

Spouse & Children of a Pensioner— Benefit Application Form and Information Leaflet

Before you use this form

Before completing this benefit application form, it is recommended that you read the **Product Disclosure Statement (PDS)** for the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS), available on the MilitarySuper website www.militarysuper.gov.au or by phoning **1300 006 727**.

Who should use this form?

You should complete this form if you consider that you are an eligible spouse of a pension recipient of the MSBS. If you are the eligible spouse of a deceased Member, or Preserved Member, please complete form **M8o—Spouse & Children of a Member or Preserved Member —Benefit Application Form and Information Leaflet**. This is available from the MilitarySuper website, or by calling **1300 006 727**. Once the application has been completed it should be forwarded to:

MilitarySuper
PO Box 22
Belconnen ACT 2616

Who is an eligible spouse?

An eligible spouse is a person who satisfies the definition of ‘spouse who survives a deceased person’ under the Military Superannuation and Benefits (MSB) Rules.

A ‘spouse who survives a deceased person’ is defined as a person who was in a marital or couple relationship with the deceased person at the time of the person’s death. A marital or couple relationship means ordinarily living with another person as that other person’s husband, wife or partner on a permanent and bona fide domestic basis.

A ‘deceased person’ means a person who has died and was at the time of his or her death a Member or a former Member.

A marital or couple relationship is regarded as permanent if it had existed for at least three years. If the relationship had not existed for three years, the Board/ Delegate will determine whether the relationship was permanent taking account of any relevant evidence such as, but not limited to, legal marriage, registered relationship, financial dependence, children born or adopted during the relationship or joint ownership of a home which was the normal place of residence.

Prior to 1 January 2008, a spouse’s pension under the MSB Rules was not generally payable if the pensioner commenced a marital relationship after age 60 and died within five years of the relationship commencing. From 1 January 2008 full benefits will be paid if the marital or couple relationship has existed for at least three years. Where the post-retirement relationship has existed for less than three years, a pro-rata of the spouse’s pension will be payable.

Where a spouse previously had a marital or couple relationship with the deceased person but not at the time of death, a spouse benefit may still be payable if:

- at the time of the deceased person’s death the spouse was legally married to the deceased person; and
- in the opinion of the Board/Delegate, the spouse was wholly or substantially dependent upon the deceased person at the time of death.

Temporary absence or hospitalisation

The MSB Rules provide that a person may be deemed to be living with another person on a permanent and bonafide domestic basis where the Board/Delegate is of the opinion that an absence is a temporary absence or an absence resulting from an illness or infirmity.

Who is an eligible child?

An eligible child is a child of the deceased who:

- has not attained age 16, **or**
- has not attained age 25 and is a full-time student not ordinarily engaged in employment.

A child of the deceased also includes:

- an ex-nuptial child, a stepchild, an adopted child, a foster child, a ward, or a child within the meaning of the *Family Law Act 1975* of the deceased person, **or**
- a child or ex-nuptial child of the spouse, who was wholly or substantially dependent upon the deceased at the time of death.

For a full copy of these definitions and/or clarification please contact ComSuper.

Spouse of a pensioner

If the deceased was a pensioner at the time of death, a spouse's pension is payable at the deceased pensioner's full rate for seven paydays.

This additional amount is made up of the difference between what the late pensioner was receiving and what the spouse is entitled to receive for six full paydays and part of the fortnight in which the pensioner passed away. ComSuper pays the spouse this additional amount as a lump sum with their first payment.

Following this, pension is payable at the rate of 67 per cent of the deceased's pension and is increased by 11 per cent for each eligible child, up to 100 per cent of the deceased's pension, where there are three or more eligible children.

Table 1: Spouse Pension Rate

No. of Eligible Children	Pension %
None	67
One	78
Two	89
Three or more	100

Pension information

When is the pension paid?

Payment of pensions, including any arrears, will commence on the first available payday after you have provided the relevant documentation, and your eligibility has been assessed.

Who pays the pension?

ComSuper first establishes entitlement to pension. Payment is made by ComSuper on behalf of the MSB Board.

Method of payment

Pension is paid by direct credit to an approved financial institution (bank, building society, credit union) of your choice, within Australia. If at any time, after the pension has commenced, you wish to change the institution to which the pension is being credited, you will need to contact ComSuper by telephoning **1300 001 877**. This must be done one week before payday to ensure payment to your new account. We recommend that you do not close your old account until such time as payment to your new account has commenced.

Tax File Number Declaration form

The information you provide on this form will determine how much tax is deducted from your pension. Please note, you can only claim the tax free threshold against one source of income.

Pension increases

The legislation provides for bi-annual increases based on upward movements to the Consumer Price Index. These increases are paid on the first payday in January and July each year. There are proportionate adjustments if pensions have been paid for only part of the preceding six months.

When does the pension cease?

A spouse pension is payable for your lifetime.

Children's pension

The amount of pension payable to a spouse is increased for each eligible child with the maximum rate being payable where there are three or more eligible children.

Pension payable in respect of a child will cease upon the child reaching age 16 unless the child remains in full-time education in which case payment will continue until either full-time education ceases or the student attains age 25, whichever occurs first.

Full-time study details

For children over age 16 but less than age 25 to be regarded as eligible children we need to establish that they are full-time students.

Students are reviewed at the beginning of each academic year to ensure they have continued full-time study. If a student ceases full-time study during the academic year you must advise ComSuper immediately to avoid any overpayment of pension.

Advice and more information

If you wish, you can seek information from ComSuper on **1300 001 877** on your options and completion of this form.

You can also read:

- **The MilitarySuper Book (MBOOK)**
- **Dependants' Benefits fact sheet (MBo2)**
- **Taxation Concessions for Pensions fact sheet (MSo8)**

All these publications are available on the MilitarySuper website at: www.militarysuper.gov.au

A Financial Advisor may also be able to assist.

Privacy

The MSB Board and its Administrator, ComSuper, are collecting the information on this form for the following reasons:

- to confirm your identity
- to assess your eligibility for payment/rollover of the benefit
- to pay your benefit or to roll it over
- to contact you

The MSB Board and ComSuper are committed to protecting any personal information we hold about you. Your information will not be used for any other purpose or disclosed to another party unless:

- you authorise us to do so
- the disclosure is authorised by law. This may include disclosing your personal information to other Government agencies that have specific legislative authority to collect this information (for example the Australian Taxation Office, Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs). We will not disclose your personal information to these agencies unless it is lawful to do so
- it is to an independent research firm who may, on our behalf, invite you to participate in a survey about our service (they are required to protect this information from disclosure to another party). If you do not want your contact details passed to this research firm, please put a cross in the box at Question 28A on page 8 of the benefit application form.

Contact

We must provide you with any information you need to understand your benefit entitlements.

If you have any further questions about your benefit you can contact us in the following ways:

Visit

Unit 4 Cameron Offices
Chandler Street
Belconnen ACT 2617

Mail

PO Box 22
Belconnen ACT 2616

Email

members@enq.militarysuper.gov.au

Phone

1300 006 727
for the cost of a local call

Fax

(02) 6272 9617

Internet

www.militarysuper.gov.au

When contacting MilitarySuper, please remember to quote the reference number of the deceased.

How to complete this application

Most questions are self-explanatory. However additional information regarding important or optional questions is provided hereunder.

1. About the deceased

This segment provides primary identification details to ensure the correct records are used to calculate your benefit.

2. About yourself

This segment provides necessary details about yourself to enable benefits to be paid in your name. If you will be receiving a pension it is important that you keep ComSuper informed of any changes of postal address, residential address or name.

3. Relationship details

The details you provide here will help ComSuper to establish your eligibility for spouse's benefits. Be sure to include a copy of your marriage certificate/registered relationship certificate for verification.

4. Details of children

You need to advise if there are any children who could be regarded as eligible children. Remember to include copies of full birth certificates for each child with this application.

5. Payment details

This segment lets you tell ComSuper where to pay your pension.

The account must be an **Australian account** held in your name only or jointly between yourself and one other person (excluding the deceased). Joint accounts held with your late spouse are sometimes frozen by the bank and may not be able to be used. Please check with the bank before providing details of a joint account with the deceased

6. Declaration

Be sure to sign the declaration to avoid delay in your payment.

7. Attachments

Please ensure relevant documents are included.

Tax File Number

In accordance with the Taxation Laws Amendment (Tax File Numbers) Act 1988, the MSB Board is required to deduct PAYG tax at the highest marginal tax rate plus Medicare levy from benefits if a person does not provide a Tax File Number (TFN).

If you have not been issued a TFN you should lodge an Australian Taxation Office Application/Enquiry form with the Taxation Office. Forms are available at all Taxation Offices. You must provide proof of identity at the time you lodge the form.

Disclaimer

IT IS IMPORTANT YOU KNOW – THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS GENERAL ADVICE OR INFORMATION ONLY

Any financial product advice in this document is general advice only and has been prepared without taking account of your personal objectives, financial situation or needs. Therefore, before acting on any such general advice, you should consider the appropriateness of the advice, having regard to your own objectives, financial situation or needs. You may wish to do so with or without the assistance of a licensed financial advisor.

PART D**Relationship details**

This information should be completed if you were:

- not legally married to the deceased
- in a marital or couple relationship with the deceased for less than three years
- not in a relationship with the deceased that was registered under a law of a State or Territory as a prescribed kind of relationship

or

- not living together.

17. At the date of death, had you been in this relationship for a continuous period of 3 years or more?

- Yes
- No—Please complete **Questions 18 to 21**

18. Were you living with the deceased on a permanent and bona fide domestic basis at the date of death?

- Yes—Date you commenced living with the deceased

D	D	/	M	M	/	Y	Y	Y	Y

Please attach statutory declarations completed by two persons outside your immediate family (preferably by professional or business people) who can affirm that the relationship existed on a permanent and bona fide domestic basis. The statutory declarations from these people will need to cover:

- their name, address and occupation;
- their relationship to both you and the deceased and how long they knew each of you respectively, individually and as a couple;
- whether they considered you and the deceased to be in a marital or couple relationship at the date of death; and
- any other information that they believe to be true and relevant.
—Go to **Question 20**

- No—Go to **Question 19**

19. Was the separation due to illness or posting

- Yes—If separated due to illness, please provide a letter from the treating physician attesting to the illness suffered by the deceased or spouse, confirming that this was the reason for hospitalisation or nursing home care. If separated due to posting please provide confirmation from Defence.—Go to **Question 21**
- No—Go to **Question 20**

20. Were you wholly or substantially dependent upon the deceased at the date of death?

- Yes—Please include details of total fortnightly income and expenditure at the time of the death and attach any documents which support your claim.
- No

PART F**Full-time student details**

If you have more than one child over the age of 16, please photocopy this page and fill in the student details for each additional child. Please ensure all copies for all children are returned with this form.

24. Please provide details of any full-time student over the age of 16 and less than age 25. The principal/ registrar of the school/college/university will have to verify the student's attendance.

Name of Student																												
Name of School/College/ University																												
Address of School/ College/University																												
	SUBURB														STATE				POST CODE									
Type of course																												
Duration of course	D D		/		M M		/		Y Y Y Y				to		D D		/		M M		/		Y Y Y Y					
Stamp of School/College/ University																												

I certify that this student, whose date of birth is

D D		/		M M		/		Y Y Y Y			

and address is recorded as

ADDRESS																											
SUBURB														STATE				POST CODE									

is undertaking full time study.

Principal/Registrar
signature

SIGNATURE																											

Date signed

D D		/		M M		/		Y Y Y Y			

PART H

Identification requirements

26. To protect against fraud, safeguard your benefit and comply with the Government's Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing Legislation, we need you to provide documentation to prove your identity. Please be aware that under some circumstances we may request further information from you. If you are unable to provide documentation of the type set out below you should speak to an information officer on **1300 006 727**.

All documents provided to confirm your identity must be certified.

You will need to provide certified copies of

- one document from **column A** in the table below, OR
- one document from **column B** AND one document from **column C**

For example, you could provide a certified copy of your driver's licence (from **column A**) OR a certified copy of your birth certificate AND a certified copy of your tax return with your current residential address.

Birth certificate or birth extracts are required to support all applications for children's benefits and where the person is over the age of 18 for identity purposes they must also supply a document from **column A**, **column C** or **photographic ID from the school or college**. Where a child is under school age the claimant must also provide a medicare card or other documentation listing both the caregiver and child.

These documents may be the same as provided to confirm the eligibility of a child of the deceased, and need to be certified.

A	B	C
Driver's licence or permit issued by State or Territory or foreign government	Birth Certificate or Birth Extract, issued by an Australian or foreign Government (either in English or accompanied by English translation prepared by an accredited translator)	Copy of a rates bill with the same address and name as on the application
Passport (current or expired by less than two years)	Australian Citizenship certificate	Copy of an electricity or gas bill with the same address and name as on the application
An identification or proof of age card issued by a State or Territory, containing a photograph	Citizenship certificate issued by a foreign country (either in English or accompanied by an English translation prepared by an accredited translator)	Copy of a tax return letter from the ATO with the same address and name as on the application
A national identity card, containing a photograph, issued by a foreign government (either in English or accompanied by an English translation prepared by an accredited translator)	Pension or other social security/ DVA benefit card	A letter from Centrelink or DVA with the same address and name as on the application
	ADF Discharge papers or an ADF ID card	For a person under the age of 18, a letter from a school principal, within three months of application, stating the name of the student, residential address and period of time the student attended the school

All copies of documents provided to MilitarySuper must be certified as true and correct copies of the original by one of the persons listed in the section **Attachment Reference** at the end of this form.

The person certifying your documentation must confirm in writing that you are the valid holder of the ID that you are presenting and that any copies are true copies of the original.

The certification must include the name, address, occupation, telephone number and registration number (if applicable) of the certifying authority.

If you are providing copies of bills or statements, you should black out any personal financial information or details of transactions in order to protect your privacy. Copies of identification provided will be stored electronically in a secure environment. The paper copies will be securely destroyed. All copies will only be used for the purpose of confirming your identity.

List the documents you have attached to prove your identity:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

PART I**Tax File Number**

27. Under the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993, your superannuation fund is authorised to collect your TFN, which will only be used for lawful purposes.

These purposes may change in the future as a result of legislative change. We may disclose your TFN to another superannuation provider, when your benefits are being transferred, unless you request in writing that your TFN not be disclosed to any other superannuation provider.

It is not an offence not to quote your TFN. However giving us your TFN will have the following advantages (which may not otherwise apply):

- we will be able to accept all types of contributions (subject to scheme rules);
- the tax on contributions to your superannuation account/s will not increase;
- other than the tax that may ordinarily apply, no additional tax will be deducted when you start drawing down your superannuation benefits; and
- it will make it much easier to trace different superannuation accounts in your name so that you receive all your superannuation benefits when you retire.

If you have already provided your TFN to ComSuper, you are under no obligation to provide it again in this application.

Your Tax File Number

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Your Tax File Number remains confidential

PART J**Declaration**

28. I declare that:
- I have been advised to read the Product Disclosure Statement for the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme before completing this application form;
 - the information I have supplied is complete and correct.
 - I also declare in relation to my Tax File Number (TFN) that:
 - I have read and understood the information set out in Part I—I understand that supplying my TFN is optional and that if I have not provided my TFN, tax will be deducted at the highest marginal rate;
 - the TFN I have provided is the same number advised to me by the Australian Taxation Office;

I understand that if I have not provided all the required information, this application may be returned to me for completion and payment may be delayed.

Signature and date

SIGNATURE

Date signed

D	D	/	M	M	/	Y	Y	Y	Y
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- I do not want my contact details passed to an independent firm commissioned for the purpose of participating in research on the service provided by ComSuper.

Note: Don't wait until you have a copy of the deceased's death certificate before lodging this application. The death certificate can be sent later.

Attachment reference **Persons before whom documents may be certified**

1. A person who is currently licensed or registered under a law to practice in one of the following occupations:

Occupations

- Chiropractor
- Dentist
- Medical practitioner
- Nurse
- Optometrist
- Patent attorney
- Pharmacist
- Physiotherapist
- Psychologist
- Trade marks attorney
- Veterinary surgeon
- Legal Practitioner

2. A person who is enrolled on the roll of the Supreme Court of a State or Territory or the High Court of Australia, as a legal practitioner (however described)

3. **A person who is in the following list**

- Agent of the Australian Postal Corporation who is in charge of an office supplying postal services to the public
- Australian Consular Officer or Australian Diplomatic Officer (within the meaning of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*)
- Authorised representative or officer of an Australian Financial Services licensee, having 2 or more years of continuous service with one or more licensee
- Bailiff
- Bank officer with 2 or more continuous years of service
- Building society officer with 2 or more years of continuous service
- Chief executive officer of a Commonwealth court
- Clerk of a court
- Commissioner for Affidavits
- Commissioner for Declarations
- Credit union officer with 2 or more years of continuous service
- Employee of the Australian Trade Commission who is:
 - (a) in a country or place outside Australia; and
 - (b) authorised under paragraph 3 (d) of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*; and
 - (c) exercising his or her function in that place
- Employee of the Commonwealth who is:
 - (a) in a country or place outside Australia; and
 - (b) authorised under paragraph 3 (c) of the *Consular Fees Act 1955*; and
 - (c) exercising his or her function in that place
- Fellow of the National Tax Accountants' Association
- Finance company officer with 2 or more years of continuous service
- Statutory Office holder not otherwise listed

Attachment reference (continued)

- Judge of a court
- Justice of the Peace
- Magistrate
- Marriage celebrant registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*
- Master of a court
- Member of Chartered Secretaries Australia
- Member of Engineers Australia, other than at the grade of student
- Member of the Association of Taxation and Management Accountants
- Member of the Australian Defence Force who is:
 - (a) an officer; or
 - (b) a non-commissioned officer within the meaning of the *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982* with 2 or more years of continuous service; or
 - (c) a warrant officer within the meaning of that Act
- Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants or the National Institute of Accountants
- Member of:
 - (a) the Parliament of the Commonwealth; or
 - (b) the Parliament of a State; or
 - (c) a Territory legislature; or
 - (d) a local government authority of a State or Territory
- Minister of religion registered under Subdivision A of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*
- Notary public
- Permanent employee of the Australian Postal Corporation with 2 or more years of continuous service who is employed in an office supplying postal services to the public
- Permanent employee of:
 - (a) the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth authority; or
 - (b) a State or Territory or a State or Territory authority; or
 - (c) a local government authority;
 with 2 or more years of continuous service who is not specified in another item in this Part
- Person before whom a statutory declaration may be made under the law of the State or Territory in which the declaration is made
- Police officer
- Registrar, or Deputy Registrar, of a court
- Senior Executive Service employee of:
 - (a) the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth authority; or
 - (b) a State or Territory or a State or Territory authority
- Sheriff
- Sheriff's officer
- Teacher employed on a full-time basis at a school or tertiary education institution
- Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy