

Retirement planning checklist

Follow our 9 step checklist and feel confident about your path to retirement.



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Evaluesco is here to make your journey to retirement as clear as possible. Follow our 9 steps in this checklist and feel confident about your path to retirement.

If you need help at any stage, our experienced retirement advisers are on hand to help. Talk to one of our retirement advisers by calling 02 9232 6800.

STEP 1 – What does your retirement look like?

The first step of your retirement journey is simple — picture the retirement lifestyle you want to live. There's no right or wrong answer to this but to help you get started, it's good idea to think about:

1. Do you want to maintain your current lifestyle, or do you imagine this changing in retirement?
2. How much do you think you'll need to fund your lifestyle in retirement?
3. How regularly do you want to receive an income throughout your retirement?

Once you've thought about the lifestyle you want to live in your retirement, it's time to see if you're on track. The steps below will help you on your journey.

Thought about the lifestyle you want to live in retirement?

STEP 2 – Know where your retirement income can come from

Your income in retirement can come from several sources – not just your super. Your income can come from:

- Your super savings
- The government Age Pension
- Personal savings and investments outside of your super
- The equity from your home
- Any salary you receive if you choose to work in retirement.



Did you know?

You can apply for the government Age Pension 13 weeks before you reach Age Pension age? It's a good idea to apply early so you can receive any benefits from the day you're eligible.

You could also think about different ways to increase your cash flow in retirement:

- Ad-hoc work in retirement such as house sitting/pet-sitting, driving for Uber, etc.
- Selling items online, eBay, Gumtree, or Facebook Marketplace. Explored where your income could come from in retirement?



STEP 3 – Consider a Transition to Retirement (TTR) Pension

If you are approaching retirement and have reached your preservation age, evaluate the option of starting a Transition to Retirement (TTR) pension with your superannuation. A TTR pension allows you to:

- Supplement Your Income: Use a portion of your super to maintain your standard of living as you reduce your work hours.
- Take Advantage of Tax Benefits: Access favorable tax treatment, including a 15% tax offset on payments between preservation age and 59, and tax-free payments once you reach 60.
- Understand Drawdown Limits: Be aware of the minimum and maximum annual withdrawal limits—4% to 10% of your account balance—and how they apply to your situation.
- Monitor Your Transfer Balance Cap: Ensure your TTR pension does not exceed the transfer balance cap when it transitions to the retirement phase to avoid potential penalties.

Incorporating a TTR pension into your retirement strategy could provide additional financial flexibility as you transition into retirement.

CASE STUDY

John, aged 60, works full-time, earns a salary of \$80,000 p.a. (or \$66,252 after tax) and has \$400,000 in super. He wants to cut back to a three-day working week.

While John’s salary will reduce to \$48,000 p.a., he doesn’t want to compromise his living standard. He invests his entire super benefit in a TTR pension and draws an income of \$22,666 over the next 12 months.

By using this strategy, he’ll be able to replace his pay cut of \$32,000 and continue to receive an after-tax income of \$66,252 p.a. He’ll also pay \$9,334 less tax. This is because the TTR income payments are tax free because he is 60, whereas his salary is fully taxable at his marginal rates.

IN YEAR ONE	BEFORE STRATEGY	AFTER STRATEGY
Pre-tax salary	\$80,000	\$48,000
TTR pension income	Nil	\$22,666
Total pre-tax income	\$80,000	\$70,666
Less tax payable ¹	(\$13,748	(\$4,414²)
After-tax income	\$66,252	\$66,252

1. Tax payable is based on the 2024/25 rates and thresholds.

2. Tax on \$48,000 as TTR pension income is not taxable.

STEP 4 – Estimate your super balance at retirement

Our Evalesco advisers can help you estimate your super balance at retirement and the income this can provide (including the government Age Pension).

This can help you see if you're on track and can also show you the steps you can take to boost your super.

STEP 5 – Estimate your income in retirement

At this stage you may ask yourself “how much money will I receive in my retirement as an income and how long will this last?”.

If you're within 5 years of retiring, our advisers can calculate an estimate of your income throughout your life in retirement. We also consider other sources of income you may have outside of your super including the government Age Pension.

STEP 6 – How to boost your super

Now that you've got your estimated super balance, you may need to take steps to boost your super to reach your retirement goals. Ways to increase your super:

MAKING EXTRA CONTRIBUTIONS

Topping up your super with extra contributions is a great way to increase your balance. It can also help you reduce the tax you pay. Explore voluntary contributions for a deeper look into your options.

CONSOLIDATE YOUR SUPER

If you've changed jobs during your career, you may have more than one super account. Consolidating your super into one account makes it easier to manage and can help you save on fees.

DOWNSIZING YOUR PROPERTY

Downsizing your home can allow you to put money into super (up to \$300,000 per person). This sort of contribution isn't taxed or counted towards your contribution cap — if you meet the eligibility criteria it can be a great way to boost your super.

WINDING BACK OR DELAYING RETIREMENT

Everyone's retirement is different. You may choose to continue working or reduce your working hours rather than going into full retirement.

If you want to boost your super, it's a good idea to chat to one of our retirement advisers. If you're a member of UniSuper, a general chat is included in your membership at no extra cost.

Have you explored how you can increase your super?

STEP 7 – What happens to your super if something happens to you?

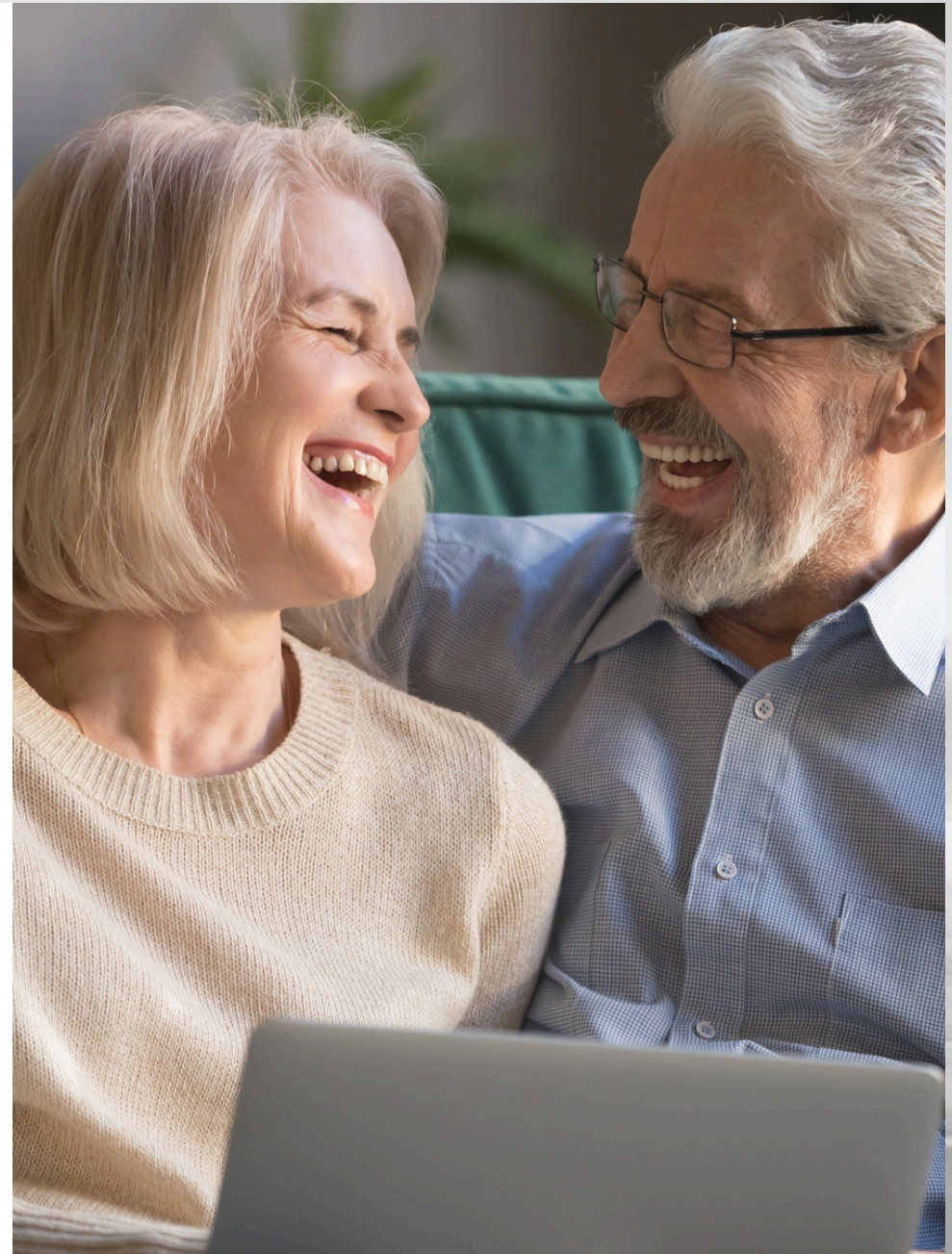
It's worth being prepared if something happens to you. Nominating a beneficiary for your super and pension can give peace of mind to you and your loved ones. You should also think about the options for aged care should your circumstances change.

For more information on nominating a beneficiary for your super or pension, speak to our advisers or contact us via our website www.evaluesco.com.au.

Have you nominated a beneficiary for your super?

A chat with our award-winning advice service can really help to put all the pieces of the retirement puzzle together.

If you're unsure on where to start, need advice, or just want to make sure you're on the right track, our experienced retirement advisers are available to answer your questions.



STEP 8 – Understand how the government Age Pension works

If you're just beginning to plan for your retirement, you may be a few years away from your Age Pension age. However, it's a good idea to understand how the government Age Pension works. To be eligible for the Age Pension, you need to:

- Be of Age Pension age
- Satisfy Australian residence rules, and
- Meet the income and assets tests.

If you're eligible for the Age Pension, you're automatically eligible for a Pensioner Concession Card which will give you access to cheaper health care and medicine. You may also be eligible for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card which is available to eligible people who have reached Age Pension age.

For more information on the government Age Pension, visit servicesaustralia.gov.au/age-pension.

Do you know how the government Age Pension works?

STEP 9 – Applying for the government Age Pension

If you're eligible for the government Age Pension, you can begin your application 13 weeks before you reach Age Pension age.

It's a good idea to understand how the application process for the Age Pension works even if you're a few years away from your Age Pension age. Once you're ready, applying for the Age Pension can be done in three steps:

- Open a MyGov account if you don't already have one.
- Confirm your identity with Centrelink. This can be done online, over the phone, or in person.
- Submit your Age Pension claim online via your MyGov account.

Remember: You can only have one address per MyGov account. You'll need to have separate email addresses and separate MyGov accounts if you are a couple. Know how the Age Pension works but not ready to apply? Head to Step 8.

Have you applied for the Age Pension?

Planning to retire soon? Let us help.

Preparing to retire is emotional and practical. Making a retirement plan can help you manage your finances, and cope better as your life and priorities change.

If you're unsure on where to start, need advice, or just want to make sure you're on the right track, book a retirement health check with one of our advisers to answer your questions and discuss ways to reach your retirement goals.



Jeff Thurecht
CEO & Senior Financial
Adviser



Marshall Brentnall
Director & Senior Financial
Adviser



Melody Edwards
Senior Financial Adviser &
Aged Care Specialist



Hung Nguyen
Senior Financial Adviser



Mia Trott
Senior Financial Adviser



Ashleigh Steeles
Financial Adviser



Virginia Schreiber
Financial Adviser

We offer personalised financial guidance designed to steer individuals toward their financial goals and objectives. Our services encompass wealth creation plans, retirement planning, family protection, estate planning, tax minimisation, aged care strategies, maximising Centrelink entitlements, and various other financial solutions.

We are just an email or phone call away, if you have any questions. We are here to help in any way we can.

To arrange an obligation-free consultation with an Evaluesco Adviser call (02) 9232 6880 or email us on admin@evaluesco.com.au

