

Member Investment Choice - 2009

When Member Investment Choice 'MIC' was introduced in October 2008 Trustees advised the opportunity to make an election would be available to all Members, including Deferred Members, annually.

Accordingly the 2009 election will open on **Tuesday 11 August and close on Friday 11 September 2009**. These dates are earlier than last year to ensure that where assets need to be sold from current MIC options this can be done on 01 October 2009. No late elections can be entertained after 11 September 2009.

Enclosed with this Supernews is a MIC Guide that sets out all the information, including the asset allocation, investment objective and risk profile for each of the four options. If, after you have read it carefully, you are still unsure of the most suitable option/s for your circumstances call 0800 MY SUPER – 0800 69 78737, or consult a financial adviser prior to completing your election at firesuper.co.nz.

The Guide also explains how to select your options online so that they are correctly received by the Administrator on behalf of the Trustees.

To select your options online follow these instructions:

- go to firesuper.co.nz
- click on the 'access account details' link which will take you to the SuperFacts web-site
- enter your member number and security details, which will take you to 'My Super Value', and
- select 'Your investments' from the top menu bar and then 'Change Investment options' from below your account balance.

Members are advised that a confirmation page, containing a confirmation number, will be displayed at the time if your election has been successful. Members are advised to either note this number or print the page to ensure you have a record. Unfortunately the Trustees are not able to entertain claims the process was successfully completed without this information.

Unfortunately this election process is only carried out at the scheme's web site and no other method is able to be accepted by Trustees.

There are few changes to the offer and process developed last year.

There will be four options. They are the:

- **Cash** option
- **Conservative** option
- **Balanced** option, and a
- **High Growth** option.

You may elect to invest in one or a combination of two or more of the options.

If you do not elect to make a change to your MIC options prior to 11 September 2009 - do nothing - your current Accumulations and new contributions will continue to be invested in the option/s that you are invested in at the time of receipt of this Supernews.

From 01 October 2009 all your current Accumulations and all your, and the Fire Service Commission's future contributions, including all contributions to the Complying Superannuation Fund, will be invested in the chosen option, or options, until such time as you change the options or leave the employment of the Fire Service.

Presently the Trustees establish interim interest rates for each MIC option every month.

If you change investment option/s in 2009, the interim interest rate and its value will be 'locked into' your total Accumulations for the period up to the date the change took effect – 01 October 2009. The rate applicable to your new investment option/s will apply from 01 October 2009. Further information related to the setting of interim interest rates is contained in Supernews 92.

For example, if you change from the **Balanced** option to the **Conservative** option and the cumulative interim interest rate for the Balanced option to 30 September – the first six months of the scheme's financial year – was 3%, the 3% rate would be applied to your total Accumulations as at 30 September 2008 and the rate applicable to the **Conservative** option would apply to your Accumulations until you leave the employment of the Fire Service.

With regard to the actual application of interim interest rates to Member Accumulations at the web site around the time of the 2009 MIC election the following timetable is expected to apply:

- Interim interest rates to 14 September to be applied by 21 September 2009
- Interim interest rates for September to be applied by 18 October 2009
- Final administrative transfer and application of September interim interest rate by 20 October 2009.

Members will appreciate that although their funds will have been transferred from their current to their new MIC option it will take some time to finalise the interim interest rates for September 2009 at the web site.

Any questions related to MIC should be directed to 0800 MY SUPER – 0800 69 78737. This help line can provide information about the options but is not able to provide personal financial information.

Updates

AMP Property assets in Cash and Conservative options:

Members have been previously advised that the AMP Property Fund was closed to withdrawals. This is still the case.

Members are advised that there are still about 6 per cent of AMP Property Fund assets in the Cash and Conservative MIC options.

Advice received indicates this situation will continue for some time yet and possibly into 2010. Members will be kept informed on progress related to the sale of these assets.

Ring-fenced Cash option:

Those members who are in the Ring-fenced Cash option are advised this option still exists and will do so as long as there are Property assets in the Cash option.

Going forward you will be able to review your interim interest rates for this Option as well as the total of your Accumulations within the scheme at the SuperFacts web site.

Correction to Ring-fenced contributions allotment:

Supernews 93 outlined this error. Please be advised this error was corrected prior to 31 March 2009.

Internal Audit process:

Members were originally advised the internal audit process to ensure Member Accumulation comparisons with investment performance and the total funds in each MIC option would be continued until 31 March 2009.

Members are further advised this internal audit process will continue until 30 September 2009 and be reviewed then.

Keeping in touch

Any Member who currently does not receive communication by e-mail from the scheme and who wishes to do so from now on should send an e-mail to the e-mail address set out on the front page of this Supernews stating this and setting out their current e-mail address in the message area.

You will then be added to the current listing of those Members who are able to receive up to date information from the scheme by e-mail.

The current Supernews and archived copies of Supernews are also available at the scheme's web site at firesuper.co.nz.

'Supernews Now'

This is the new section at the web site where Members are able to review any recent announcements related to the scheme.

Go to www.firesuper.co.nz and click on the 'Supernews Now' link on the left hand side of any page at the web site.



BARRY DENT

SCHEME SECRETARY