



At Verve, we define wealth as what you value most. For many of us, this includes a retirement filled with freedom, choices and opportunities. So let's take a moment to make sure you're making the most of your super. When it comes to Super, we particularly recommend you seek independent professional advice if you are getting closer to retirement. For now, let's look at how you're currently tracking, how you'd like to be tracking and five ways to supercharge your retirement savings in line with your goals.

### Exercise 1: Understand your retirement goals

There are different methods for determining how much money you will need when you retire. Calculating this accurately taking into account your personal situation, is a complex process. However, here are some simple ways to estimate.

#### METHOD 1: ASFA TOOL

According to the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia (ASFA) a **comfortable lifestyle\*** for a single person in retirement costs about \$44,412 a year and a **modest lifestyle\*\*** costs about \$28,254. Find out the rate for couples and more info here: [www.superannuation.asn.au/resources/retirement-standard](http://www.superannuation.asn.au/resources/retirement-standard)

#### METHOD 2: PERCENTAGE OF PRE-RETIREMENT INCOME

Another general rule is that people require around 50% to 75% of their pre-retirement income to sustain an acceptable, if basic, lifestyle. Both these assume home ownership and that debts have been paid off by retirement.

### CALCULATING HOW MUCH SUPERANNUATION YOU NEED

#### 1. CHOOSE A METHOD AND ESTIMATE A DESIRED INCOME.

Desired annual retirement income \$

#### 2. WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY ON TRACK TO SAVING?

Check out this link to see how you're tracking: [www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources/calculators-and-apps/retirement-planner](http://www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources/calculators-and-apps/retirement-planner)

On track for a retirement income of \$

### Tip Box

**\*Comfortable retirement lifestyle** enables and older, healthy retiree to be involved in a broad range of leisure and recreational activities and to have a good standard of living through the purchase of such things as; household goods, private health insurance, a reasonable car, good clothes, a range of electronic equipment, and domestic and occasionally international holiday travel.

**\*\*Modest retirement lifestyle** is considered better than the Age Pension, but still only able to afford fairly basic activities and will need to watch utility costs, etc.

[www.moneysmart.gov.au/superannuation-and-retirement/retirement-income-planning/retirement-income-links](http://www.moneysmart.gov.au/superannuation-and-retirement/retirement-income-planning/retirement-income-links)



### Exercise 2: 5 ways to supercharge your super - and why it's so important

Shocked by either of the above two results? Here are five things you can do right now to grow your super balance. Reflect on what you're doing well and any steps you can take to improve your super balance into the future.



#### 1. CONSCIOUSLY CHOOSE A SUPER FUND AND CONSIDER CONSOLIDATING ALL YOUR ACCOUNTS

HAVE I ALREADY DONE THIS?	YES	NO	WHEN WILL I DO THIS BY?
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For most people, significant savings can be made by consolidating all your super accounts into one fund. Why? If you have a multiple super accounts you are likely paying additional fees for each fund. You could also be paying double insurance. There are some exceptions to this, particularly if you are in a defined benefits scheme, so make the right decision for your. How? You can find your super accounts by logging into your ATO MyGov Account, or many super funds have access to your information and can help you find lost super and consolidate, either online or over the phone.

To make a good decision about which fund you invest in, review your existing funds and compare:

- **Fees & Performance:** Compare the fees in line with the funds service and performance. A 1% difference in fees now could be up to a 20% difference in 30 years!
- **Insurance:** Carefully review your insurances and seek advice from your fund of choice about transferring any existing insurance to ensure you maintain cover.
- **Investment Choices:** What industries is your money invested in, are these industries aligned with your values? Is your fund transparent when it comes to what they invest in?
- **Service & Support:** Is your fund providing you with supportive service and education to assist you to make sound financial decisions?

**Tip:** Read the PDS of your super fund/s and see how it compares to other funds in its category using the stockspot FatCat Report: [www.stockspot.com.au/fatcat](http://www.stockspot.com.au/fatcat)



#### 2. CHECK YOUR EMPLOYER IS PAYING THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF SUPER IF YOU ARE SELF EMPLOYED READ STEP 5 BELOW.

HAVE I ALREADY DONE THIS?	YES	NO	WHEN WILL I DO THIS BY?
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How? Log on to the superannuation account you nominated to your employer and check that the payments have been made regularly. Under most circumstances, from 1 July 2021 you should be receiving at least 10% of your salary in super.



#### 3. MAKE ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS - AND SAVE PAYING TAX!

HAVE I ALREADY DONE THIS?	YES	NO	WHEN WILL I DO THIS BY?
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Did you know that you, your partner and your employer can all contribute more to your super? Consider whether you could save tax by making a voluntary contribution or discussing salary sacrificing with your employer. Your partner can also make contributions for you, and the Government may also top up your contribution if you're a low income worker. These additional contributions can really help grow your balance and there can be tax advantage too.

What's the most tax effective way for you to make additional contributions to grow your super? Read about your options here: <https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Super/Growing-your-super/>



#### 4. REVIEW YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE AND DECIDE WHAT HAPPENS WITH YOUR SUPER WHEN YOU DIE

HAVE I ALREADY DONE THIS?    YES    NO    WHEN WILL I DO THIS BY?

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There can be many benefits in purchasing your life insurance, disability insurance and income protection insurance through your super fund. However, it's important that the insurance you have meets your needs. It's also important to check that you have nominated a beneficiary. Why? it is important that your beneficiary details are up to date. Even if your beneficiary is your next of kin, it can be difficult for loved ones to access your super in a timely manner if details are not up to date. How? Go on to your super fund website and check and update you details or give your fund a call to discuss your insurance and estate planning needs.



#### 5. BE DRIVING FORCE FOR CHANGE

HAVE I ALREADY DONE THIS?    YES    NO    WHEN WILL I DO THIS BY?

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As a woman, the super system isn't perfect. Let's work together to be a driving force for change! Take your new knowledge and start conversations about super with women you care about in your life. Let's support each other to build the financial resources in each of our lives. Every woman and family deserves a comfortable retirement.



### My #1 action to supercharge my future is

#### 10 minute challenge

The Responsible Investment Association of Australasia (RIAA) 2017 consumer research report 'From Values to Riches' found 9 in 10 Australians expect their superannuation or other investments to be invested responsibly and ethically. So let's check out if this is actually the case. What companies is your super investing in? Login to your super fund website to check it out. If you can't find this info, chances are your fund doesn't want you to know. Put pressure on your fund to increase their transparency or find a fund that you feel comfortable is doing the right thing.