



Australian Government

Comcare

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Jurisdictional Policy Advice No. 2009/16
Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRC Act)
Superannuation pensions – sections 20 and 21A
– December 2009 Update

Purpose

1. This Policy Advice revokes and replaces Jurisdictional Policy Advice No. 2009/15 issued on 11 December 2009.
2. To advise of changes to the employer funded portion of superannuation schemes which may be subject to adjustment at frequent intervals. These adjustments to pensions are likely to affect the weekly amount of compensation payable to ex-employees under sections 20 and 21A of the SRC Act.

Background

3. The employer funded portion of all **Commonwealth Government superannuation** scheme pensions is adjusted twice a year. Adjustments may also be made regularly to pensions paid under **other superannuation** schemes, which may affect the weekly amount of compensation payable to ex-employees.

Policy Advice

4. The Australian Reward Investment Alliance (ARIA), which is the administering authority for the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme and the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme, has advised that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) figure for the 6 month period ending November 2009, used to calculate the pension rate, was 1.3%. This figure also applies to pensions paid by the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits scheme (DFRDB) and the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS).
 - This increase is effective from Friday 1 January 2010 with it being paid on pension payday 14 January 2010.
5. Determining authorities must regularly ensure that ex-employees who are being paid benefits under sections 20 and 21A are being paid their correct 'amount of compensation' weekly benefit. This requires determining authorities to regularly verify the current 'superannuation amount' under section 20 and 'superannuation amount in relation to the pension' under section 21A.

Commonwealth Schemes

6. For ex-employees paid by the ARIA schemes, DFRDB and MSBS, this information can be found under statutory benefits on the Comcare website at www.comcare.gov.au.

Other Schemes

7. For ex-employees under other superannuation schemes, the determining authority will need to regularly verify the 'superannuation amount' under section 20 and 'superannuation amount in relation to the pension' under section 21A with the relevant schemes' administrators.

Future Movements

8. The CPI movement effects on ARIA pensions may be revised in June 2010. A Jurisdictional Policy Advice will be issued at that time.
9. For enquiries concerning this policy advice, please contact the SRC Policy Section by telephone on 1300 366 979, or by email at SRC.Policy@comcare.gov.au.

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