



## Are you missing out on some entitlements?

No matter what stage of life you are at, there may be some Government initiatives that can help you financially.

Whether you are young, married, single or a nuclear family, we can help you navigate the system.

### If you are young...

The Government's **super co-contribution** is one initiative that many young people can use to give their superannuation a real boost.

If you earn less than \$49,488 each year, you simply need to make a super contribution from your after-tax salary.

Depending on how much you put in, the Government will also put in up to \$500 as a bonus incentive.

Another initiative worth considering is the **Lifetime Health Cover**, which encourages all young people to take out private hospital cover before they turn 31.

And if you do, you will save quite a bit on money later on – for each year that you wait after age 31, you will have to pay an extra 2% each year.

That means 20% more if you wait until you are 40.

### If you are a couple...

**Spouse contributions** are an easy way to help couples increase their retirement savings, especially if one has a low income or perhaps has stopped working for an extended period.

If the person with the higher salary puts up to \$3,000 (after tax) into their spouse's super account, they can claim a tax benefit of up to \$540.

While it may not sound much, claiming this every year that you are eligible, and then harnessing the power of compounding, means it won't take long for it to add up.

### If you are a family...

To help families balance their household budget, the Government offers the **Family Tax Benefit**, which you can either receive as a fortnightly payment or as a lump sum in June each year.

The Family Benefit has two parts:

- Part A, which is calculated per child and based on your family's financial situation
- Part B, which is calculated per family, with the aim helping single parent families and those on one income.

The **Child Care Benefit** is another Government payment for families, the aim of which is to help cover the 'out of pocket' expenses for child care. This benefit is also calculated per child and is usually paid directly to the child care provider.

### If you are a retiree...

The **Commonwealth Seniors Health Card** is available to older Australians that have reached Age Pension age but do not qualify for a Government pension.

For those that meet the income test, this card offers access to cheaper prescription medicines and medical services, along with discounts on a range of other health, household, transport and education services.

The **Pension Bonus Scheme** is an opportunity for older Australians that are eligible for the Age Pension to keep working, with the promise of a tax-free lump sum after they eventually claim the Age Pension.

This scheme is now closed, with only those that had not started an Age Pension and registered before 1 July 2014 being able to take advantage of this scheme.

Unfortunately, many retirees of Age Pension age were simply not aware of this scheme and therefore many did not apply, applied too late or opted to receive the Age Pension without knowing it made them immediately ineligible.

It is in situations like this that the real value of financial advice becomes evident.

### We can help

We can help you to decide on an appropriate package of income protection insurance based on your individual circumstances.

To find out more, please contact our office to make an appointment.

