



Australian Government

Comcare

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Jurisdictional Policy Advice No. 2009/10
Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRC Act)
Superannuation pensions – sections 20 and 21A
– June 2009 Update

Purpose

1. To advise of changes, if any, 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

2. 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

3. 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 March 2009, used to calculate the pension rate, was -0.18%. 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).
4. Because this is a negative figure, there will be **no increase or decrease** to the above pensions' rate.
5. As there is no change to the pension rate, the rates for sections 20 and 21A that were applicable from 31 December 2008 (JPA No. 2008/12) will continue to apply .
6. 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

7. 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

8. 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.
9. The CPI movement effects on these pensions may be revised in December 2009. A Jurisdictional Policy Advice will be issued at that time.
10. 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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