

## APPLICATION FOR EARLY RELEASE OF SUPER DUE TO SEVERE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Complete this form to apply for a Financial Hardship withdrawal from your Simple Choice Super account.

You can find detailed information about Simple Choice Super in our Product Disclosure Statement (PDS), Additional Information Booklet, Insurance Guide, Financial Services Guide and Privacy Policy, all of which can be obtained from [www.simplechoicesuper.com.au](http://www.simplechoicesuper.com.au) or on request by phoning **02 8556 7576**.

This form may be posted to **Simple Choice Super PO Box R1979 Royal Exchange NSW 1225** or scanned and emailed to [info@simplechoicesuper.com.au](mailto:info@simplechoicesuper.com.au).

### Important Information About Applying for Early Release of Super

In certain circumstances, the Trustee may be able to release a portion of the money held in your super account, also known as your 'superannuation benefit', to help you meet reasonable and immediate living expenses.

#### Are you eligible?

Before you make an application to the Trustee, the first thing to do is check if you're eligible to make a claim.

Have/are you:\*

- Received an Australian Commonwealth Income Support Payment for at least the past 26 weeks?
- Unable to meet reasonable and immediate family living expenses from your income (i.e. the combined expenses of you and your family exceed the combined income of you and your family)?
- Not received a payment for a severe financial hardship claim from any superannuation fund in the previous 12 months?

If you answered **yes to all three questions** above, you are eligible to apply.

\* Different eligibility requirements apply if you have reached your preservation age and 39 weeks. Please contact us on 02 8556 7576 for more information.

Before you complete this form and make your application to the Trustee for early release of your superannuation benefit, it is important you read the following information.

There are strict guidelines in place for assessing early release applications, and you should understand these guidelines before you submit your application.

The ability to apply for early release of superannuation benefits on the grounds of severe financial hardship was introduced to assist Australians who are having difficulty in meeting their reasonable and immediate family living expenses. It was not designed as a means for easy access to your superannuation benefit.

#### What if you're not eligible?

If you did not answer yes to all three questions above, then you are not eligible to apply. If the expenses related to your financial hardship are listed below, you may wish to contact Australian Tax Office, to discuss the release of your benefits on specified compassionate grounds:

- Medical Treatment
- Medical Transport
- Mortgage Assistance
- Modifications to your home and/or motor vehicle (due to disability)
- Funeral Assistance
- Care for Terminal Medical Condition

For more information on the above, please contact the Australian Tax Office at [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au) or call 13 28 65.

#### Documents required

In addition to completing this application form in full, you will need to provide the following documents:

- Proof of Identity (either certified copies or electronic verification – please refer to section 6 of this form).
- Proof of Income. (e.g. Pay Slips, Centrelink Income Statement). Copies cannot be more than three months old.
- A valid "Q230 letter" from Centrelink that is less than 21 days old.
- If you have changed your name and not advised us previously, you will need to provide a certified copy of your Marriage Certificate, Deed Poll or Change of Name Certificate.
- Evidence that supports the payment request (e.g. copies of overdue bills, demand notices, letters of default). Please do not send originals. Copies cannot be more than three months old.
- A copy of your Bank Account Statement showing your BSB, account number and account name that is less than three months old.



## Certified copies

Wherever we request certified copies you must ensure that the documents you provide have been certified by an approved person from the list below.

The person who is authorised to certify documents must sight the original and the copy and make sure both documents are identical, then make sure all pages of the copy have been certified as true copies by writing or stamping 'certified true copy' followed by:

- Their signature;
- Printed name; and
- Qualification (e.g. Justice of the Peace, Australia Post employee, etc) and date.

The following people can certify copies of original documents as true and correct copies:

- A Justice of the Peace
- A police officer, chiropractor, dentist, nurse, optometrist, pharmacist, physiotherapist, psychologist or veterinary surgeon.
- A person enrolled on the roll of a State or Territory Supreme Court or the High Court of Australia, as a legal practitioner
- An Australian consular officer or an Australian diplomatic officer
- A judge of a court or a magistrate
- A teacher employed on a fulltime basis at a school or tertiary institution
- A permanent employee of Australia Post with two or more years of continuous service
- A finance company officer with two or more years of continuous service (with one or more finance companies)
- An officer with, or authorised representative of, a holder of an Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL), having two or more years continuous service with one or more licensees.

## Who are your dependants?

A dependant is:

- a. The spouse of the person (including a qualifying de-facto spouse of the same or opposite sex), any child of the person, and any person with whom the person has an interdependency relationship at the relevant time; or
- b. Any other person who in the opinion of the Trustee is at the relevant time wholly or partially dependent on the person for maintenance or support.

Two persons have an interdependency relationship if:

- a. They have a close personal relationship; and
- b. They live together; and
- c. One or each of them provides the other with financial support; and
- d. One or each of them provides the other with domestic support and personal care.

Two people will also have interdependency if they have a close personal relationship but do not satisfy the other requirements of an interdependency relationship because either or both of them suffer from a physical, intellectual or psychiatric disability.

## Completing the financial information questionnaire

You need to prove to the Trustee that you are unable to meet reasonable and immediate family living expenses based on your current income and assets.

The Trustee bases its decision on the information provided by you. If there is insufficient evidence, your application may not be approved.

When providing evidence of expenses, it is important that they are reasonable and immediate. For example, rates notices, electricity bills, telephone bills or outstanding credit card bill (only the minimum amount due is considered as immediate, not the total balance).

Any evidence provided must not be older than 90 days from date of issue. Documents older than 90 days will not be used to calculate any entitlement to severe financial hardship payment. Likewise, the Trustee is unable to accept a quote of amount owed.

If you are claiming a private personal debt owed to a friend or family member, the lender must provide a Statutory Declaration identifying the debt. The declaration must include:

- Full name and address of the lender;
- The purpose of the loan;
- Amount of the loan;
- The date the loan was made;
- The balance of the loan that remains outstanding; and
- The terms of repayment.

The person who lent the money must make this declaration, not the member. All the above information must be provided in order for this debt to be included for the purpose of assessing your eligibility for a Severe Financial Hardship application.

A Statutory Declaration form can be obtained from any Australian Post Office.

The information provided in your application will be used solely for determining whether you are experiencing severe financial hardship. The information will not be made available to any other person, (except under and order of a court).

## Want your application to be assessed quickly?

To ensure your application is assessed as soon as possible, please ensure that you complete all fields on the application form and provide all requested documents, including the Proof of Identity.



Any missing information and/or documents will result in the assessment being delayed while we request them again.

## Australian commonwealth income support payments

To be able to make a claim for severe financial hardship, you will need to provide evidence you have been in receipt of an Australian Commonwealth Income Support Payment. Please contact the appropriate Government Agency to arrange the appropriate letter.

Payments that qualify as income support, for the purpose of severe financial hardship, are:

<b>Social Security Benefits (allowances)</b>  Contact Centrelink Employment Services 13 28 50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner allowance</li> <li>• Mature age allowance (granted after 01/07/96)</li> <li>• Special benefit</li> <li>• Widow allowance</li> <li>• Newstart allowance</li> <li>• Sickness allowance</li> <li>• Parenting allowance (other than parenting allowance that is paid at the basic rate independently of the spouse's income)</li> </ul>
<b>Social Security Pension</b>  Contact Centrelink Retirement Services 13 23 00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age pension</li> <li>• Disability support payment</li> <li>• Wife pension</li> <li>• Carer pension</li> <li>• Mature age allowance (granted prior to 01/07/96)</li> <li>• Mature age partner allowance</li> <li>• Bereavement allowance</li> <li>• Widow B pension</li> <li>• Disability wage supplement</li> <li>• Special needs pension</li> </ul>
<b>Service Pension</b>  Contact Centrelink Retirement Services 13 23 00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age service pension</li> <li>• Invalidity service pension</li> <li>• Partner service pension</li> <li>• Carer service pension</li> </ul>
<b>Income Support Supplement</b>  Contact Department of Veteran Affairs 13 32 54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An income support supplement paid by the Department of Veteran's Affairs.</li> </ul>

## Payments that do not qualify

Some payments such as Family Assistance and AUSTUDY do not qualify. If you are in doubt, please contact the appropriate Government department on the phone numbers above.

## Have you received a severe financial hardship payment recently?

You can only receive one payment for financial hardship in any 12-month period. If you have received a payment in the previous 12 months, either from Simple Choice Super or from another super fund please do not proceed any further as your claim will not be considered.

## How much can you release?

The Trustee is only allowed to approve the release of superannuation benefits up to the amount of \$10,000 gross (or before tax). The exception being where you are aged over your preservation age and 39 weeks - there is no maximum amount.

If there is less than \$10,000 in your account, and you apply to have the full amount released, on release of your benefit your account will be closed and any insurance cover you hold through Simple Choice Super will cease.

## Taxation

How any financial hardship payment that may be paid will be taxed depends on your age and the components of your super. If you are under age 60 we may be required to deduct tax on the taxable component of your severe financial hardship benefit payment. Consult your accountant and/or financial planner for details on the tax treatment for your personal circumstances.

## Section 1 Personal Details

Given Name(s)				
Surname				
Member Number				
Date of Birth				
Mobile Phone Number				
Email Address*				
Residential Address				
City		State		Postcode

\* By providing your email address, you consent and authorise us to send you communications or information, including information required by law, email or similar technologies. Your details will never be passed onto a third party other than in accordance with our Privacy Policy. You can elect to receive communications by post at any time by contacting Simple Choice Super on **02 8556 7576** or via email at [info@simplechoicesuper.com.au](mailto:info@simplechoicesuper.com.au) or in writing at **PO Box R1979 Royal Exchange NSW 1225**.

## Section 2 Dependants – Spouse and Children

Please provide details of each of your dependants.

If you need to nominate more than 5 dependants, please include more than one copy of this page.

Name of dependant 1			
Relationship to dependant 1		Age of dependant 1	
Name of dependant 2			
Relationship to dependant 2		Age of dependant 2	
Name of dependant 3			
Relationship to dependant 3		Age of dependant 3	
Name of dependant 4			
Relationship to dependant 4		Age of dependant 4	
Name of dependant 5			



Relationship to  
dependant 5

Age of dependant  
5

### Section 3 Financial Information

Current Financial Information			
Assets		Weekly Income (please supply evidence eg. Payslips, Centrelink Letter )	
Own Home	\$	Combined weekly income (after tax)	
Investment Properties	\$	You	\$
Savings	\$	Your Partner	\$
Vehicle(s)	\$	Your Dependants (if applicable)	\$
Make	Model	Income Support Payments	\$
Year of Manufacture		Other Income (detail below)	
House Contents	\$		\$
Shares/Investments	\$		\$
Other (provide details)	\$		\$
			\$
Total Assets	\$	Total Weekly Income	\$
Total Liabilities (evidenced by bank/credit card statements no older than 60 days)		Total Living Expenses (weekly expenses for you, your partner and dependents)	
Home Loan	\$	Rent/Board/Rates	\$
Investment Loan	\$	Minimum Credit Card and Loan Repayments	\$
Personal Loans	\$	Groceries	\$
Credit Card Balances	\$	Vehicle Costs (petrol/registration)	\$
Other Debts (detail below)		Utilities (electricity/gas/phone/water)	
	\$	Insurance (house/health/car)	\$
	\$	Other (detail below)	
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
Total Liabilities	\$	Total Expenses	\$
Please attach copies of any supporting evidence for figures noted above. For more information, please refer to page two.			

Please briefly explain the cause(s) of your financial hardship and how the money will be used if released:


## Section 4 Supporting Documentation

Your claim cannot be assessed until you provide a valid Q230 letter from Centrelink. This letter must not be more than 21 days old when we receive it. The statement of income must confirm that you have been receiving benefits continuously for at least 26 weeks.

☐ I have enclosed a valid Q230 letter with this application that is no more than 21 days old.

You should also enclose the following documents to support your application:

- ☐ Proof of Identity (ref to section 6 of the application form).
- ☐ Proof of Income. (e.g. Pay Slips, Centrelink Income Statement). Copies cannot be more than three months old.
- ☐ Evidence of all outstanding debts and bills (e.g. copies of overdue bills, demand notices, letters of default. Please do not send originals). Copies cannot be more than three months old.
- ☐ Any other relevant documentation i.e. statutory declaration from debtors that is no more than three months old.
- ☐ A copy of your recent bank account statement(s) showing your BSB, account number and account name that is no more than three months old.

Without this evidence the Trustee may not be able to approve the early release requested. Please be reminded that the Trustee makes the decision to approve or deny your request of benefits due to financial hardship and that its decision is final.

## Section 5 Withdrawal Information

Amount you wish to withdraw

\$

The amount specified above is a gross amount, and tax may be payable on withdrawals. The total amount released cannot exceed \$10,000 and can be no less than \$1,000 (or the balance of your account if less than \$1,000).

If approved, the financial hardship payment will be made into the account you specify below:

Account Name\*

Name of Financial Institution

BSB

Account Number

\* We can only make payments into an Australian bank, credit union or building society account that's in your name or held jointly in your name with another person.



## Section 6 Verification of Identity

Please select **one** of the two options below.

☐

### Option 1 – I want to attach paper copies of certified ID

You must provide photocopies of **at least two** of the following - Australian Passport, Australian Drivers Licence, Medicare Card. Each page must be correctly certified as a true copy.

If the documents you provide are not correctly certified or are unable to be read, you authorise us to validate your identity and perform an anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing check using a third party id validation provider, including confirming your document is valid with the original document issuer.

☐

### Option 2 – I want to use electronic verification

By providing the information below, you authorise us to validate your identity and perform an anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing check using a third party id validation provider, including confirming your document is valid with the original document issuer.

You must provide **at least two** of the following (if you are unable to provide this information you will need to provide certified ID as per option 1):

**Australian Passport** Please complete the details exactly as they appear on your Passport

Passport Number

First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth

Sex

**Medicare Card** Please complete the details exactly as they appear on your Medicare Card

Card Number

Reference Number

First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth

Card Expiry Date

**Australian Drivers Licence** Please complete the details exactly as they appear on your Licence

Licence Number

State of Issue

First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth

## Section 7 Declaration and Signature

By completing this form, I declare that:

- The information I have given on this form and any accompanying information is true and correct.
- I have made an informed decision because I have read and understood the Simple Choice Super PDS, Additional Information Booklet and Insurance Guide.
- I am unable to meet my reasonable and immediate family living expenses and I do not have any assets (apart from my home) which could (reasonably and realistically speaking) be used or sold to cover these expenses.
- The amount that I am requesting to be released is necessary to meet my reasonable and immediate family living expenses.
- I acknowledge that the Trustee cannot provide me with financial advice about the consequences of paying out my benefit and that I should consult an appropriately qualified adviser for such advice.
- I understand that I can request appropriate information that I may reasonably require from the Fund for the purpose of understanding my benefit entitlement, including information about fees and charges that may apply.
- I accept that I am bound by the provisions of the trust deed and rules which govern the operation of Simple Choice Super.
- I have read and understood the Privacy Statement and understand how Simple Choice Super will use my personal information.

x

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Signature

...../...../.....

Date

.....

Print Name

**PRIVACY STATEMENT:** By signing this form you consent to Simple Choice Super collecting and using your personal information to manage your superannuation account and to comply with the relevant legislation. If you do not provide this information, we may not be able to accurately manage your superannuation account. Your personal information may be disclosed to other parties, including the Trustee, the Fund Promoter, the Fund's Administrator, the Fund's Insurer and professional advisers, government bodies and the trustee of any other fund to which you transfer. To access your personal information or for a copy of our Privacy Policy, visit [www.simplechoicesuper.com.au](http://www.simplechoicesuper.com.au) or phone 02 8556 7576.

## Processing Checklist

The Trustee will not begin assessing your application until all of the following have been received:

☐

Form completed and signed

☐

Valid evidence of severe financial hardship

☐

Verification of ID

☐

Valid Q230 letter