

# To retire or not to retire just yet, that is the question

The timing of your retirement is crucial because once you retire you usually want to stay retired, and making a successful comeback to the workforce is never an easy thing to achieve.

When planning your retirement you need to consider a wide range of factors including your health, your family circumstances and how you will fund your retirement.

The global financial crisis has had a significant impact on the retirement plans of many Australians. A survey by Mercer Consultants revealed that 42% of people are planning to delay their retirement as a result of the financial crisis, rising to 50% for people aged between 50 and 59 years of age.

Many people are also concerned that their retirement savings are inadequate. Recent research from Rice Warner found that the gap between our total retirement savings and how much we will need for a comfortable retirement has blown out to \$695 billion, an increase of \$243 billion or \$26,000 per person over the four years from 2004 to 2008.

Of course if you are young, you can always increase your voluntary contributions to boost your super balance but if you are closer to retirement; what are your options?

One strategy would be to combine retirement with part-time work.

Changes to super in recent years allow older workers to ease into retirement by drawing on their super

without having to permanently retire from the workforce. You can use your super to buy a special 'income stream' known as a Transition to Retirement pension\*.

This means you can roll some of your super into a Transition to Retirement pension, reduce the hours you work and draw down the pension to supplement your part-time income.

Your employer will still be paying your 9% Super Guarantee into your super allowing you to keep adding to your super investment even though you are drawing down some of your super in the form of a retirement income stream.

A Transition to Retirement pension gives you more flexibility to plan your retirement to meet your personal and your financial circumstances.

To find out more about retirement planning just visit the Energy Industries Superannuation Scheme website at [www.eisuper.com.au](http://www.eisuper.com.au) or call us on **1300 369 901**.

\*Please note that the Transition to Retirement pension is not available to members of the Retirement Scheme or the Defined Benefit Scheme.

#### References

'Securing Retirement Incomes', Mercer Consultants, August 2009  
'Superannuation Adequacy', Rice Warner, January 2010



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