

Supernews

Deposit your PCA Allowance into the scheme as a 'Voluntary contribution'

The Trustees have been advised by the New Zealand Fire Service that it is their intention to pay the PCA (Physical Competency Assessment) Annual Allowance to those who are entitled to it in the pay they will receive on 23 May for those who are paid fortnightly, or on 20 May 2007 for those who are paid monthly.

The Fire Service has asked the Trustees of the scheme if they would be prepared to assist in encouraging scheme members to deposit this allowance into the scheme as a voluntary contribution.

The Trustees have agreed to take an active role in encouraging members to deposit their net PCA Allowance into the scheme as a voluntary contribution in the past but this year the time frame is too tight to get the necessary information out to members, have a written authority returned to the Trustees to make the deduction from your pay, and to meet the Fire Service deadline.

Accordingly this year the only method that will be available for members to deposit their net PCA Allowance into the scheme as a voluntary contribution will be by cheque. Any cheque should be made out to 'NZFSSS' and sent to

the scheme at the postal address set out above.

Members should also enter their full name and member number on the back of the cheque to ensure that their voluntary contribution is credited to the correct Accumulation within the scheme.

Enclosed with this Supernews is a reply paid envelope to enable you to send your cheque to the scheme at no cost to you.

Members are advised that they can send a cheque to the scheme at any time for deposit and inclusion as a voluntary contribution to the scheme. There is no cut-off date for this.

Members are further advised that voluntary contributions made to the scheme are not able to be withdrawn until the member becomes entitled to a benefit from the scheme.

Finally members are advised that a brochure titled 'Voluntary Contributions to the Scheme' is available for perusal at www.firesuper.co.nz by clicking on the 'Access Forms and Documents' link found at the homepage.

Members who require further information are asked to contact the Secretary to the Trustees at any of the addresses set out above.

Changes to contributions

Members are reminded that should they wish to alter their contributions to the scheme for any reason – such as reducing, starting or amending voluntary, or reducing or recommencing contributions – they must seek the written approval of the Trustees in advance.

The Payroll Manager at the Fire Service is not able to alter your contribution rates unless he has the written approval of the Trustees.

Members should also be aware that it is important to give the scheme sufficient lead-in time to process any contribution changes. Members are thanked for their help with this.

OVER THE PAGE

**SCHEME ADMINISTRATOR
TO CHANGE**

**BORROWING AGAINST
YOUR FUNDS**

BENEFIT PAYMENTS

DEATH BENEFIT

Scheme Administrator to change

Members are advised that the scheme Administrator since February 1993 has given notice to the Trustees they will not be continuing to offer this service after 30 June 2007.

Accordingly after calling for proposals from four leading Administrators the Trustees have appointed Mercer Human Resource Consulting to administer the scheme from a date to be confirmed.

Members should notice no change to the administration service provided when Jacques Martin cease their relationship with the Trustees. There may be a few days when the scheme's web browser, which links to member accounts, is not available but those details need to be finalised and members will be advised of any changes to current arrangements closer to the time Mercer takes over the administration.

Borrowing against your funds

From time to time member's query whether they are able to borrow against the funds held on their behalf in the scheme.

The Trust Deed of the scheme states:

'No person being entitled to any interest in any benefit payable under the scheme shall assign, charge, alienate or borrow against the security of any such benefit.'

Transfers from NPF schemes

Members of this scheme who are also members of National Provident Funds are reminded that this scheme accepts transfers from any National Provident Fund scheme.

To finalise a transfer you are required to complete the necessary NPF 'Election to Transfer to another Registered Scheme' form and submit it to this scheme.

Once the transfer has been approved by the Trustees of this scheme and the National Provident Fund Board the funds will be forwarded to this scheme and added to your retirement accumulation as a voluntary contribution able to be accessed from the time you cease employment with the New Zealand Fire Service.

Any current or prospective member who wishes to know more about this should contact the Secretary to the Trustees at any of the addresses set out on the front page of this Supernews.

Benefit payments

Members are reminded that in order to receive a benefit payment Part 1 of the scheme's 'Cessation Advice and Discharge' form must be completed in full and returned to the scheme at the address set out on the form.

In order to ensure there are no delays to the payment of your benefit, members are requested to ensure all sections of Part 1 of the form are

completed and a bank deposit slip is attached prior to sending it to the scheme.

Partly completed forms will be returned to the member for completion.

Death benefit

Members are reminded that when they are making reduced contributions or have suspended contributions to the scheme, and they die whilst these circumstances continue, the Trust Deed pro-rates or reduces the minimum of two times salary as a death benefit available to that member.

As an example, if your contributions are three per cent of your superable wages/salary the death benefit will be a maximum of one half of two times salary or the balance of your accounts whichever is the larger should you die.

Members should take this into consideration if they are considering reducing or suspending their contributions to the scheme.



BARRY DENT
SCHEME SECRETARY