



retirement benefits fund news

December 2008

Super to suit you...

For many people retirement is still a distant prospect, while for others it's already here. No matter what your stage in life, RBF can help you to make some simple super decisions.

Be proactive and let us work for you.

See inside for lessons you can learn from current market volatility, the different ways you can access information about your super, and find out how one member is already managing to contribute to super despite her competing financial priorities.



from the CEO



Looking forward to 2009

As this year draws to a close, you may be looking forward to Christmas or perhaps eagerly awaiting a well-earned holiday. No matter how good or bad the year may have been, we all seem to look forward to the new year with hope. This year is no different and at RBF we look forward to 2009 hoping that it brings stability once again to global investment markets.

With such high levels of market volatility during 2008, members contacted RBF more than ever before, up some 25% over the previous year. I am proud of the service provided by RBF staff in handling the increase in contacts, given such a challenging environment for our members.

Understanding that you need to know more about your super during difficult times, we also increased our availability in remote areas. RBF's mobile service has been a great success and many members outside the major cities have been able to meet face-to-face with RBF staff and attend informative workplace seminars.

I would like to thank you for your continued support during 2008. We continue to be impressed with member's controlled and measured response to the investment market volatility and the confidence that you have shown in RBF's investment options.

On behalf of the RBF Board, management and staff, I wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas break.

Simon Gillies

Open for business

We believe in providing you with the best possible service. That's why our RBF offices in both Hobart and Launceston will be open for business during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

We know that many of you have time off during this period so it's a great opportunity to discuss your super options knowing you don't have to rush back to work.

Call to make an appointment first so you're not disappointed.

Normal business hours are between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm. RBF will close only for the public holidays.

Info any way you like!

Publications - stay informed

You can learn more about your super through RBF's brochures, factsheets, newsletters, the annual Member Report and our *SuperNews* e-bulletin. Each publication helps to keep you up-to-date with news about your super and information on savings and wealth-creation opportunities.

Seminars - we can come to you

Invite an RBF speaker to come to your workplace. We can provide a formal information session on a particular topic, or simply have a general discussion about super, taking questions from the group.

If you'd like to invite an RBF speaker to your next staff meeting, conference or professional development day, contact us by phoning **1800 622 631**. It's all part of the service.

Interviews - personal service

Do you need to know more about **your** super? Simply call RBF and our specially trained staff will answer your questions.

We understand that sometimes a phone call is not enough. So we will book a time to sit down with you and your partner to discuss your super. It's a great opportunity to find out even more about super and make some informed decisions that will put your super on track.

Calculators

Want to work out how much you can Salary Sacrifice each fortnight? Not sure how much Super Co-contribution you're entitled to? Want to know how long your Allocated Pension will last? Or do you just need to work out your household budget? Check out the calculators option on RBF's homepage www.rbf.com.au to help answer these questions.

Financial advice

RBF-TAS Planning Pty Ltd specialises in providing financial planning advice for RBF members and their partners. All financial planners are RBF employees and hold formal qualifications in financial planning. They have extensive experience in superannuation and are able to take advantage of discussing scheme rules with RBF's specialist staff. RBF is committed to providing the best outcomes for our members. To get the most from the services offered by RBF-TAS Planning, members should first attend an RBF seminar or personal interview with an RBF Members Services representative.

You can request financial advice from RBF-TAS Planning Pty Ltd by contacting RBF.

RBF-TAS Planning Pty Ltd (ABN 17 094 816 412, AFS Licence No 239171) is a wholly owned subsidiary of RBF and operates as a separate legal entity.

A little goes a **long way**

Many people don't give much thought to their super. Retirement can seem such a distant prospect, and when you have so many demands on your money, saving for your future can easily become a low priority.



Lauren's story is easy to relate to for so many of us. She works full-time and has a mortgage. Feeling the financial strain of her mortgage and other debts, such as her credit card and HECS debt, she stopped the \$35 in personal contributions she was making each fortnight to her super.

'I know super is a good long-term investment, but I found it a real struggle keeping up with my debt repayments and contributing to super, so I let it slip. But I had a persistent niggling thought that I should start contributing to my super again. And I know that because of compound interest, the sooner I start contributing, the better.'

The recent interest rate cuts relieved Lauren's debt burden, so she had some extra money to play with each fortnight.

"I have competing priorities and it can be a challenge putting away extra money towards super"

'I talked to RBF about what I should do. They understood I have competing priorities and that it can be a challenge putting away extra money towards super. We worked out I can afford to Salary Sacrifice a small amount each fortnight. It isn't as much as I'd like to contribute, but the fact that I'm contributing a little makes me feel more comfortable. And I'll increase my contributions over time.'

Even increasing your contribution by as little as \$10 per fortnight can make a big difference in the long term.

This is your money and your future, so how you plan to live later in life depends on what action you take now.



Don't bury your head in the sand

Recent volatility on share markets has had an impact on super savings for most Australians. Super is a long term investment and many members have time to recover. But if you are approaching retirement or you are already in retirement, you may have to make changes to your lifestyle and expectations.

While it's disappointing and frustrating when we experience volatility in the financial markets, now is not the time to bury your head in the sand.

1. Choose investments that suit your needs

Many Australians don't choose where their money is invested within their super fund. Take the opportunity to get involved in your super now.

RBF has a mix of investment options, from defensive to growth and you can choose where to put your super. Ask yourself what your risk tolerance is and which risk profile best suits your stage of life.

2. If you need to access your money soon, invest for the short term

For members who are 50 years and over, it's important that you come and talk to us so you have a retirement plan in place. Even if you're already in retirement, it's still important to have a long-term plan. You could be drawing on your super for 20-30 years.

If you want to invest the money you will access soon differently from the money you will withdraw 10 or more years from now, speak to RBF. For example, you may wish to place the money you need to live on in the next 5 years in a more conservative option, and the rest in a growth option so that you can ride the markets back up and regain investment returns.

3. Otherwise, invest for the long term

For younger members who have time on their side, losses in financial markets may have created opportunities for those of you who are prepared to look beyond the short-term results. Weak markets can mean your contributions buy more investment units, allowing you to access quality investments at a lower entry price.

4. Take action

Don't sit back and ignore your super account. If you are thinking of switching your super to a different investment option, make sure you understand the factors you need to consider.

RBF is here to help.

Come and talk to us about how to structure your assets to help protect you from as much market volatility as possible and maintain a long term focus.

RBF 2008 Member Report is online

The RBF 2008 Member Report is now available on our website www.rbf.com.au. If you would prefer a printed copy or don't have access to the internet, simply contact us to request a copy. If you have already requested a printed copy of the Member Report, it should be included along with this newsletter.

Delays viewing MIC switches

Member Investment Choice (MIC) switches take effect at the end of each week. The web is updated on the following Thursday to reflect the changes.

In the Christmas week, the web won't be updated as usual because of the Christmas Day and Boxing Day public holidays.

Please be assured that your MIC switch will still take effect from the first Saturday following receipt of your form by RBF, as usual. However, it may take a couple of extra business days until you can see the results of your switch on the RBF website.

Minor delays in viewing MIC switches online may also be experienced in the following week as a result of the New Years Day holiday.

Need our ABN?

You can find RBF's ABN on our website www.rbf.com.au by using our new search option. It's located at the bottom left of your screen.

Business as usual

RBF will be open between Christmas and New Year.

Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed
Monday 29 December	Open 8.30am – 5.30pm
Tuesday 30 December	Open 8.30am – 5.30pm
Wednesday 31 December	Open 8.30am – 5.30pm
New Years Day	Closed
Friday 2 January	Open 8.30am – 5.30pm

Keep RBF informed

If you change your address, please give us a call or let us know by emailing super@rbf.com.au. If you change your name we will need evidence such as a certified copy of your marriage certificate or similar.

Disclaimer The information contained in this newsletter is of a general nature only. It was current at the time of publication but is subject to change without notice. It is not intended to be and should not be relied on as a substitute for legal, financial or other professional advice. Readers should carefully assess how appropriate the information is to their individual investment objectives, financial situation and particular needs. The Retirement Benefits Fund Board recommends that readers seek professional advice before making investment decisions. Please note that past performance is no indication of future investment performance. This newsletter was designed and printed in Tasmanian in September 2008. AL/N/00102 (V8-12/08)



RBF staff see red

RBF has become a corporate member of the Australian Red Cross blood donor program, Club Red.

Club Red provides an opportunity for businesses, community and youth groups across Australia to get together and do something special by regularly donating blood.

Our receptionist, Vicki (pictured above) is just one of the many RBF staff who has already donated blood.

RBF recognises and supports the vital service Australian Red Cross provides to the community. One donation, when separated into its components, can help at least three different patients and contribute to making up to 22 different products.

You're covered

Generally, if you're a current Tasmanian Public Sector employee and your super is coming into RBF, you're automatically covered 24 hours a day, seven days a week by death and ill health insurance unless you've elected otherwise.

RBF's insurance helps to protect you and your family in the event of loss of income.

If you're considering making an application for ill health it's important that you don't resign or retire from the public sector until the assessment process has been completed. Your ill health cover will cease if you resign or retire and your application would become void.

Contact our trained and friendly staff and we can explain the options available to you and ensure you understand the application process.

contact us

If you would like further information please:

Visit and register on the website: www.rbf.com.au

Email us: super@rbf.com.au

Phone: **1800 622 631**

Fax: **03 6233 3357**

Write to: **The Chief Executive Officer
Retirement Benefits Fund Board
GPO Box 446
HOBART TAS 7001**