

Kia ora

Maintaining the spending power of your savings

As you know, the cost of living generally goes up over time. It's called inflation. That means the buying power of your savings will be less over time unless the returns you get are higher than the rate of inflation. This generally isn't an issue with the Medium Term Fund or the Long Term Fund. However, as its name suggests, the Short Term Fund isn't designed for long-term savings. While you'll probably receive consistent positive returns, they are unlikely to keep pace with inflation. The rate of inflation has been low for over a decade but has spiked recently to 4.9% for the year to 30 September 2021. It might pay to revisit your options if you're invested in the Short Term Fund and you don't intend spending your savings in the next few years.

Our Risk Profiler is a good place to start if you're not sure which fund or mix of funds to choose. Just answer five simple questions, and the profiler will match your answers to the most appropriate fund(s). We've also put together a brochure to help NZ Post staff who are members of the Super Plan and/or KiwiSaver understand their investment choices. These resources are available on our website.

- **Risk Profiler** – choose 'Get help to choose a fund' on the home page.
- **Brochure** – look for 'How to pick a fund' under documents and forms.

Rocky start to the investment year

Returns for the first 6 months of the Plan year are modest but positive largely due to very strong returns in the month of June. Otherwise, returns have been subdued or negative as investment markets struggle with the continuing economic fallout from the pandemic.

Investment option	Prescribed investor rate		
	10.5%	17.5%	28%
Long Term Fund	3.80%	3.73%	3.62%
Medium Term Fund	2.80%	2.75%	2.68%
Short Term Fund	0.27%	0.25%	0.22%

Returns after expenses and tax for the 6 months to 30 September 2021.

Road show planned for 2022

We are planning another road show in 2022 following well-attended sessions across the main centres in 2018. We'll be in touch soon with a short survey, a chance to let us know what topics you'd like us to cover and the chance to win a Prezzy card.

New assistance programme emphasises wellbeing

NZ Post has a new employee assistance programme provided by Benestar. The new programme recognises the wide range of factors that affect health and wellbeing – from relationship issues to money matters. Benestar offers:

- free access to confidential coaching and support (face to face, by phone or by video call)
- free secure access to online resources on a wide range of topics.

Talk to your manager if there's something going on for you or contact Benestar directly. You'll find the details at the end of this newsletter. For financial assistance, get in touch with the Super Plan office or check out the contacts listed below.

Make sure you claim your benefit if you leave

We don't know you've left unless you tell us. You're welcome to leave your money in the Plan, but you must fill out a leaving form. You also have the opportunity to continue any life insurance you have with the Plan at low rates and without having to complete a medical questionnaire. However, you must move quickly to pick up this offer.

Keep your nominated beneficiaries up to date

Sadly, we still have situations where a member dies and there are delays paying their family while we sort out the legal beneficiary. This adds financial stress on top of grief. That's why it's important that you make your wishes clear in your will and keep your nominated beneficiaries up to date. Your nominated beneficiaries are listed on the statement we sent you in June or you can sign in to your account and check online. You'll find the form you need on our website if you need to make a change.

Benefit payments over the holidays

The last payment date for benefits for 2021 will be Tuesday 21 December. You need to factor this in if you are planning to withdraw money over the holidays. This applies to all benefits including leaving service payments, significant financial hardship payments and withdrawals from deferred member accounts. For a pre-Christmas payment, Mercer needs to receive the completed form from you (or Payroll in the case of leaving service payments) by Thursday 17 December before lunch time. Payments will recommence on 18 January 2022.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

<<Title>> <<Initials>> <<Surname>>
<<Address 1>>
<<Address 2>>
<<Address 3>> <<Postcode>>

Your PIR is based on your total income

Your prescribed investor rate (PIR) is based on your total taxable income. That includes income from other investments, including rentals. If you're over 65, your New Zealand Superannuation payments will also affect your PIR. It's important to keep your PIR up to date. If it's too low, Inland Revenue will require you to pay the shortfall, and you may be liable for penalties and interest. You would have to pay this personally. It would not be paid from the Plan. You can download a *Confirmation of tax rate* form from the website. The form includes a chart to help you work out your PIR. Call the helpline if you have a question about your PIR.

Keep your contact details current

As you know, you can leave your money in the Plan if you leave NZ Post. However, we still need to be able to contact you. We have lost track of some members because they haven't kept their contact details up to date. Let us know if you move house or change your phone number or email address.

Getting help and information

www.superplan.co.nz

Our website is a great source of information about the Plan. Check out the latest returns, get answers to your questions or find a form. You can also view this newsletter and previous newsletters.

www.sorted.org.nz

Sorted has financial planning tools and is a great source of advice on money management in general.

Talk to us if you are struggling financially, and we'll help if we can. Call 0800 697 728 (choose option 2). You can also

access free budgeting advice through Benestar. Talk to your manager or contact Benestar directly. You can:

- call 0800 360 364
- email counsellingsupportnz@benestar.com
- create an account at www.benestar.com (use the company ID: NZP and the token NZP01). You can then book an appointment with someone who can help. Once you've registered, you can download the Benestar app to your mobile.

Helpline

Call the helpline if you have a question about your savings or you need to make a change.

 **0800 NZP SAVE | 0800 697 728**
(choose option 1)

There's someone available to take your call from 9am to 7pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

You can also email your request to nzpostsuper@mercercor.com or fax (04) 819 2699.