

# Superannuation

If you've suffered an injury or illness resulting in a permanent disability and/or an inability to work, you may have benefits built into your superannuation policy. Securing these benefits can significantly reduce your financial pressures as a result of your medical condition.

## Getting it right for you and your family

Many superannuation plans are about more than just your retirement years. Many funds provide you with certain levels of insurance should you be injured or become ill and unable to work.

Superannuation is about your family, financial security and the protection of your lifestyle, now and in retirement. So it's really important to get every aspect of it right.

## Superannuation insurance claims

People who suffer injury or illness (for example, cancer, a stroke or multiple sclerosis) will often experience significant financial hardship (on top of their injury) because they are no longer able to work in meaningful paid employment.

If you'd like to investigate your entitlement to any insurance components from your superannuation fund or you're having difficulty with a claim you've commenced, talk to us about your options.

## Total and permanent disablement (TPD)

If you stop work due to illness or injury you may be able to get a large lump sum payment for Total and Permanent Disablement (TPD) from your superannuation fund or its insurer.

These benefits are usually available irrespective of the reason for stopping work, provided that you are less than retirement age at the time you stop work.

So, to claim your TPD insurance, you don't necessarily have to have been injured in the workplace. You could suffer a serious illness or have been seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident or had a major fall at home that prevents you from returning to work. Benefits can provide much needed money to get people back on their feet.

There are some time limits for claiming TPD but benefits can be claimed even if you have stopped work years ago. It is best to get legal advice from a lawyer experienced in Superannuation law before making a claim.

Many policies have different definitions of what constitutes Total and Permanent Disablement and it's important to understand the definition within your policy(s).

## Income protection benefits

As with TPD benefits, many superannuation funds also have Income Protection benefits which members can claim if they are unable to work due to injury or illness.

If you cannot work for a temporary period of time, or indefinitely, income protection can alleviate your financial pressures by covering a percentage of your wages while you are incapacitated.

Income Protection benefits are designed to provide a source of replacement income to injured or ill people and can provide a great source of extra income to keep the debt collectors at bay.

As with a TPD claim, there are also time limits for claiming income protection and it's important to seek experienced legal advice early.

## Death benefits

Superannuation funds have death insurance benefits for the fund's members.

A death benefit is usually a large lump sum payment. Claiming these benefits can be difficult and time consuming. Obtaining expert legal advice can be the difference between having your claim accepted and paid or denied.

There are circumstances where you may be able to claim death benefits prior to death; for example, where you have been diagnosed with a terminal illness. This is not a simple, straight forward process though and you should seek advice from someone experienced in this area of law.

## Early Access to Super

Some policies allow the policy holder to withdraw their superannuation earlier than prescribed by the law. If you are dissatisfied with a decision of your super fund regarding any of your potential entitlements, you may be able to dispute the decision. It is recommended to seek expert legal advice

## The service

If you have lodged a claim for life insurance or other insurance benefits not associated with your superannuation fund and are having troubles with the insurance company, we are also available to assist with this.

**For more information on Superrannuation, TPD and Income Protection, please visit our website:**  
**[andersons.com.au/services/superannuation-and-tpd-insurance-claims](https://andersons.com.au/services/superannuation-and-tpd-insurance-claims)**