

Introducing KiwiSaver

How to join KiwiSaver

Most people who start new jobs are automatically enrolled in KiwiSaver. So, if you're starting a new job, make sure you check if your employer will be enrolling you automatically. Once enrolled, you have eight weeks to decide if you want to opt out. If you don't opt out you'll become a KiwiSaver member and regular deductions will continue being made from your pay.

If you want to join KiwiSaver, regardless of your employment status, you do this by choosing a scheme provider and applying directly. A list of scheme providers is available on www.kiwisaver.govt.nz

If you're an employee, contributions are deducted from your pay at the rate of 2%, 4% or 8%. If you're not an employee, you and your scheme provider agree on how much you'll contribute.

Alternatively, if you're 18 or over, you can join by asking your employer to enrol you. If you do this, you'll be allocated to your employer's chosen scheme, if they have one, or to a default scheme. You can choose your own scheme later if you want.

Independent information

The Retirement Commission provides free independent information about money matters including KiwiSaver. To help you decide whether KiwiSaver is right for you, go to www.sorted.org.nz

KiwiSaver Language Line

Language Line enables us to talk with customers whose first or preferred language is not English.

Just ring 0800 549 472 and we'll get an interpreter to assist with the call.

www.kiwisaver.govt.nz

0800 KIWISAVER (0800 549 472)

or: 04-978 0800 if using a cellphone

64 4-978 0779 if calling from overseas

Deaf or hearing-impaired: Fax 0800 447 755

Introducing KiwiSaver

KiwiSaver is a voluntary savings initiative which makes it easier for you to save for the future.

If you choose to join, contributions are deducted from your pay at the rate of either 2%, 4% or 8% and invested for you in a KiwiSaver scheme.

You're able to withdraw your savings when you're eligible for NZ Super (or after five years' membership, whichever is later). You can withdraw your savings earlier in certain circumstances.

You can also take a break from savings, called a contributions holiday, after 12 months (or earlier in cases of financial hardship).

KiwiSaver membership benefits

KiwiSaver gets you into the 'savings habit', and helps you prepare for the future.

To get your savings off to a good start, the government will kick start your account with a tax-free contribution of \$1,000, as well as a member tax credit of up to \$520 every year provided you're 18 or over.

Once you've been contributing for at least three years you may be able to withdraw your savings (excluding the \$1,000 government contribution and member tax credit) to put towards buying your first home. Also, if you qualify, you may be entitled to a first home deposit subsidy paid by Housing New Zealand Corporation. If you're not a first home buyer, you may also be eligible for the withdrawal and the subsidy if Housing New Zealand determines you're in the same financial position as someone buying their first home. Contact Housing New Zealand for more information.

Compulsory employer contributions

If you're 18 or over, you're entitled to employer contributions. If you're contributing through your salary or wages then your employer will contribute 2% of what you earn into your KiwiSaver scheme. There are some exceptions to this, for example, if you already receive an employer contribution to another superannuation scheme.

What is a scheme provider?

Scheme providers are the financial organisations that offer registered KiwiSaver schemes.

You can choose from a wide range of schemes and investment funds from lower-risk conservative funds to higher-risk growth funds.

Who can join KiwiSaver?

You can join KiwiSaver if you live or normally live in New Zealand, and you're a New Zealand citizen or are entitled to stay indefinitely in New Zealand, and provided you're below the age when you become eligible for NZ Super (age 65).