

July already, the first month of a new financial year!! The mornings are chilly, the sporting fields are mush, Origin decider around the corner and every second person you know is in Europe!

This month, we chat about planning for retirement, what to consider and when – it's never too early to start planning... There's also a lot of talk about interest rates – what's on the horizon, we've got access to some pretty good rates at the moment, see below on how this may work for you!

How to get into the retirement comfort zone

A third of Australians retire without a plan. Here's why you should have one.



Working and generating a stable income can be described as a comfort zone for most Australians. The same can be said for having a well-considered retirement plan that clearly identifies your current financial position and outlines what it will take for you to achieve your desired retirement lifestyle.

Yet, Vanguard's 2024 How Australia Retires research has found that 40% of Australians do not have a clear retirement plan (either formal or informal). In addition, 29% have a basic plan but only have some of the details worked out. [Click here to continue reading.](#)

Have you reviewed your home loan lately?

If you are paying above 6.25% you need to speak with our mortgage specialist, Sam Drury. We have access to fixed 2-year rates as low as 5.94%. By simply switching your home loan to a rate of 5.94% you could save up to \$150 a month off your repayments and up to 4 years off the life of the loan.

Make your tax cut work for you

There are many options to consider if you'd like to put your tax savings to work. You may want to make additional mortgage repayments, where you can effectively 'earn' the loan interest rate tax-free. Another option is investing in your own name, such as in term deposits, shares or managed investments. This could suit when planning for certain goals where you may need to access the money before you retire, like children's education. You could also consider contributing to super, where there may be significant tax and other benefits. For instance:

- you may be able to arrange for your employer to contribute some

of your pre-tax salary into super, via 'salary sacrifice' • you may be able to claim personal super contributions as a tax deduction • if you're a lower income earner and make personal contributions, you may be eligible for a Government co-contribution of up to \$500, and • if you contribute on behalf of a low-income spouse, you may be eligible for a tax offset of up to \$540. But remember, there are caps on how much you can contribute to super and additional tax and penalties may apply if you exceed the caps. Also, you can't access the money until you retire or meet other conditions.

Taxable Income	Tax Payable in 2023/24	Tax Payable from 1 July 2024	Tax saving
\$40,000	\$4,367	\$3,713	\$654
\$80,000	\$18,067	\$16,388	\$1,679
\$120,000	\$31,867	\$29,188	\$2,679
\$160,000	\$47,467	\$43,738	\$3,729
\$200,000	\$64,667	\$60,138	\$4,529

Note: Calculations based on Government calculator at taxcuts.gov.au and takes into account the Low income offset and Medicare levy.



Not only did we celebrate EOFY a couple of weeks ago we also celebrated Charlotte's birthday - our newest team member, far left.



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