

# The concessional contributions cap and NTCs for DBD members receiving 17% employer contributions

## Who is this fact sheet for?

UniSuper's Defined Benefit Division (DBD) members receiving 17% employer contributions. This fact sheet does not apply to members making half contributions.

## What this fact sheet covers

This fact sheet explains how the concessional contributions cap could affect your super, and how notional taxed contributions (NTCs) apply to UniSuper's DBD members.

## What are concessional contributions?

Generally, a concessional contribution is a contribution made by or for you before tax, and may include:

- any notional taxed contributions to the defined benefit component
- any contributions made under a salary sacrifice arrangement
- any employer contributions made to your accumulation component
- any personal contributions that are claimed as a tax deduction (where you're eligible to claim the tax deduction).

Please note if you split your concessional contributions with your spouse, the full amount of the original contributions still counts towards your concessional contributions cap.

## Concessional contributions cap and tax

The government imposes limits, called contributions caps, on the total amount of contributions you can make to super in each financial year and still receive concessional tax treatment on those contributions.

The concessional contributions cap could have a significant impact on your super so it's important to understand the implications of your cap and what you can do to minimise its impact on you.

Concessional contributions made into your super each financial year (in total across all the super funds you have) that don't exceed your concessional contributions cap are taxed at a concessional rate of 15%.\*

If you exceed the cap, you may pay a higher tax rate on contributions that exceed the cap or we may refuse to accept contributions in some circumstances.

The cap applies to all concessional contributions made by you or on your behalf in a financial year, regardless of how many employers or super funds you have.

It's your responsibility to monitor the contributions made into your UniSuper account, and to any accounts you may hold in other super funds, to ensure you don't exceed the cap.

For more information about what happens when you exceed your contributions caps, refer to the *Defined Benefit Division and Accumulation 2 Product Disclosure Statement* at [unisuper.com.au/pds](https://unisuper.com.au/pds).

\* If you're a high income earner with 'income for surcharge purposes' of more than \$250,000 within a financial year, an additional tax of 15%—known as the Division 293 tax—applies to any concessional (before-tax) super contributions you make. The Division 293 tax isn't applied to non-concessional (after-tax) contributions or excess concessional contributions.

**Please note**

It's your responsibility to track whether you'll exceed or have exceeded your contributions caps.

Log in to your account at [unisuper.com.au](https://unisuper.com.au) to review how you're tracking against your current contributions caps.\*

\* Your online account only shows contributions to your UniSuper account. If you've made contributions to other super funds, the money will count towards your limits for the financial year. Contact your other fund/s or the ATO for more information.

## What are notional taxed contributions?

Notional taxed contributions (NTCs) are the notional amount of contributions (excluding after-tax member contributions) that relate to your defined benefit interest. We calculate NTCs using a government-defined formula.

NTCs are counted towards a member's concessional contributions cap and are added to the concessional contributions made to a member's accumulation style accounts in a financial year to determine whether the member has exceeded their concessional contributions cap.

As a result of the factors which make up the formula, NTCs are generally lower than the actual employer contributions and any default member contributions made into your defined benefit (DB) component.

This means DBD members may be able to 'top up' their contributions before they reach the annual cap.

The extent of this benefit, however, varies between different sub-groups of DBD members, because of the way the government has constructed the NTC formula.

### Special 'grandfathering' rules for DBD members on 12 May 2009

If you've been a DBD member since before 12 May 2009, special 'grandfathering' arrangements generally apply. If the notional taxed contribution (NTC) amount is calculated to be above the concessional contributions cap and you're grandfathered, we'll report to the ATO that your NTCs are equal to the cap (but not above it).

These grandfathering rules only apply to NTCs (which relate to the defined benefit component of your benefit). They don't apply to concessional contributions made to your accumulation component or another fund.

Note: These grandfathering rules don't apply to members who joined the DBD after 12 May 2009. Grandfathering rules can be lost for members who left the DBD after 12 May 2009 and since returned. Grandfathering rules can also be lost in other cases—including where your superannuation salary is increased by a non-arm's length amount, or the rules of the Fund are changed resulting in an increase in the value of your retirement benefit.

## Calculating the annual NTC amount

To determine the NTC amount for a financial year, we use the following formula:

$$1.2 \times \left( \text{NEW ENTRANT RATE} \times \text{SUPERANNUATION SALARY AT START OF FINANCIAL YEAR} \times \frac{\text{DAYS IN NTC CATEGORY}}{365} - \text{ANY AFTER-TAX CONTRIBUTIONS made to the DB component} \right)$$

### THE NTC FORMULA EXPLAINED

New entrant rate	The Fund's actuary has calculated new entrant rates for UniSuper defined benefit members. These rates are determined by the date the member joined the Fund and groupings of the selected member contribution rates.  The regulations prescribe the way new entrant rates must be calculated. To see your new entrant rate, please refer to the table below.
Super salary at start of financial year	Generally this is your annual salary as at 1 July.
Days in NTC category	How many days in the financial year you were in the same benefit category, adjusted for any periods of part-time work.
Any after-tax contributions to the DB component	This is the amount of after-tax member contributions paid into your defined benefit component during the financial year.

The NTC amount determined using the above formula could be further increased in some cases, including where your superannuation salary is increased by a non-arm's length amount or the rules of the Fund are changed resulting in an increase in the value of your retirement benefit.

The NTC amount, together with any concessional contributions made to the accumulation component, are reported to the ATO.

## Your NTC new entrant rate

Your NTC new entrant rate is used to determine your annual NTC amount as discussed above.

The rates are summarised in the table below:

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATE 17% EITHER:	DEFAULT MEMBER CONTRIBUTION RATE		NTC NEW ENTRANT RATE	
	Before tax	After tax	Joined DBD* before 1 July 1998	Joined DBD* on or after 1 July 1998
14% to the DB component; 3% to accumulation component, or	8.25%	7.00%	12%	13%
	5.25%	4.45%	12%	13%
17% to the DB component, if the member reduces their default member contributions	4.70%	4.00%	12%	12%
	3.55%	3.00%	11%	12%
	2.35%	2.00%	10%	11%
	1.20%	1.00%	10%	10%
	0.00%	0.00%	9%	9%

\* If you're unsure about when you joined the DBD, log in to your account at [unisuper.com.au](https://unisuper.com.au).

## Example

MEMBER PROFILE FOR 2025-26 FINANCIAL YEAR	
Joined DBD	2 July 1998
Age	50 years
Days in NTC category (adjusted for any periods of part-time work)	365 (employed full time during entire financial year)
Member contribution rate (before tax)	8.25% (maximum default member contribution)
Superannuation salary at 1 July 2025	\$100,000 p.a.
NTC new entrant rate (from table on previous page)	13%

To calculate the NTC amount for this member for 2025-26:

$$1.2 \times \left( 13\% \times \$100,000 \times \frac{365}{365} - 0 \right) = \$15,600$$

As the member has salary sacrificed the maximum member contribution, there'll be no after-tax contributions made to the defined benefit component on their behalf that can be deducted as part of the formula.

The 3% additional employer contributions, and any other concessional contributions, made to the accumulation component must be added to this figure in order to calculate the member's total concessional contributions to UniSuper for the financial year.

In this case the member's total concessional contributions reported to the ATO for 2025-26 will be:

$$\$15,600 + \$3,000 = \$18,600$$

This member is below their \$30,000 concessional contribution cap.

These calculations assume no concessional contributions are made for the member to another super fund and no additional concessional contributions are made for the member to their UniSuper accumulation component.

## Where can I get help?

- Log in to your online account at [unisuper.com.au](https://unisuper.com.au) and select *Check on your contributions* to view your personal NTC amount.
- Call us on **1800 331 685** or visit [unisuper.com.au/contact-us](https://unisuper.com.au/contact-us) for more options, including chat.
- Visit the ATO website at [www.ato.gov.au](https://www.ato.gov.au).
- Meet with one of our super consultants. Visit [unisuper.com.au/superbookings](https://unisuper.com.au/superbookings) to make an appointment.

We strongly recommend you consult a qualified financial adviser before making any changes. You can speak to UniSuper Advice for personal advice that takes your specific financial goals and needs into account. For more information visit [unisuper.com.au/advice](https://unisuper.com.au/advice), or call UniSuper Advice on **1800 823 842**.

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UniSuper Advice's Financial Services Guide is on the website and it provides important information about the financial services that can be provided.

This information is current as at July 2025 and is based on our understanding of legislation at that date. Information is subject to change. To the extent that this fact sheet contains information which is inconsistent with the UniSuper Trust Deed and Regulations (together the Trust Deed), the Trust Deed will prevail.

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