dairy industry
superannuation scheme

Your Super Newsletter

November 2025

Welcome to the final edition of Your Super Newsletter for 2025.

What's included in this edition:

» Change to probate threshold
» New fact sheet supporting members reaching age 65
» Profiling the Growth Fund
» Investment commentary
» Investment performance
» New Zealand Budget 2025 update
» Simple tips to stay safe online
» Spotlight on Helpline
» Helpline support over the holiday period

As always, we welcome your feedback and questions on the information in this edition, so please don't hesitate to reach out to our Helpline team on 0800 355 900.

Best wishes,

Tim McGuinness (Chair) and the Trustee Board.

Change to probate threshold in New Zealand

On 24 September 2025, Regulations were amended to allow the release of funds of up to $40,000 directly to a deceased person's family or other eligible persons, without requiring a court to order either a probate order or letters of administration legal documentation.

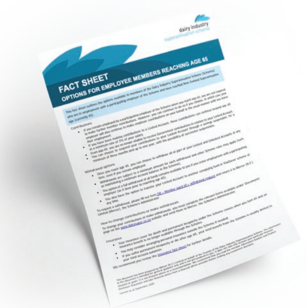
From 2009 until this law change, the 'probate threshold' had been just $15,000. The law change recognises that the $15,000 threshold had not kept up with inflation or (in particular) the average KiwiSaver or other retirement scheme balance. It aims to make settling smaller estates faster and simpler, by helping families avoid legal costs and delays in accessing funds during a difficult time.

What this means

If a person dies leaving certain non-land assets (such as money in a bank account or a retirement scheme) valued at under $40,000 each, those assets can be released directly to their family without a formal grant of probate or letters of administration, saving families time and money.

Remember, even with the higher threshold, ensuring you have a valid Will to clearly state your wishes is still a good idea. More information on how to make a Will can be found on Sorted's website.

Sorted's website



New fact sheet available online

We have launched a new fact sheet specifically designed for Dairy Superannuation members reaching age 65. It outlines key options and information, including:

» Contribution and withdrawal options
» What happens to your insurance cover
» Transition to retirement strategies

View the fact sheet here

Profiling the Growth Fund

Investment composition

The Growth Fund invests in 80% growth assets (equities and real assets) and 20% income assets (fixed interest and cash). The investment objective for the Growth Fund is to achieve average returns of 2.75% p.a. over rolling 15-year periods after tax, investment-related fees and inflation (NZ CPI).

- **Growth assets (80%)**: These investments are designed to generate higher returns over the long term but come with increased volatility. They include shares in companies, property investments and infrastructure projects. While these assets have the potential for significant growth, their value can fluctuate considerably in the short term.
- **Income assets (20%)**: To balance some of this risk, the Growth Fund also holds a portion of income assets such as fixed interest (bonds) and cash. These value of these investments tends to be more stable but generally produce lower returns.

Risks

Investing in the Growth Fund involves several risks, including:

- **Market risk**: The value of investments may fluctuate due to economic conditions, market sentiment and other external factors.
- **Company Risk**: Specific investments in companies may be affected by their operational performance and market reputation. The Scheme aims to mitigate these risks by investing in a wide range of different companies operating in different industries.

As of 27 June 2025, the risk indicator for the Growth Fund is rated 4 on a scale from 1 (low risk) to 7 (high risk), reflecting its higher risk profile compared to the Conservative Fund. At this date, the risk indicator of the Balanced Fund was also 4. It is worth noting, however, that the Balanced Fund was near the mid-point of the risk indicator 4 band, while the Growth Fund was near the upper range limit of this risk indicator band. Members should consider their risk tolerance and investment horizon when choosing the growth Fund. The minimum recommended investment timeframe for this Fund is nine years.

Historical performance

Over the five years ended March 2025, the Growth Fund has achieved an average return of approximately 7.4% p.a. (after annual fund charges and tax at 28%). This performance has been driven by strong global equity markets, although the Fund did experience a negative return in the year ended 31 March 2023, when market volatility increased and global equity markets experienced sharp falls.

Looking back over the ten-year period to March 2025, the Growth Fund has returned 5.6% p.a. (after fees and tax at 28%), outperforming inflation (2.9% p.a.) and providing growth for members' retirement savings.

Further Information

For more detailed information about the Growth Fund, including its performance, fees and investment strategy, you can access the following resources, all of which are available on the '*Documents*' page on the Scheme website:

- Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives ('SIPO'): The SIPO provides information about the Growth Fund or Scheme investments in general. It offers more detail regarding the Trustee's investment beliefs, the expected returns and risks, the types of investments they aim to have, the general investment policies they follow, the investment managers they work with and how they evaluate the results.
- Member Booklet: This document provides comprehensive details about all the funds and their features.
- Product Disclosure Statement: This document offers insights into the risks and fees associated with the Scheme.
- **Fund Updates**: An annual update on fund performance and changes in investment strategy.

By understanding the Growth Fund as one of the investment options available, you can make informed decisions that align with your retirement goals and risk tolerance.

'Documents' page

SIPO

Member Booklet

Product Disclosure Statement

Investment commentary

You can read the full commentary for the quarter ended 30 September 2025 here:

Read the full article here

Investment performance

The table below shows how the Scheme's investment options have performed over the year to date (April to September) and since investment choice was made available to members in 2003. Returns are determined monthly and take into account the effect of compound interest, fees and tax at a rate of 28%.

Returns for each investment option after tax, fees and expenses

	Cash	Cash/ Conservative	Conservative	Conservative/ Balanced	Balanced	Balanced/ Growth	Growth
Scheme year to 31 March 2025	3.37%	3.62%	3.86%	4.13%	4.40%	4.68%	4.96%
Returns for periods ending 30 September 2025							
Scheme year to date provisional crediting rates (6 months)	1.07%	3.04%	5.05%	6.80%	8.56%	9.71%	10.86%
1 year	2.5%	4.0%	5.6%	7.2%	8.8%	10.0%	11.2%
5 years (average p.a.)	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	4.0%	5.1%	5.9%	6.7%
10 years (average p.a.)	1.6%	2.5%	3.4%	4.4%	5.5%	6.2%	6.8%
Since 31 March 2003 (average p.a.)	2.5%	3.4%	4.2%	4.9%	5.6%	6.0%	6.5%

The latest credited interest rates are also published on the website.

New Zealand Budget 2025 update

In the August newsletter, we shared that the Government's May 2025 Budget includes pending increases to the default KiwiSaver contribution rates for both employees and employers.

The Scheme's legal advisers have been working with industry affiliations to clarify the impact of the changes on Complying Superannuation Fund schemes, such as the Locked Accounts in DISS. At this time, the Trustee anticipates the Scheme will continue to maintain the current minimum employee locked-in contribution rate of 3%, consistent with the terms of membership within the Scheme's trust deed and PDS. This means that no increase to 4% in line with KiwiSaver is expected.

Similarly, the minimum employer compulsory contribution rate is expected to stay at 3%, matching the employee's minimum locked-in contribution rate.

The details of these changes are yet to be passed into law, and the impact on DISS is expected to be confirmed in March 2026. We will provide a detailed update on how these changes affect members and participating employers in the March 2026 newsletter.

Simple ways you can stay protected online

Did you know that 54% of New Zealanders faced online threats in the last six months? Cybercrime today is more sophisticated than ever before and can affect everyone. Protect yourself online with these easy steps:

1. **Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA) where possible**
   2FA adds an additional layer of security to protect your online accounts. A common form of 2FA is a unique code sent to your phone or taken from an application that only you have access to. You can use it to verify your identity each time you log in. That way, even if an attacker gets your login details, they still won't be able to access your account. Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) is already enabled for you on the Scheme's website.

2. **Use long, strong and unique passwords**
   Create a different password for each account and avoid using personal information, such as your date of birth, in your passwords.

3. **Think before you click**
   Be wary of opening links and attachments in text messages, in emails or on social media. These can be used by attackers to get hold of your personal details, or to install malware on your device.

If you experience an online security incident, report it to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) at ncsc.govt.nz/report.

This article references information from the ownyouronline website.

NCSC

ownyouronline website

Spotlight on Helpline

The Scheme has a dedicated support team available from 9am to 7pm, Monday to Friday on 0800 355 900 (or +64 3 8306 0954 if calling from overseas). They can assist you with:

» Checking your account balances

» Online login support

» Withdrawal process

» Member forms

» Investment options and switching funds

…plus much more!

We spoke to River Kelly, a Helpline team member for two years, about his role:

“Every day brings new questions. Sometimes it’s simple queries such as a forgotten password, how the Scheme works or providing clarity on processes. Other times it’s supporting with more complex and sensitive queries. Either way, there is no ‘dumb question’ and we’re here to help. We are a multicultural team and while we may have different accents, we all have the same information and will help you as best we can.”

What can’t the Helpline help with?

The Helpline team are not trained or allowed to provide financial advice or comment on the investment markets and the impact on returns. If you are seeking personalised financial advice, we encourage you to visit the Financial Advice page on the Scheme website to review the available resources as a starting point.

Financial Advice page

Helpline support over the holiday period

Over the holiday period, Mercer (the Scheme’s Administration Manager) will be closed from **Friday 19 December 2025**, and will reopen on **Monday 5 January 2026**. This closure will affect all withdrawal payments, updates to regular member contributions, and other form processing – not only during this time but also in the lead-up to it. Any super benefit withdrawal requests that require action during the holiday period must be sent to Mercer on or before Monday 15 December 2025, at the latest.

The Helpline will remain available leading into the holiday season and will also operate on 27, 30 and 31 December, apart from the national public holidays (25 & 26 December, 1 & 2 January). Their hours are 9am to 7pm, Monday to Friday and you can contact them on 0800 355 900.

Retirement calculator

Financial advisers

Helpline 0800 355 900

9am - 7pm
Monday to Friday
For any questions about your accounts, this newsletter, or the Scheme

Risk quiz

This document has been prepared by Mercer (N.Z.) Limited on behalf of the Trustee of the Dairy Industry Superannuation Scheme. The information in this document is intended for general guidance only and is not personalised to you. It does not take into account your particular financial situation or goals. It is not financial advice or a recommendation. We recommend that you read the Member Information Booklet and Product Disclosure Statement and take financial advice from an appropriately qualified financial adviser (visit www.fma.govt.nz) before making any investment decisions. In addition, past performance cannot be relied upon as a guide to future performance.