

Bulletin

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Superannuation benefits for temporary residents (including subclass 457 visa holders)

The following information may be of interest to you and your colleagues.

From 1 July 2002, temporary residents who permanently depart Australia can access superannuation they have accumulated as long as they visited on an eligible temporary resident visa. (Australian and New Zealand citizens are excluded.)

As the legislation is retrospective, eligible temporary residents (including Business Long Stay (Subclass 457) Visa holders) who departed Australia before the implementation date of 1 July 2002 are also covered.

For more details go to: <http://www.ato.gov.au/content.asp?doc=/content/professionals/super/23357.htm>

Access to superannuation benefits for temporary residents

Information for [temporary residents who leave Australia permanently](#)

Information for [superannuation funds and intermediaries](#)

General Information

From 1 July 2002, eligible temporary residents can access their superannuation (subject to withholding tax) when they permanently leave Australia.

While you are employed in Australia, it's important that you:

- are aware of which superannuation fund your employer is contributing to on your behalf
- keep a record of the amount of superannuation you have, and
- contact your superannuation fund before you leave Australia to check if you are eligible to access your superannuation benefits.

When you work in Australia your employer should generally make superannuation contributions for you into a complying superannuation fund or retirement savings account unless you are:

- paid less than \$450 a month
- 70 years of age or over, or
- under 18 and working not more than 30 hours per week.

Compulsory superannuation applies to full-time, part-time or casual employees.

From 1 July 2002, the amount of superannuation you receive from your employer is based on 9% of your earnings. Lower percentages applied in previous years.

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Generally, superannuation must be held in a complying superannuation fund or retirement savings account until the earliest retirement age, which in Australia is at least 55 years.

For more information on superannuation and how to access it when you permanently leave Australia, phone the Superannuation Infoline on **13 10 20** (within Australia) or visit www.ato.gov.au/super

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