

claiming a benefit for a terminal illness or terminal medical condition



If you are diagnosed with a terminal illness or medical condition, you may be eligible to claim for:

1. Death Cover – terminal illness insurance benefit due to terminal illness, and/or
2. the early release of your superannuation balance due to a terminal medical condition.

This document explains how you can make a claim for either or both of the above insurance and superannuation components.

When can I claim for the early release of my superannuation account benefit?

If you have been diagnosed with a terminal medical condition you may be eligible for release of your superannuation benefit. A terminal medical condition exists in relation to a person at a particular time if the following circumstances exist:

- a) a medical practitioner and a medical specialist have certified, jointly or separately, that the person suffers from an illness, or has incurred an injury, that is likely to result in the death of the person within a period (the certification period) that ends not more than 24 months after the date of the certification;
- b) the specialist must be practising in an area related to the illness or injury suffered by the person;
- c) for each of the certificates, the certification period has not ended.

When can I claim the Death Cover terminal illness benefit?

If you are under age 70:

- a) a medical practitioner and a medical specialist have certified, jointly or separately, that the person suffers from an illness, or has incurred an injury, that is likely to result in the death of the person within a period (the certification period) that ends not more than 12 months after the date of the certification;
- b) the specialist must be practising in an area related to the illness or injury suffered by the person;
- c) for each of the certificates, the certification period has not ended.

If you are between 70 and 74 and 6 months:

- a) a medical practitioner and a medical specialist have certified, jointly or separately, that the person suffers from an illness, or has incurred an injury, that is likely to result in the death of the person within a period (the certification period) that ends not more than 6 months after the date of the certification;
- b) the specialist must be practising in an area related to the illness or injury suffered by the person;
- c) for each of the certificates, the certification period has not ended.

Do you have Death Cover insurance?

Not every HESTA member has Death Cover as part of their membership. Generally, you will not have Death Cover if:

- you're over 75
- you have previously claimed a lump-sum disablement benefit from HESTA
- your cover ceased because your super account balance was too low to pay your insurance premiums
- you were ineligible or cancelled your cover.

Other limitations may also apply. If you have Death Cover you can claim for both the early release of your superannuation benefit and the Death Cover terminal illness insurance benefit. If you do not have Death Cover, your terminal illness benefit will consist solely of your account balance.

How does the claim process work?

1. Prepare your claim

In order to start the claim process we require you to complete a Terminal Illness (TI) claim form and provide two medical reports. One report must be completed by your general practitioner and the other by your specialist physician. In addition, diagnostic test reports must be provided — your specialist or general practitioner will need to provide these.

You can also download this brochure from hesta.com.au/formsandbrochures

The *checklist* overleaf will guide you through the other information you need to provide.

2. Lodge your claim

To help us process your claim as quickly as possible:

1. check you have completed, signed and dated the claim forms before submitting them
2. attach the two required medical reports, one of which is a specialist report and the diagnostic test reports
3. check identification documents have been certified correctly.

If you need help to complete the forms, call 1800 813 327.

Any claim for a terminal illness insurance benefit will be reviewed by our insurer. Based on all information provided, they will accept, defer or decline the claim. Your claim may be declined if our insurer does not regard you as terminally ill based on your specialist physician's opinion and the insurance policy definition.

Before a final decision is made, your claim will be reviewed by us to determine if our insurer's decision was fair and reasonable.

If you are not eligible to claim the insurance benefit, you may still qualify for early release of your superannuation account balance, in this circumstance some of your superannuation account balance would be retained to ensure your Death Cover remains in place.

3. Complaints process

If your claim is declined, you may ask for it to be reviewed by providing additional medical evidence, or you may lodge a complaint with us.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your complaint, you may take your complaint to the Superannuation Complaints Tribunal (SCT). There are time limits on when you can make a complaint to the SCT about a TI benefit claim. Call the SCT on 1300 884 114 for more information.

How much will it cost?

You will need to pay the cost of obtaining the medical reports you submit to make your claim. No exit fees are charged.

What happens if I receive my super account balance due to a terminal medical condition?

If you're eligible for the *early release of your superannuation account balance due to a terminal medical condition* and you also have Death Cover, an amount of approximately \$1,500 will be retained so the cost of your insurance fees can be met.

If you're eligible for *early release of your superannuation account balance due to a terminal medical condition* and a *Death Cover terminal illness benefit*, your Death Cover will cease along with any Lump-sum Total and Permanent Disablement Cover.

If your death occurs while the terminal illness claim is being processed, it will become a death benefit claim.

Visit *Member Online* at hesta.com.au/mol to update your beneficiaries or contact us for a *Change of member details* form. You can download this form at hesta.com.au

Tax on benefits

TI benefits may be paid tax free during the period that you are certified to be terminally ill.

Need help?

If you need help with your TI benefit claim, call 1800 813 327.

Terminal illness cover prior to 29 February 2012

Improved insurance cover only applies to events that occurred after 29 February 2012. If a member stopped work, or if a member is not performing their usual duties and hours due to sickness or disability before 29 February 2012 they are covered under the previous insurance arrangements.

Help claiming social security benefits

The Welfare Rights Centre is an independent community legal centre specialising in social security law and its administration by Centrelink.

The Centre has a long-standing relationship with HESTA, guiding members through the social security maze when they are off work and need financial help. This free service for HESTA members provides information, advice and assistance to identify and access social security rights and entitlements, including:

- how to apply for Sickness Allowance, Newstart Allowance, Disability Support Pension and the Family Tax Benefit
- how to sort out problems with obtaining entitlements
- how receiving an insured benefit and/or the release of your super account balance could affect social security entitlements.

The above is general information only. It does not constitute legal advice. If you need legal advice about your social security entitlement, please contact the Welfare Rights Centre on (02) 9211 5300 (Sydney) or call 1800 226 028. The Welfare Rights Centre, Sydney, is a community legal centre which specialises in social security law, administration and policy. It is entirely independent of Centrelink. All assistance is free. For more information, visit welfarerights.org.au

Terminal illness medical condition and/or Terminal illness insurance benefit checklist

Your claim cannot be finalised until all of the following documents have been received:

- Completed, signed and dated *claim statement and payment authority*.
- Copies of most recent pathology and diagnostic reports from the treating specialist (**Note: failure to attach diagnostic reports will delay your claim**).
- Two completed medical reports: one from your treating specialist physician and one from your general practitioner.
- A certified copy** of your proof of identity document (see Certifying your identification).
- If you have changed your name, a **certified copy** of your proof of name change.
- If you are requesting payment by EFT, proof of your bank account details, including BSB.

contact us

hesta@hesta.com.au | 1800 813 327 | Locked Bag 5136, Parramatta NSW 2124 | hesta.com.au

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certifying your identification

Name:

Membership number (if known):

Proving your identity

To protect you from the risk of identity fraud, you will need to provide certified identification to make a change of name or details, benefit claim, open a HESTA income stream or apply for refund of contributions.

You can provide certified documents in hard copy or you can provide consent for us to verify your identity electronically with your accompanying application form.

Select from Option 1 (electronic proof of ID) or Option 2 (certified copies of ID documents).

Option 1: Electronic proof of identity

Please provide at least TWO of the following for verification.

Electronic verification

If you select this option you do not have to attach any certified documents. We will do all the checks for you.

I authorise the use of the below information for this purpose (see 'Certifying your identification'):

My Medicare number is:

Exp. date:

I am person number on this Medicare card

and

My Australian Driver licence number is:

Exp. date:

State of issue:

and/or my Australian passport number is:

Place of birth:

Country of residence:

Name on citizenship document (if applicable):

Family name at birth:

Signature:

Date signed:

Option 2: Provide certified copies of ID documents

This step-by-step guide details the types of documents we can accept as proof of your identity and what you need to do to certify them correctly.

Hard copy verification

If you select this option you must attach all certified documents.

[Acceptable documents](#)

either

A certified copy of a primary photographic identification document:

- current photographic driver's licence issued under state or territory law (copy of the front and back)
- current passport (including English translation where

or

A certified copy of a primary non-photographic identification document:

- birth certificate
- citizenship certificate issued by the Commonwealth of Australia
- pension card issued by Centrelink that entitles you to financial benefits.

and

A certified copy of a secondary identification document:

- a notice issued by a local government body or utilities provider within the preceding 3 months that shows your name and residential address.
- notice issued by Commonwealth, state or territory government within the past 12 months that shows your name and residential address. For example:
 - Tax Office notice of assessment
 - a notice recording the provision of financial benefits i.e.

Verification of Identification

I consent to the trustee of HESTA verifying my identification documents.

Signature:

Date signed:

HESTA

Locked Bag 5136, Parramatta, NSW 2124.

Have you changed your name or are you signing on behalf of another person?

If you've changed your name or are signing on behalf of the applicant, you'll need to provide a certified linking document proving a relationship exists between two (or more) names.

For a **change of name** you can request linking documents (eg Marriage certificate, Deed poll, Change of name certificate, Divorce decree or Registered relationship certificate) from the Births Deaths and Marriages Registration Office.

If you are **signing on behalf of the applicant**, you will need to provide Guardianship papers and Power of Attorney documents.

How to certify

The person authorised to sight and certify documents must:

- sight the ORIGINAL and the copy and make sure they are identical, and
- write or stamp 'certified true copy' on all copied pages followed by their signature, printed name, qualification (e.g. Justice of the Peace), registration number (if applicable) and date.

What does a certified document look like?

Samantha Sample has provided a photocopy of her identification that included **signature, full name, date of birth, and current residential address.**

- The certifying authority has sighted the original identification, and confirmed that the copy is a true copy.
- Details for the certifying authority are included: **full name, qualification, registration number** (if applicable), **date and signature.**



"I certify that this document is a true copy of the original"

Name: Kate Anderson
Qualification: JP
Registration no: 222222
Date: 31 July 2015

Do proof of identity and/or linking documents need to be translated?

If your proof of identity and/or linking documents are in a language that is not understood by the person carrying out the verification, they must be accompanied by an English translation prepared by an accredited translator.

Who can certify my identification document?

For a full listing of people who can certify your documents, see *Statutory Declarations Regulations 1993*. Some of the people who can certify copies of originals as true copies are:

- a medical practitioner
- a nurse
- an optometrist
- a psychologist
- a pharmacist
- a chiropractor
- a veterinary surgeon
- an accountant (member of CA, CPA or IPA)
- a full-time teacher employed at a school or tertiary institution
- an officer with, or authorised representative of, a holder of an Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL), having five or more years continuous service with one or more licensees
- a notary public officer
- a police officer
- a Justice of the Peace
- a magistrate
- a chief executive officer of a Commonwealth court

What if I don't certify my identity documents correctly?

If the identification documents you send with your application are not certified or incorrectly certified, we may call you to verify your identity over the phone. If you're unable to give us enough information to identify you over the phone, you may need to resend certified proof of identity documents. This will lead to delays in processing your application.

Alternatively you can give your consent for electronic verification of your documents to be completed in the event that your documents have not been correctly certified, please sign the consent section under *Certifying your identification.*

Tax file numbers

Why we ask for your TFN

We are authorised to collect your tax file number (TFN) under the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993* (SIS). Supplying your TFN is voluntary and it is not an offence if you choose not to provide it.

We are required by law to take the necessary steps to properly safeguard your TFN and our intention is to use it only for lawful superannuation purposes.*

We may disclose your TFN to another superannuation provider if your benefits are transferred, unless you instruct us in writing not to disclose it to any other fund.

*Please note: future legislation may result in changes to these purposes.

Why it's important to provide your TFN to us

- Members who have not provided their TFN will have contributions taxed at the highest marginal tax rate.
- Your HESTA account will be able to accept after-tax contributions. If you are eligible, you may be entitled to a government co-contribution on any personal after-tax contributions you make.
- No additional tax will be deducted when you start withdrawing your super benefits (other than the tax usually deducted from super).
- It will make tracing different super accounts in your name much easier, so you can combine all your super accounts into one (if you wish) and receive all super benefits due to you when you retire.

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