



Financially Empowered Women Workshop A Fantastic Success!

We are thrilled to announce that our Financially Empowered Women workshop was a huge success! It was a day full of learning, laughter, and a little bit of indulgence, all in the company of some truly wonderful women. Our General Manager, Cath Perry, was an incredible host, guiding the event with warmth and enthusiasm. Supported by the amazing Stonehouse team, every guest felt truly looked after and part of something special.

Our amazing advisers Michelle and Phoebe delivered fantastic, practical tips that everyone could take home. One of the highlights? A simple daily coffee routine can transform into long-term savings! It was eye-opening to see how small changes in our every day habits can lead to big financial wins.

And, of course, we can't forget to mention the food! The high tea was absolutely delicious, and those Green Apple Hazelnut domes – simply delectable – an instant favourite!

Thank you to everyone who joined us and made the event such a memorable success. If you missed out, don't worry! We'll be hosting more events soon. Keep an eye out for upcoming workshops or let us know if you'd like to attend the Financially Empowered Women workshop early next year. We can't wait to see you there!

Stay empowered and take charge of your financial future with Stonehouse.



The Lion's roared and Andrew joined the celebration!

Andrew, a long-time member, enjoyed the huge win at the 2024 AFL Grand Final – what a game!

Andrew's all smiles after the Brisbane Lions' epic win.

Kane, on the other hand, is plotting his next season's comeback with the Sydney Swans.

How Do Retirement Income Options Compare?



Ben Hancock
Partner

Retirement is filled with opportunities and choices. There's the time to travel more, work on long-delayed personal projects or volunteer your help to worthwhile causes.

With a host of choices when it comes to fund your new life, here are four different options to consider.ⁱ

Account-Based Pension

An account-based pension (ABP) using your superannuation is one of the most common retirement income options. The amount you receive depends on the balance of your account and the drawdown rate you choose, subject to the minimum pension requirements set by the government.

Some considerations:

- **Tax benefits** - Investment earnings, capital gains and withdrawals are tax-free, unless you have an untaxed component within your super.
- **Payment flexibility** - Subject to pension minimums, most super funds allow you to adjust the payment amount and frequency, and even make partial or full lump-sum withdrawals if needed. You can also return to work and continue to receive a pension.
- **Longevity and market risks** - You might outlive your account balance, especially if your withdrawals are high or your investment returns are poor.

Transition to Retirement

A transition to retirement (TTR) strategy allows access to some of your superannuation while still working, if you have reached age 60 (based on current rules).ⁱⁱ

Some considerations:

- **Flexible work options** - You can reduce your working hours and supplement your income from your super.
- **Limits on pension rates** - Similar to an ABP, there is a minimum annual pension rate. However, there is also a maximum annual withdrawal of 10 per cent of your TTR account balance.
- **Reduced retirement savings** - Drawing on your superannuation while still working means your retirement savings might grow more slowly.

Annuities

An annuity is a financial product that provides a guaranteed income for a specified period or for the rest of your life. There are various types of annuities, including fixed, variable, and indexed annuities. You can purchase annuities or lifetime income streams using your superannuation.

Some considerations:

- **Predictable income** - Provides a stable income stream, which can be reassuring for financial stability and provide an income for as long as you live.
- **Lack of flexibility** - Once you purchase an annuity, the terms are generally fixed and you cannot alter the income amount. There's a restriction on capital withdrawals or in some instances no access to capital at all.
- **Inflation risk** - Fixed non-inflation-linked annuities may not keep pace with inflation unless specifically indexed to inflation.

Innovative Retirement Income Stream

An Innovative Retirement Income Stream (IRIS) is provided by a newer range of products. These were introduced after changes to regulations designed to deliver more certainty to retirement income by paying a pension for life without running out of funds.

Some considerations:

- **Age Pension benefits** - Centrelink only counts 60 per cent of the pension payments received as assessable income and only 60 per cent of the purchase price of the product counts as an assessable asset until age 84 when it is reduced.
- **Certainty** - Some IRIS products offer a stable guaranteed income stream, providing financial security.
- **No minimum requirements** - IRIS products do not require an annual minimum amount, instead just requiring at least one annual payment.
- **Complexity** - Features vary widely between different IRIS products and may involve complex terms or conditions.

Next Steps

How do these different options suit your personal needs and how would they affect your retirement income? We can help you navigate these choices and tailor a plan that best suits your needs. Speak to us, so we can help you structure a plan to fund the retirement lifestyle you've worked so hard for.

ⁱ <https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals-and-families/jobs-and-employment-types/working-as-an-employee/leaving-the-workforce/planning-to-retire#ato-Afteryouretire>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals-and-families/jobs-and-employment-types/working-as-an-employee/leaving-the-workforce/transition-to-retirement>

Understanding Upcoming Changes to Aged Care:

What You Need to Know



Jeremy Chiel
Partner

As many of you may be aware, the Australian Government has proposed significant changes to aged care support, set to take effect from July 1, 2025. These changes are crucial, considering the projected increase in Australians over the age of 80, expected to triple in the next 40 years. The sustainability of our aged care system is paramount, and these reforms aim to enhance the support available for both home-based and residential care.

Key Changes to Expect

1. Targeted Support:

The government intends to ensure that those who can afford to contribute towards their care do so, while support will be targeted at those who are less financially secure. It's important to note that if you are currently in residential aged care, the changes will not affect your fees unless you move to a new provider after the cut-off date.

2. Fee Contributions:

For new residents entering care post-July 2025, personal contributions may increase based on income and assets. However, the government estimates that about half of these new residents will not pay more under the new system.

Specifically:

- a. **Fully supported residents** will not face additional costs.
- b. **70% of full Age Pensioners** are expected to maintain their current contribution levels.
- c. **25% of part Age Pensioners** will also remain unaffected.

3. Changes to Accommodation and Ongoing Care Fees:

The proposed reforms include adjustments to accommodation fees, such as the introduction of a 'retention amount' on lump sum payments and an increase in the maximum refundable accommodation deposit (RAD) that can be charged without special approval. Ongoing care fees will see the introduction of a new 'Hotelling Contribution' for those with higher incomes and assets.

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PLANNING AHEAD FOR QUALITY SENIOR LIVING

WE CAN HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE CHANGES POST JULY 2025

- ✓ Fee Contributions
Personal contributions may increase
- ✓ Accommodation Fees
'New: 'retention amount'
- ✓ Ongoing Care Fees
new 'Hotelling Contribution'
- ✓ 'Support at Home' program enhancements

4. In-Home Support Expansion:

In addition to the residential changes, the government is enhancing the 'Support at Home' program to assist individuals in remaining in their homes longer, offering various levels of care tailored to different needs.

Please remember that navigating the aged care system can be complex, and we are here to assist you in understanding how these changes may affect you financially and personally.

Planning Ahead

If you or a loved one is considering entering residential care, it's essential to think about the timing and the potential impact of these changes. Engaging with financial advisers can help clarify your circumstances and ensure your affairs are in order before making any decisions.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss how these reforms might impact your situation, feel free to reach out to us.

A Fun-Filled Afternoon of Barefoot Bowls!

We are excited to share the highlights from a recent event organised by the Stonehouse Social Committee—a delightful afternoon of barefoot bowls! Held on the picturesque banks of the Brisbane River, the event kicked off with a scrumptious BBQ lunch, accompanied by the most beautiful weather imaginable.

As we gathered, the atmosphere was filled with excitement and camaraderie. We split into teams, showcasing our competitive spirit in a friendly battle to deliver the best bowls and claim the coveted top gong. Laughter and cheers echoed as we enjoyed the friendly rivalry, with each team vying for glory on the green.

A special shout-out goes to our Player of the Day, the incredibly talented Head of Finance, Linda Hall, who led her team with skill and enthusiasm. Her exceptional performance added an extra layer of fun to the competition!

This fantastic afternoon not only allowed us to enjoy a wonderful afternoon outdoors but also provided an opportunity to strengthen our bonds and create lasting memories. We cherish the time spent getting to know one another better, fostering a sense of community that is at the heart of Stonehouse.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. We look forward to more events that bring us together and strengthen our relationships!



Another Stonehouse Baby

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news with our Stonehouse family! Our very own Paraplanner Advice Specialist, Mohkam, and his wife, Daman, are expecting their first baby in Autumn 2025!

This exciting new chapter marks a joyful milestone for Mohkam and Daman, and we couldn't be happier for them. As they prepare to welcome their little one into the world, we look forward to celebrating this special journey with them. Congratulations to the growing family!

