



## WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN EDITION OF FFP NEWS

Welcome to Future Financial Planning News.

We hope you have all settled well into the new year and we look forward to continuing to assist you with your financial goals throughout 2018.

Inside this issue we focus on the importance of a beneficiary for your superannuation and below we also ask all our valued clients if they might know any family or friends who may benefit from a chat with Rhys regarding their financial situation. If so, we would love to hear from them.

Please also note that our office will be closed on the following days due to public holidays:

Friday, 31st March 2018 - Good Friday

Monday, 2nd April 2018 - Easter Monday

Wednesday, 25th April 2018 - Anzac Day Holiday

Monday, 11th June 2018 - Queen's Birthday Holiday

With the Easter break almost here, we hope you all enjoy a safe and happy Easter.

Kind regards, Rhys, Michelle and Michelle



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## Do you know someone that needs our help?

**Do you have any family, friends, colleagues who are time poor or concerned about the future security of their families and don't understand many of the financial aspects of their lives?**

If you answered yes, and believe these family/friends could benefit from a no obligation meeting with our planner, Rhys Fairlie, we would greatly appreciate your referral.

Maybe they have more than one super account, are wondering about personal/income protection insurance or maybe they are nearing retirement age. Whatever their age or situation we are happy to discuss their financial plan or answer any questions they may have.


We would love the opportunity to work with them to put in place a plan that provides focus and clarity and that keeps them informed over time of the things they need to do to reach their financial goals.

We enjoy working with all our clients and invite you to tell your family and friends about us, and allow us to help them too.



Oliver's insights is a special commentary by Dr. Shane Oliver, Head of Investment Strategy and Chief Economist at AMP Capital. Dr Oliver is a regular media commentator on major economic and investment market issues.

You can keep up to date with Dr Oliver's latest insights at: [www.ampcapital.com.au/news/olivers-insights.asp](http://www.ampcapital.com.au/news/olivers-insights.asp)

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# Superannuation and the financial ties that bind

They say, only one thing in life is certain. And while we would rather plan our next holiday than consider what's going to happen when we die, it is one inevitable event that we should all plan for.

When someone dies, it's a very difficult time for all the family. A Will provides some assurances as to how our money will be distributed. But what about superannuation? For many people, their superannuation investment represents one of the largest portions of their assets. Therefore, it makes sense to ensure it is appropriately allocated to loved ones, without causing delays and confusion. Here's what you can do:

## Update your details

It's wise to spend some time deciding who you want your superannuation benefits to go to when you die, and then ensuring those wishes are properly reflected in your fund arrangements.

Secondly, make sure that you update any details with your super fund if your circumstances change. Marriage, divorce, the birth of a child or the death of a beneficiary are all life events that may cause you to want to update your details.

## Beneficiaries

Super fund trustees usually pay death benefits to one or more of your dependants or to your estate.

Dependants include a spouse (including de facto partners), your children and/or your spouse's children, and anyone who was financially dependent on you.

They also include anyone with whom you had an interdependency relationship. This covers people who (related or not) live together and provide each other with financial or domestic support or personal care.

The money can also be paid to your legal representative or executor of your estate.

If you choose not to nominate any beneficiaries, your super fund's trustees will typically use their discretion to allocate the benefit. In many cases this is straightforward. However, those involving ex-spouses or competing claims by family members can sometimes become drawn out.

## Binding or non-binding nominations

Most super funds allow you to choose from binding or non-binding nominations of dependants which you can change at any time.

A non-binding or 'preferred beneficiary' nomination acts as a guide for the trustees. In many cases your nominated beneficiaries will receive your benefit but the trustees have the final say. This can be the case if, for example, you nominate someone who does not meet the definition of a dependant.

Non-binding nominations do not expire so it is wise to review them regularly.

A binding nomination is a written direction to fund trustees and gives them no discretionary power, providing your nomination is valid.

This nomination requires more careful management; it must be made in writing, signed in the presence of two witnesses who are not beneficiaries, and generally be renewed every three years.

## Regular reviews

A regular review is critical to ensure your beneficiary nomination keeps up with the changes in your life.

In some cases a binding nomination might be invalid if one of the nominated beneficiaries no longer meets the legal definition of a dependant.

If you opt for a binding nomination your super fund will provide you with additional information when you receive your annual statement. This includes the names of nominated beneficiaries, information about how such nominations apply, a statement on how to amend the nomination and the date on which it must be renewed to remain valid.

It's worth noting that there could be tax, pension or Centrelink implications for beneficiaries, so it pays to discuss your plans with them, and also seek the advice of a financial planner.

## What you need to know

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