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Guide on Early Release of Super (ERS) for IVF Services



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Disclaimer: This information is provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute financial advice. You should seek independent professional advice tailored to your individual circumstances before making any financial decisions.



Assisted Reproductive Treatment Families Australia



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Guide on Early Release of Super (ERS) for IVF

People going through or commencing ivf often are held back due to not having available funds. Accessing your own (or your partner's) superannuation funds is an option to consider.

There are companies that can assist with this, eg: Super Care, however if you do, it costs approximately \$1k – and you still need to do the grunt work.

I have created this guide to assist people in applying themselves as it has a number of steps, however isn't complex to do yourself. Please seek independent financial advice to see how accessing your super may affect you and your situation.



Time to complete the application:

Submitting online (after you've done all the running around) is easy and only took me about 10-15 mins.



Before applying:

a) Ensure you have registered with MyGov.

b) you need to know your current super balance (good to link with MyGov also).



c) You need 2 medical practitioner reports: 1 completed by your GP and 1 from a psychiatrist.

Note: Both have to state

- 'mental health' for the reason;
- that the treatment is IVF;
- that it can not be accessed through the public system; and
- in the statement section – they write how you have been affected and how the treatment will alleviate your mental health issues.



You can get forms here:

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Forms/Compassionate-release-of-superannuation---Report-by-registered-medical-practitioner/>



Note: Specialists giving an opinion should be specialised in the area in which they are giving their opinion.

And a full quote. The more you have on the quote the better – as long as it is for 1 cycle only! Get them to add medication (and PGS; if doing) also.



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d) submit online:

<https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals-and-families/super-for-individuals-and-families/super/withdrawing-and-using-your-super/early-access-to-super/access-on-compassionate-grounds?>



Tip from my experience:

I have 2 super funds, one with HESTA (who will pay out) & one with GESB (who don't pay out - Gov super funds often don't release super). I added both in my online application and an alert popped up saying I can't use the GESB one.

If your fund does not permit early release of super, you may be able to transfer your super to a different fund that allows early release on compassionate grounds.



Tax considerations:

You will also have 17 - 22% tax taken out of your super. (Additional to the amount you are requesting).



The money you get is included in your income, so may need to consider the impact of this if it takes you over to the next tax bracket...This can also affect your family tax benefit or child support (if applicable).



f) once submitted, it is meant to take up to 14 days to process (however some have it approved in 48hrs!!!).



After then, they send you an authorisation letter (through MyGov) that you forward to your super fund. Your super fund will then want you to complete paperwork/application. My super fund took approx 7 days to release after I completed the paperwork.

The ATO states they 'can only approve a release for the amount required to pay your immediate expenses. You should not apply for any expenses that you can meet with your savings or the sale of shares, investments, or assets.'

Good luck 🍀



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Frequently Asked Questions

Can I use my super to go overseas for IVF?

A: yes, get quotes for everything (specialist, flights, accommodation etc), and submit with your application

Can we use my partner/husbands super?

A: yes you can, your husband is the applicant, you are the patient.

My Fertility Specialist says he won't fill in the form because he can't diagnose a mental health condition.

A: some FSs fill in the form, others won't. So you'll need your GP to do it. You will always need a psychiatrist to do one of the forms.

Where can I access a psychiatrist?

Many have had great Telehealth service through <https://www.fertilitypsych.com.au>

Can I claim medications?

A: yes, you just need a formal quote/unpaid invoice from the pharmacy (not a till receipt, a formal quote with pharmacy letterhead)

Can I access my Super more than one time?

A: Yes, you can use the medical reports again, within 6 months of when they are dated.



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