



retirement benefits fund
news

June 2008

Look after
your super
and it will
look after **you**

Now is the time to take control of your super so you can enjoy the lifestyle you deserve in the future.

See inside to find out how easy it is to take control of your super – receive up to \$1,500 extra in your super; save money by rolling over; boost your partner's super and reap the benefit; find out the true value of your RBF pension.

At RBF, we make it easy for you to take control.



from the CEO



Investment Market Volatility

The recent losses experienced on the stock market have received a great deal of media attention. Much of the media's focus has been on the short-term effects of these losses on superannuation. This can make it easy to lose sight of the fact that super is a long-term investment and that short-term market fluctuations are normal, so shouldn't scare investors away from the proven long-term value-adding of disciplined investing.

Many of RBF's diversified investment products have a defensive bias – this has been clearly evident in recent times with

the relative outperformance of our default product, the RBF Actively Managed option. Whilst this is very pleasing, the RBF default option, along with similarly structured competitors' products, is likely to produce a small negative return for the year to 30 June 2008 – again, not significant in the context of the longer-term outperformance of the last five years, but any short-term negative return can unsettle some members.

It is important in times of uncertainty and volatility that members do not overreact and undermine their long-term goals by changing their investment strategies. RBF investment products have objectives and asset allocations that align with the long-term needs of our members. For those members who are in retirement and worry about short-term volatility, a possible simple portfolio strategy is to hold an adequate cash reserve, equivalent to, say, two years' estimated living expenses, so as to provide a worry-free component within their overall portfolio structure. RBF has an outstanding Cash option for this purpose.

Thank you

Our success depends on your support; we know that the value you place on our services is increasing each year – member engagement is up by 30% this past year alone – and our RBF Board has recognised this by investing in additional staff and systems to improve our service outcomes.

It has been a challenging year for members and staff and I thank you all for your ongoing commitment to RBF – and please, don't forget to make your Super Co-contributions, if you are eligible, and capture the wonderful benefits of superannuation wealth building.

Simon Gillies



'Retirement' is not a dirty word

We know you work hard to reach your goals and dreams. Most Australians do, so why wouldn't you look forward to retirement? Retirement is not a dirty word. It's something to get excited about – it can be the start of new choices and freedom, and there are many reasons to look forward to that!

But imagine this... you reach retirement and don't have enough money to enjoy it.

'Retirement should be a time to follow up on what really interests you'

Retirement should be a time to follow up on what really interests you, such as learning a new language, taking up a new hobby, travelling, or simply spending more time with friends and family. It should be the start of something new and enjoyable! That's why it's so important to plan for it now.

Does it all just seem too hard? It's not – we'll make it easy for you.

Call RBF and we'll talk you through your options. It couldn't be any simpler to check you're on the way to funding the lifestyle you deserve in retirement. Find out which contribution method suits you best – Salary Sacrifice, personal contributions, or a combination of the two. Are you eligible for the Super Co-contribution of up to \$1,500? Could you save yourself money by rolling over your super? The sooner you start contributing to your future, the more you will accumulate. What an opportunity to take control of your super!

So, for those of you who still think retirement is a dirty word, maybe it's time to rethink the entire concept. It can be something to look forward to. And by getting involved with your super now, you will help make your retirement that much more enjoyable.

Verify your identity

New Commonwealth legislation means from 1 May 2008, when RBF makes a payment or starts a pension, we need to verify your identity.

It's an easy process and most members will simply have to show us their driver's licence to comply. If you're posting your forms to us, we will need a certified copy of your documents.

This will also apply to members opening an RBF Investment Account for their partner or making tax-deductible contributions (applies mainly to self-employed people).

For most members we will need to collect the following information:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Current residential address

Any of the following documents are acceptable to verify your identity:

- Current driver's licence or other government-issued card that includes your full name, date of birth, current residential address and photograph
- Current passport that includes your full name, date of birth and photograph
- Original birth certificate or birth extract showing your full name at your date of birth (if you have changed your name, you will need to provide certified linking documents)

You will also need to provide evidence of your current residential address. This can be a notice issued by a utilities provider within the last three months, or a notice issued by local government within the last 12 months.

Documents must be certified

Original documents can be certified by Australia Post, a Justice of the Peace or by most accountants, financial planners, lawyers and police officers. Certification must be an original ink signature.

More information about acceptable documents and certification is available in the Forms & Publications area of RBF's website www.rbf.com.au.



Up to \$1,500 paid into your super
You're right, there's a catch – but not a big one

To be eligible you need to contribute to your super and earn less than \$58,980 pa in the 2007–08 financial year

It's easy! Here's how it works

- The payment of up to \$1,500 pa is known as the Super Co-contribution
- You can receive \$1.50 extra for each \$1.00 you contribute
- Only personal contributions count
- You must be under age 71
- Income thresholds 2007–08:
 - If you earn less than \$28,980 pa you are eligible for the maximum \$1,500 Super Co-contribution
 - Payment decreases by 5 cents for every \$1 over \$28,980 until it cuts out at \$58,980 pa
- Income means your assessable income plus reportable fringe benefits
- Income does not include any amount you Salary Sacrifice into super for the 2007-08 financial year

Visit our website www.rbf.com.au to see how much Super Co-contribution you can receive and any other eligibility conditions that may apply.

Don't miss out – getting paid is easy

- Complete the enclosed contribution form
- Post in the reply paid envelope in time to meet the 30 June deadline

This is not a once-only opportunity; if you're eligible you can be paid every year.

So you think you're sitting pretty?

That's what Carole thought, until asked what she was doing with her super.

'To be honest, super was the last thing on my mind'

'Life's so busy. I know super is important but, to be honest, super was the last thing on my mind.'

It wasn't until Carole's daughter, Sarah, suggested she sort out her super and have an RBF interview that Carole realised she should be doing more.

'Sarah made a good point. She said "Mum, it's free – what have you got to lose?" And she was right. In fact, I had so much more to gain!'

Carole made an appointment to see an RBF Super Consultant and together they talked through her personal situation. She discovered that she was contributing to her super through personal contributions, which have already been taxed at her marginal tax rate of 40%. Salary Sacrificed contributions are only taxed at 15% and come out of pre-tax salary. By changing her contribution method to Salary Sacrifice Carole would reduce her assessable income and pay less income tax.

'Just changing the way I contribute means I pay less income tax and I have almost \$60 extra each fortnight to put towards my future. Now I realise how important it is to get involved with my super and make sure I choose the contribution method that suits me best. I've always thought super was so complicated, but my situation was explained to me in easy-to-understand language. Just by taking an



hour out of my day to educate myself about my super, I have saved myself almost \$1,600 a year!'

It was easy for Carole to take control of her super – now it's time for you to take control!

Take control

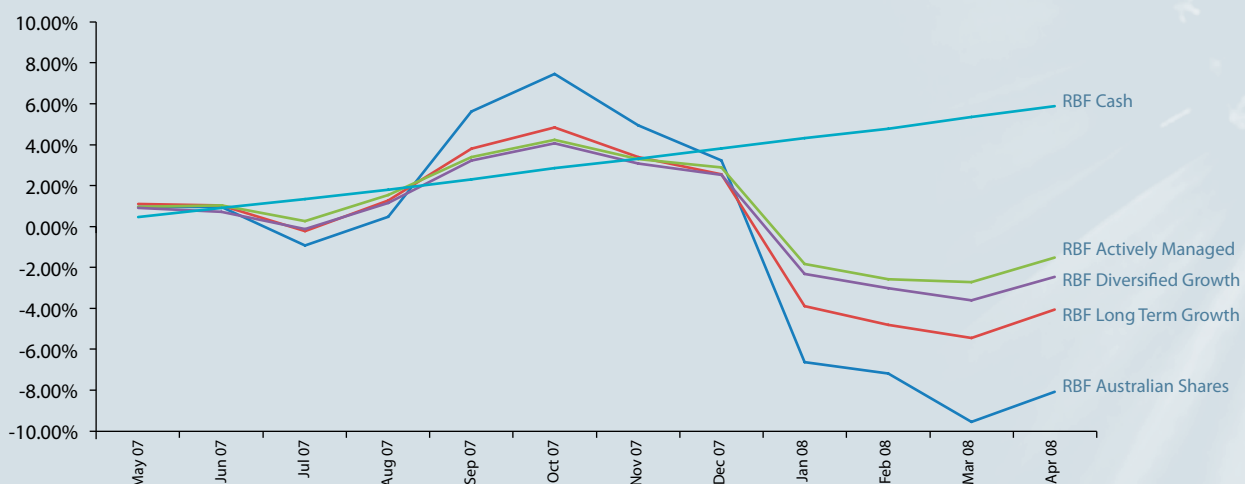
Visit the RBF website

- Register to read your member statements online
- Read the brochures and fact sheets
- Use the calculators to figure out which contribution method suits you best
- Register for SuperNews and keep yourself updated

Call us on **1800 622 631** if you have any questions in relation to your super.

Super Performance

Cumulative movements in the RBF Investment Account returns for five of RBF's 14 Member Investment Choice options for the 12 months to April 2008. Register today on www.rbf.com.au and subscribe to receive the crediting rates each month.





Rolling over?

These two aren't thinking about rolling over, but you should be.

No, we're not talking about getting comfy in bed, we're talking about rolling over your super into RBF. You could be wasting money right now. If you're with more than one super fund you're probably paying more than one set of fees.

Over time those extra fees could drain your super savings. Plus, more than one fund means multiple paperwork, leaving less time for the fun things in life.

Rolling over is easy!

- Complete the enclosed rollover form
- Attach documents to verify your identity
- Post in the reply paid envelope provided

Phone 1800 622 631 for further information.

4 great reasons to take control and rollover

1. Cut your fees

Multiple super funds can mean multiple fees

2. Cut your paperwork

Multiple super funds mean more paperwork for you

3. No entry fees or commissions

RBF does not charge entry fees or pay commissions – so there will be more money in your super savings

4. It's easy

Simply complete the rollover form and send it to RBF – we'll do the rest

Don't pay more tax than you need to

Thank you to those members who have provided RBF with their Tax File Numbers (TFNs).

Over the past year we have been encouraging members' to give us their TFNs. There are penalties for members who don't.

If RBF doesn't have your TFN by 30 June, your employer Super Guarantee contributions and Salary Sacrifice contributions will be taxed at the highest rate of up to 46.5%. We must also return any personal contributions you make, which means if you're eligible for the Super Co-contribution, you'll miss out!

If you have not yet provided us with your TFN, it's now more important than ever. Don't pay more tax than you need to.

How do these penalties apply?

Contribution method	Contributions Tax	Penalty
Employer Super Guarantee	15%	Taxed an extra 31.5%
Salary Sacrifice	15%	Taxed an extra 31.5%
Personal Contributions	0%	RBF must return your contributions

Your pension – priceless

Did you know that if you take all your money out of RBF you lose your pension entitlements? This is particularly important if you're entitled to an RBF Life Pension, as it's a guaranteed income for life. Having that sort of security in retirement is a definite plus. And if you purchase a Reversionary Life Pension and die before your partner, RBF will pay your surviving partner a benefit equivalent to two-thirds of your pension – security for them, too!

Don't let anyone try to take your Life Pension away from you – you can't change your mind once you've opted out. Before you decide whether or not to take your money out of RBF, talk through your options with one of our Superannuation Consultants.

You may just find out that your pension is priceless.

Boost your partner's super and reap the benefit!

You can receive a tax offset or rebate by contributing to your spouse's super before 30 June 2008 if their assessable income (including reportable fringe benefits) is less than \$13,800 this financial year. Because it's a tax offset, you'll make a direct saving against your income-tax liability.

Alternatively, by giving your low-income spouse \$1,000 to contribute to their super, they will receive the Super Co-contribution of up to \$1,500.

We encourage you to carefully compare the benefits of Spouse Contributions and Super Co-contributions so you can pick the best options for you and your partner.

Spouse contribution facts

- If your spouse's income is \$10,800 or less you can earn the maximum offset
- If your spouse's income is \$13,800 or more the offset is no longer available
- Maximum offset benefit is \$540
- Claimable on contributions up to \$3,000
- 'Spouse's income' means assessable income plus reportable Fringe Benefits
- Your spouse cannot be employed by you
- The Commonwealth Government's definition of spouse applies – married or de facto couples only

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 Tasmania in June 2008.

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We're running out of room in the RBF building, so we gave Phil the car keys and told him to get to work. Phil has a new office. And it comes to you – anywhere in regional Tasmania!

Life just got easier for those members who don't live in the major centres. Now we do the travelling, giving those of you who find it difficult to make it to an RBF interview or seminar a way to take control of your super!

Request a regional seminar with a group of your friends and Phil can conduct one-on-one interviews while he's there.

Email us at seminars@rbf.com.au – there's no payment required and we'll bring our own equipment. All you have to do is turn up – it couldn't be any easier!

Mothers Day Classic

Thank you to everyone who supported the Mother's Day Classic this year. As a major local sponsor, RBF was keen for our members to support this worthy cause. And a huge thanks to our staff who volunteered on the day. Well done for making this year's Classic the best one ever!

Update on SRI option

On 21 May 2008 the RBF Board decided that the Socially Responsible Investments (SRI) option will be managed wholly by AMP RIL Balanced Fund. This decision maintains the option's Growth/Defensive investment profile and complies with socially responsible requirements. For more information regarding the SRI option visit www.rbf.com.au.

contact us

If you would like further information please:

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