investment Choice Booklet](#), available on the Scheme website.



Your feedback is in!

Thank you to the **427** members who completed our recent survey. Your feedback helps us improve how we deliver services and communicate with you. Here's what respondents told us:

- » **52%** prefer quarterly communications
- » **95%** have accessed their FireSuper online account in the last 12 months
- » **61%** rated the online portal as 'good' or 'excellent'
- » **95%** of Helpline users said their query was resolved adequately



You also told us you want clear and succinct information in all communications. Thanks for sharing your thoughts!

Congratulations to John Boyd, who won a \$200 Woolworths gift card in our prize draw.



Market update

Global shares had a strong quarter, boosted by progress in US trade talks and solid corporate earnings, pushing many markets to record highs. The US led gains, helped by hopes of a Fed rate cut, while Europe lagged amid trade uncertainties. Japan and emerging markets, especially China and South Africa, also outperformed. New Zealand's market was mixed, reflecting cautious investors amid soft economic signals. FireSuper investment options saw positive returns, led by growth-focused portfolios. Looking ahead, a US recession seems less likely, but inflation and trade tensions remain key risks.

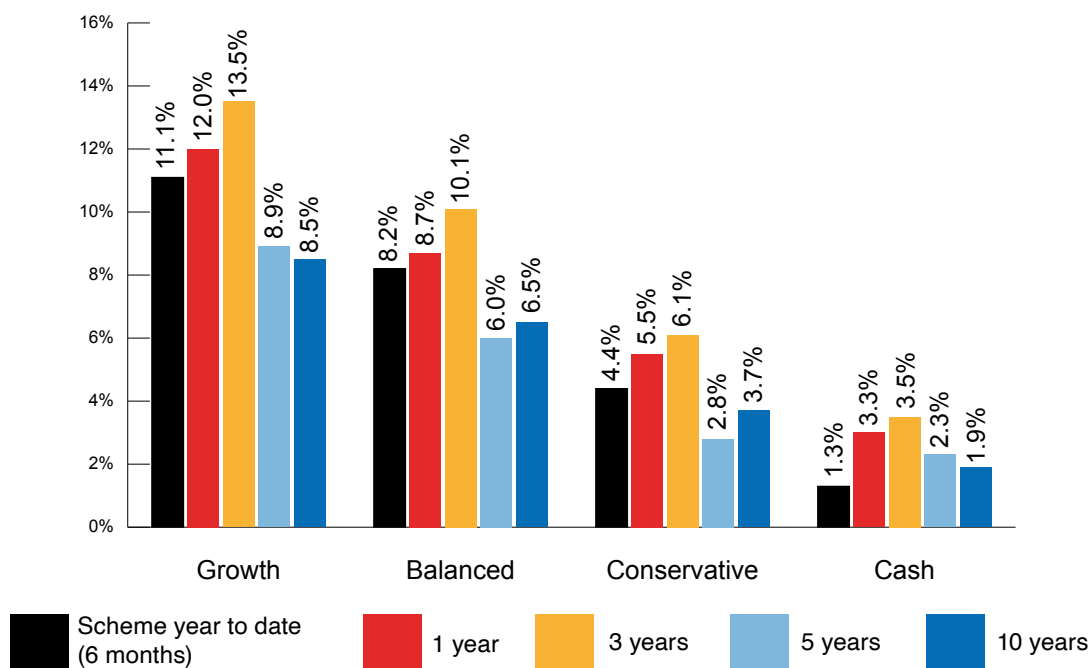
[Dive deeper into the market update here](#)

Source: Russell Investments | Quarter ended 30 September 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 September 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.



Source: Russell Investments. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

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

Members in the Complying Fund Section – Fire and Emergency’s contribution rate

If passed, the current Taxation Bill before Parliament will result in a change to Fire and Emergency’s contribution rate to the Complying Fund Section (and, as a result, the Regular Section) from 1 April 2026 for at least some members.

Impacted members will receive a separate communication on this in due course.

Change to probate threshold

On 24 September 2025, regulations were amended to allow the release of funds of up to \$40,000 directly to a deceased person’s family or other eligible persons, without requiring a court to issue a probate order or letters of administration legal documentation.

From 2009 until this law change, the ‘probate threshold’ had been just \$15,000. The law change recognises that the \$15,000 threshold had not kept up with inflation or (in particular) the average KiwiSaver or other retirement scheme balances.

The new threshold aims to make smaller estate settlement faster and simpler, helping families avoid legal costs and delays in accessing funds during a difficult time.

What this means

If a person dies leaving certain non-land assets (such as money in a bank account or a retirement scheme) valued at under \$40,000 each, those assets can be released directly to their family without a formal grant of probate or letters of administration.

Important reminders

- » Even with the higher threshold, ensuring you have a valid Will to clearly state your wishes is still a good idea. More information on how to make a Will can be found on [Sorted’s website](#).
- » You can change or nominate your FireSuper beneficiaries by completing [FS3 Change to nominate beneficiary form](#).
- » While the Trustee will take your wishes into account, it has absolute discretion in deciding to whom and in what proportions the benefit is paid.

To learn more about why Wills are important, review this [Fact Sheet](#), available on the [FireSuper website](#).



Simple ways you can stay protected online

Did you know that 54% of New Zealanders faced online threats in the last six months? Cybercrime is getting more sophisticated and can affect anyone. Protect yourself online with these simple steps:

1. Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA) where possible

2FA adds an additional layer of security to protect your online accounts. A common form of 2FA is a unique code sent to your phone or taken from an application that only you have access to. You can use it to verify your identity each time you log in. That way, even if an attacker gets your login details, they still won’t get in. The Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) is already enabled for you on FireSuper’s website.

2. Use long, strong and unique passwords

Create a different password for each account and avoid using personal information, such as your date of birth, in your passwords.

3. Think before you click

Be wary of opening links and attachments in text messages, in emails or on social media. These can be used by attackers to get hold of your personal details, or to install malware on your device.

If you experience an online security incident, report it to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) at ncsc.govt.nz/report

This article references information from the [ownyouronline website](#).





Sorted's new retirement planning tool

Curious about how much income your retirement savings could generate after you retire?

[Sorted.org.nz](https://sorted.org.nz) has launched the Retirement Navigator, a simple online tool that shows you four popular approaches to spending your invested savings in retirement – these four options are:

- » Spend 6% of your starting balance each year
- » Spend 4% in the first year, then increase for inflation
- » Spend your invested savings up to a fixed date, and
- » Spend in accordance with your life expectancy

You can learn more about these options in the [online guide](#) on Sorted's website.

See how each approach could affect your income year by year, and tweak scenarios to find what suits you best. The new tool is designed primarily for those within 10 years of retirement, though anyone can benefit from using it. The Retirement Navigator is a valuable resource to help you make informed decisions and plan confidently for your retirement.

[Try the Retirement Navigator here](#)



Holiday Helpline hours

During the holiday period, Mercer (FireSuper's Administration Manager) will close on the evening of **Friday 19 December 2025 and reopen on Monday 5 January 2026**. This closure will impact various processes including withdrawal payments, regular member contributions updates and processing of other forms. These services will be affected not only during the closure period but also leading up to it. If you have any withdrawal requests that require action during this holiday period, please ensure that they are sent to Mercer (nzfire.super@mercercor.com) no later than **Friday 12 December 2025**.

The Helpline will remain available leading into the holiday season and will also operate on 27, 30 and 31 December, apart from the national public holidays (25 & 26 December, 1 & 2 January). Their hours are 9am to 7pm, Monday to Friday and you can contact them on **0800 MY SUPER (0800 69 78737)**.



Helpline
0800 69 78737



Retirement
planning



Financial advisers
at FMA



FireSuper
website

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