

Options for grandfathered DBD members at risk of exceeding the concessional contributions cap

The government imposes caps on the amount you can contribute to super each year at concessional tax rates. If you exceed your concessional (before-tax) contributions cap you may be assessed for extra tax.

While you'll be required to pay these taxes personally, you may be able to withdraw up to 85% of excess concessional contributions from your accumulation component. If you're likely to exceed your contributions cap and don't want to pay extra tax, you have a number of options to consider. Excess concessional contributions are also counted towards the non-concessional contributions cap.

Who is this fact sheet for?

This fact sheet is for UniSuper members who joined the Defined Benefit Division (DBD) prior to 12 May 2009 and have not lost grandfathering. If grandfathering rules don't apply to you, refer to the *Options for non-grandfathered DBD members at risk of exceeding the concessional contributions cap* fact sheet. If you're not sure if this applies to your membership, please call us on **1800 331 685**.

What this fact sheet covers

This fact sheet is intended to be read in conjunction with the following fact sheet that is relevant to you:

- *The concessional contributions cap and NTCs for DBD members receiving 17% employer contributions*
- *The concessional contributions cap and NTCs for DBD members receiving 14% employer contributions*

Please refer to these documents to clarify any of the terms in this fact sheet and to determine your notional taxed contribution (NTC) new entrant rate.

Your options at a glance

OPTION	WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS?	WHAT ACTION IS REQUIRED?
1. Elect to reduce default member contributions to your defined benefit (DB) component	- Default member contributions to your DB component are reduced - Your insurance cover may be affected, particularly where you don't have an accumulation component from which the premium can be paid. Please refer to your relevant Product Disclosure Statement for more information - Your defined benefit entitlement is generally scaled back in proportion to your reduced default member contributions over time - Your inbuilt death and terminal medical condition benefit is generally reduced - Your decision to reduce your default member contributions is irreversible - If your employer is contributing 17% super, the 3% that's being paid to your accumulation component will instead be paid to your defined benefit component	Read and complete the <i>Default member contributions</i> fact sheet and form You can download this from unisuper.com.au/forms
2. Revert to after-tax member contributions to your defined benefit (DB) rather than before-tax (salary sacrifice)	7% default member contributions are maintained to your DB component - You may pay more tax on your salary	Talk to your employer to arrange
3. Reduce any additional voluntary before-tax (salary sacrifice) contributions	Voluntary before-tax contributions are reduced	Talk to your employer to arrange
4. Do nothing	- Contributions maintained - You may exceed your cap	Nothing

What are Notional Taxed Contributions (NTCs)?

Notional taxed contributions are your estimated taxed contributions for your DB component for the financial year.

CALCULATING THE ANNUAL NOTIONAL TAXED CONTRIBUTIONS (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 amount calculated using the above formula may increase in some situations, including where your super salary is increased in a way that isn't considered standard, or where changes to the fund rules result in a higher retirement benefit value.

Your NTC amount, together with any concessional (before-tax) contributions made to your accumulation component, is reported to the ATO.

* Adjusted for any period of part-time work.

Case study: Jill

MEMBER PROFILE FOR 2026-27 FINANCIAL YEAR

Joined DBD	11 May 2009
Age	48 years
Member contribution rate (before tax)	8.25% (maximum default member contribution)
Employer contribution rate	17% (14% to the DBD; 3% to an accumulation component)
Superannuation salary at 1 July 2026	\$220,000 p.a.
NTC level new entrant rate ¹	14%
2026-27 concessional contribution threshold (before tax) ²	\$32,500

THE FOLLOWING CALCULATION, APPLYING THE NTC FORMULA, WILL APPLY FOR THE 2026-27 FINANCIAL YEAR:

NTC to the defined benefit component $1.2 \times (14\% \times \$220,000 \times 365/365 - 0)$	\$36,960
NTC (equal to cap due to special 'grandfathering' arrangements)	\$32,500
Employer contributions to accumulation component (before tax) 3% of \$220,000	\$6,600
Total concessional contributions counting towards the 2026-27 concessional contributions cap $\$32,500 + \$6,600$	\$39,100
Jill's excess concessional contributions $\$39,100 - \$32,500$	\$6,600 ³ <i>Jill has exceeded her concessional contributions cap. If Jill is able to and elects to withdraw up to 85% of the excess concessional contributions from her super account, the excess will be added to her assessable income and taxed at her marginal tax rate less a 15% tax offset.</i> <i>If Jill doesn't or can't elect to release the excess concessional contributions from her super account, the excess amount will still be added to her assessable income, and the excess amount will also count towards her non-concessional (after-tax) contributions cap, which may result in further tax consequences.</i>

1 Refer to the fact sheets outlined on page 1 under 'What this fact sheet covers' for how the new entrant rate is determined.

2 The concessional contributions cap for the 2026-27 financial year is \$32,500.

3 Additional tax of 15% may also be imposed on concessional contributions for those with incomes and relevant contributions over \$250,000 for the 2026-27 financial year.

How can I manage this issue?

If you're a defined benefit member, you generally can't influence the amount of concessional contributions your employer makes on your behalf, but you can regularly review your own contributions to super. We recommend you do this as part of a thorough assessment of your retirement savings goals, as well as your financial situation, personal savings habits, and insurance needs. We encourage you to seek financial advice on this complex topic.

Your options explained

OPTION 1: ELECT TO REDUCE DEFAULT MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

This may effectively lower your concessional contributions, and any additional 3% employer contributions would be redirected to your defined benefit component (if you receive 17% employer contributions). This option may reduce the additional tax payable if you're receiving no other concessional contributions.

A reduction will depend on the level of employer contributions (to your DB component), whether your default member contributions are before-tax or after-tax, and how much you reduce your contributions.

UniSuper recommends seeking financial advice before making any changes. If you reduce your default member contributions, you're likely to have less super at retirement than you would have if you kept making contributions. Your insurance cover may also be affected, particularly where you don't have an accumulation component to pay the premiums.

Your decision to reduce your default member contribution is irreversible.

For more information, refer to the *Default member contributions* fact sheet and form available at unisuper.com.au/forms.

Case study: Jill

REDUCTION OF DEFAULT MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Assume Jill reduces her before-tax member contributions to 5.25% p.a. In this scenario, the 3% additional employer contributions that would otherwise go towards Jill's accumulation component are redirected to her defined benefit component (as Jill's employer is making 17% super contributions). As full defined benefit entitlements are maintained at this contribution level, her NTC new entrant rate remains the same. The following calculation would apply:

NTC to the defined benefit component 1.2 x (14% x \$220,000 x 365/365 - 0)	\$36,960
NTC (limited due to special 'grandfathering' arrangements)	\$32,500
Employer contributions to accumulation component (before tax) 0% of \$220,000	\$0
Total concessional contributions counting towards the 2026-27 concessional contributions cap \$32,500 + \$0	\$32,500
Jill's excess concessional contributions \$32,500 - \$32,500	\$0 (Jill will not exceed the \$32,500 concessional contributions cap.)

OPTION 2: REVERT TO AFTER-TAX MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

For your defined benefit component, you may elect to make your default member contributions on an after-tax basis rather than on a before-tax (salary sacrifice) basis.

If you're covered by the 'grandfathering' arrangements and your NTC is already at the concessional contributions cap, reverting to after-tax contributions may take your NTC below the cap, potentially reducing the amount of other concessional contributions to your accumulation component that exceed the cap.

Please note, from 1 July 2026 you're generally limited to \$130,000 of non-concessional (after-tax) contributions each financial year - provided your total super balance is below the general transfer balance cap on 30 June of the previous

financial year. If you're aged below 75, you may be able to average this over a three-year period - so, possibly up to \$390,000 of after-tax non-concessional contributions over three financial years.

For example, if you're under 75 you may be eligible to contribute up to \$390,000 of non-concessional contributions in a single year. After that, you can't make any further contributions for the following two financial years.

OPTION 3: REDUCE ANY ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY BEFORE-TAX (SALARY SACRIFICE) CONTRIBUTIONS

If you're making additional voluntary contributions on a before-tax basis, you may wish to reduce the level to ensure your contributions remain below the cap. Alternatively, you could switch to making your additional voluntary contributions after tax.

Case study: Jill

JILL REVERTS TO AFTER-TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

Assume Jill reverts to making after-tax default member contributions of 7% (rather than salary sacrifice of 8.25%). As full defined benefit entitlements are maintained at this contribution level, her NTC new entrant rate remains the same but the after-tax contributions are deducted from her NTC. This means the following calculation would apply:

NTC to the defined benefit component $1.2 \times [(14\% \times \$220,000 \times 365/365) - (7\% \times \$220,000 \times 365/365)]$	\$18,480
Employer contributions to accumulation component (before tax) $3\% \times \$220,000$	\$6,600
Total concessional contributions counting towards the 2026-27 concessional contributions cap⁴	\$25,080
Jill's excess concessional contributions $\$25,080 - \$32,500$	\$0 (Jill will not exceed the \$32,500 concessional contributions cap.)

4 The concessional contributions cap for the 2026-27 financial year is \$32,500.

OPTION 4: DO NOTHING

If you don't mind exceeding your concessional contributions cap, you don't need to do anything, but you should be aware that exceeding your contributions caps can have adverse tax consequences. Remember, once money is contributed to super, it can remain in super. Super earnings and withdrawals will still be concessional tax, but the caps will operate to limit the amount you can contribute to super at concessional tax rates.

Important information

Salary sacrificing your superannuation contributions normally reduces the amount of income tax you have to pay, so deciding to switch to after-tax contributions could therefore increase tax payable on your salary.

This option would maintain your final superannuation benefit as the default 7% member contributions are maintained.

Rules for excess concessional contributions

Members who make or receive concessional contributions in excess of the cap can make an irrevocable election to have up to 85% of their excess concessional contributions for a financial year released from their super account. An amount released as a result of such an election is not assessable income or exempt income of that individual.

If you exceed your concessional contributions cap, the excess amount will be included in your assessable income and taxed at your marginal tax rate, less a 15% tax offset. You may elect to withdraw up to 85% of the excess amount from your super fund to help pay the income tax liability. If you do not or cannot elect to release your excess concessional contributions from your super account, the excess amount will count towards your non-concessional (after-tax) contributions cap. If you exceed your non-concessional contributions cap and you do not or cannot elect to release the excess non-concessional contributions amount, you may be taxed up to 47% on those excess contributions.

Note: UniSuper will not release excess concessional contributions from the defined benefit component but will release funds from the accumulation component.

Where can I get help?

- To see your personal NTC amount, log in to your account and visit the NTC area under the 'Balances' tab.
- If you have questions or need more general information, call us on **1800 331 685** or visit **unisuper.com.au/contact-us** for more options, including chat.
- Meet with one of our super consultants to discuss your super contributions. Visit **unisuper.com.au/superbookings**.
- Before making any decision about the options available to manage your concessional contributions, we strongly recommend that you consult a qualified financial adviser. 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**, or call UniSuper Advice on **1800 823 842**.

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