



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. What is the Fund's name?

The Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Fund.

Q2. Can I leave my money with the Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Fund after I leave work?

Yes, you can leave your superannuation entitlement in a Retained Benefit Account in the Fund after you cease working provided that your entitlement at that time is at least \$10,000. You must also maintain an entitlement of at least \$10,000 in this account on an ongoing basis to continue as a Retained Benefit Account member.

As a Retained Benefit Account member the Fund requires you update your personal contact details with the Fund when these details change so that contact can be maintained with you and to avoid you becoming a lost member whose super balance must be transferred to the Australian Taxation Office.

Q3. Can I salary sacrifice my super contributions? Are there any limits?

Yes you can salary sacrifice your super contributions but there are annual limits on the amount you can contribute to the Fund in this way. Salary sacrificing is when you and your employer agree to redirect a portion of your gross pay as a contribution to your super.

Salary sacrifice contributions are considered to be concessional contributions by the Australian Taxation Office and the annual limit for concessional contributions for the 2018/2019 financial year is \$25,000.

Your annual concessional contribution limit also includes all super contributions made by your employer to the Fund on your behalf, so it is important for you monitor these concessional contributions on an ongoing basis.

Q4. Can I transfer other super into my FES Super account?

Yes, you can roll in super benefits from other super funds to your FES Super account. These rolled in benefits will be allocated to an accumulation account in your name.

You will need to complete the relevant rollover form and produce proof of your identity to do this.

A rollover form is available for download on the Fund's website, or alternatively can be obtained from the super fund you are intending to transfer the benefits from. You will need to state the Fund's Australian Business Number (ABN) and Unique Superannuation Identifier (USI) in the rollover form.

Q5. What is the Fund's ABN and USI?

The Fund's Australian Business Number (ABN) is 43 198 502 058.

The Fund's Unique Superannuation Identifier (USI) is 43 198 502 058 001.

Q6. What is the Fund’s bank account details for electronic funds transfer (EFT) purposes?

The Fund banks with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, BSB 066 040 and the Fund’s account number is 19800056.

If transferring monies to the Fund by way of EFT to avoid any unnecessary delays you should ensure that your member number and name are clearly identified on the reference details.

Q7. Can my wife/partner become a member?

Yes they can, by completing a Spouse Application Form which is available to be downloaded from the Fund website. A separate member account will then be set up in the Fund in your spouse/partner’s name, but you will be able to contribute after tax contributions to your spouse/partner’s account subject to minimum levels of contributions being met.

Q8. Can my other employer put super contributions into my FES Super account?

No, only certain prescribed in legislation employers can contribute to the Fund. This is because of the defined benefit nature of the Fund which imposes a requirement for prescribed employers to make a minimum level of contributions for the defined benefits provided. The only employers who are prescribed in legislation as being able to contribute to the Fund are:

- Department of Fire and Emergency Services of Western Australia (DFES)
- United Firefighters Union of Western Australia
- Western Australian Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services Association (Inc.)
- Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Board.

Q9. Can I make contributions when I leave DFES? Are there any limits?

Yes you can make personal after tax contributions to your FES Super accumulation account (not to a pension account) after you have left employment with DFES, but there are both age based and monetary limits on the contributions you can make.

Generally you can make after tax contributions of up to \$100,000 in the 2018/2019 financial year to your super account, but if you are aged between 65 and 74 you will also have to satisfy a work test to be allowed to make these contributions.

The work test that applies to individuals 65 and over is that you must have worked at least 40 hours over 30 consecutive days in the financial year that you make the contribution. No contributions can be accepted from you after you reach age 75.

There is an additional constraint applying from 1 July 2017 that you will only be able to contribute up to \$100,000 annually if you have a superannuation balance of under \$1.6 million as at the previous 30 June 2017.

Other conditions also apply such as you must have provided the Fund with your tax file number.

Q10. How can I tell what section of the Fund I am in – do I have a defined benefit account or an accumulation account?

You will be advised of this in a letter sent to you after you first join the Fund and this information is also contained in your annual benefit statement available to you each year. If you are unsure of what type of account you have you can telephone the Superannuation Office on 08 9382 8444 for this information.

Q11. When can I access my super? Can I withdraw any of it now?

Generally you can access your super when you have reached your preservation age and have also permanently retired from work. The table below shows your preservation age.

<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Preservation Age</u>
Before 1 July 1960	55
1 July 1960 – 30 June 1961	56
1 July 1961 – 30 June 1962	57
1 July 1962 – 30 June 1963	58
1 July 1963 – 30 June 1964	59
After 30 June 1964	60

Your personal circumstances including your age and work status will determine if you can withdraw any of your super now.

There is also limited capacity for you to access your super having reached your preservation age but without retiring from work by receiving some of your super entitlement as a regular income by way of a transition to retirement pension.

Q12. Where are my contributions invested?

The trustee of the Fund, the Fire and Emergency Services Superannuation Board primarily uses external investment managers to meet the investment objectives set for the Fund. An investment asset consultant is engaged to advise the Board on which investment managers should be used to ensure those investment objectives are met.

The Fund assets are invested in a range of different asset classes including property, cash, fixed interest, Australian shares and overseas shares. More details of the investments are contained in the Product Disclosure Statement available on the Fund's website and in your annual Report to Members that is available to you each year with your annual benefit statement.

If you have an accumulation account in the Fund you can select an investment option that suits your risk and return profile as an investor for the monies held in that account. There are seven options to choose from each with a different level of risk and different level of investment return.

Q13. How does leave without pay affect my super?

Generally, no employer or voluntary contributions are made to your super account during your leave without pay. If you have a defined benefit account, your final benefit is calculated as a multiple of your final average salary. The multiple grows based on your membership period whilst in service. While you are on leave without pay your multiple stops growing as leave without pay does not qualify as service with your employer.

If you are an accumulation member of the Fund and go on approved leave without pay your employer will not pay any superannuation guarantee contributions for you (currently 9.5% of your salary) during your period of leave without pay.