

Welcome to 2009!

From everyone at AvSuper, Happy New Year! Whatever resolutions you have made, we hope you have a successful 2009. As always, we will be working for your financial future, and are happy to answer any queries you may have about your super.

Are We There Yet?

Many of you, especially those closer to retirement, must be asking the question – have we seen the end of the market slump yet, including the use of the phrase “ global financial crisis”, and also be asking, what will the next twelve months bring ?

I truly wish I could provide definitive news on what will occur in 2009 – unfortunately I cannot. World economies have a major impact on what occurs here and we have seen unprecedented responses here to overseas news. AvSuper has been impacted by what has occurred in the last twelve months and our returns in all options except cash are showing negative returns for 2008. However, like most funds in Australia, we have diversified the investment of your savings to provide as much of a buffer in these turbulent times as is possible.

Your Board is monitoring closely the performance of all of our investments and will continue to strive to grow your retirement savings safely in 2009.

David Leggo, Chairman



Upcoming seminars and AvSuper visits

AvSuper member seminars are held regularly across Australia to help you understand your super choices. These free seminars are presented by AvSuper’s Member Services Manager with an Outlook Financial Solutions financial planner in attendance. Seminar topics, locations (including regional centres for the first time!) and times are listed in the Super Info and News section of our website.

This year’s seminars are focussed on building retirement savings and a strong financial future; that is, our seminars are for all ages not just those nearing retirement. Here are some of the upcoming seminars and visits:

Location	Seminar date
Hobart	Tuesday 17th February 2009
Launceston	Wednesday 18th February 2009
Adelaide	Tuesday 3rd March 2009
Alice Springs	Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th March 2009
Darwin	Friday 6th March 2009

Please confirm dates and location on our website as they are subject to change. For further details or to book, please email us at avsinfo@avsuper.com.au

Action plan for market crunch

Experts suggest we may be facing a longer period before the market starts to recover than economists had forecast. Here are a number of positive actions you can take which may help batten down the financial hatches and set yourself up for the recovery when it eventually comes:

- Start with a financial stocktake
- Focus on controlling costs
- Optimise cash flow
- Review your investment objectives
- Control the knee jerk reaction

Get good advice. There’s no substitute for having the right information. Talk to your financial adviser about appropriate ways for you to put yourself in the best position to ride out the economic storm.

You can read the full article (provided with permission from Outlook Financial Solutions) in the investment education section of our website.

AvSuper’s investment returns for the quarter to 31 December 08

Investment Option	Returns for the quarter to 31/12/2008	
	Accumulation accounts	Retirement income streams (pensions)
High Growth	-14.6%	-15.6%
Growth*	-12.1%	-13.3%
Stable Growth	-6.2%	-7.1%
Cash	1.4%	1.6%

All returns are net of fees and taxes (although generally no tax is payable for income streams.) Please note your money is invested in the Growth option if you don’t make an investment choice. Past performance may not be an indicator of future performance.

Contact us

Toll free: 1800 805 088
Web: www.avsuper.com.au
Email: avsinfo@avsuper.com.au

AFSL No. 239078 ABN 84 421 446 069 (Fund) ABN 46 050 431 797 (Trustee)

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Locked out of Member Online?

Members often call us after being locked out of Member Online. A lock out is actually an important security feature to ensure that no one else can access your account without your permission.

To arrange for your account to be unlocked, you will need to call us and we can unlock your account instantly. Please note that requesting a new PIN will not reactivate your access.

New fact sheets!

As part of helping you make the most of your super, we offer a range of fact sheets on our website. We're pleased to announce that we are updating our existing fact sheets and adding more!

Here are some of the new fact sheet topics:

- salary sacrifice
- temporary residents
- tax file numbers
- super for the self-employed



Any feedback?

AvSuper is interested in your opinion so please let us know if you have any feedback about the Bulletin. You can email us, call us or drop in to talk to us.

Same-sex partnerships now recognised for super

Under new legislation, AvSuper now recognises same-sex partners and their children for death benefit and family law purposes.

The new definition of spouse includes "another person who, although not legally married to [the member], lives with [the member] on a genuine domestic basis in a relationship as a couple."

Couples in a de facto relationship, including same-sex couples, will now be recognised for superannuation splitting purposes under Family Law legislation. Same-sex couples will also be recognised for spouse contribution and contribution splitting purposes.

These changes are an important step forward for the families and beneficiaries of same-sex couples, although not all super fund will be easily able to implement the new rules. Fortunately, AvSuper has previously recognised same-sex partners under the definition of interdependents.

Where's your old super?

If you've been a member of another super fund, have you kept track of it? Maybe you're one of 6.4 million Australians who have some 'lost' super...

To track old super, simply visit SuperSeeker on the ATO website and check if you have more than you thought.

You can transfer your old super to AvSuper at any time free of charge (although your old fund may charge exit fees and you may forfeit other benefits) by using one of our rollover forms – this may save you in fees and administrative time compared to having multiple funds.



Prefer an email?

Did you know you can get the bulletin as an email now? Less paper on your desk and less environmental impact - a win win for everyone! Log into member online or email us at avsinfo@avsuper.com.au to give us your email address if you would like your bulletin emailed to you.

Temporary residents

As we indicated in an earlier bulletin, the Government has made changes to super for temporary residents. Temporary residents qualify for and earn super the same way as other Australians, although they are not entitled to the Government co-contribution.

From 1 April 2009, departing Australia superannuation payments (DASP) will be taxed at 35% (for a taxed element of a taxable component), increasing from the current rate of 30%. If you are a temporary resident, you can apply for a DASP before leaving Australia but won't be paid until after you leave the country or your visa has expired or been cancelled.

