How to monitor carry forward concessional contributions



1 July 2025

You may make concessional contributions that are greater than the annual cap if you are eligible to utilise unused concessional contribution cap from the previous five financial years. This could help you manage tax and save more for retirement.

What are concessional contributions?

There are many ways you can contribute to superannuation. Commonly contributions are categorised as concessional or non-concessional. Concessional contributions (CCs) include:

- contributions made for you by your employer (eg Superannuation Guarantee and salary sacrifice super contributions), and
- personal contributions that you claim as a personal tax deduction.

CCs (within your cap - see below) are taxed at the concessional rate of up to 15% (or up to 30% if your income1 from certain sources exceeds \$250,000) within your super fund. However, additional tax and penalties may apply for contributions made above your cap. Non-concessional contributions include those made with after-tax money, such as your take home pay, or funds in your bank account. A different cap applies to non-concessional contributions. See ato.gov.au

What are catch-up contributions?

Caps apply to limit the contributions you can make to superannuation without having to pay additional tax and other penalties. Concessional contributions count towards the annual CC cap (\$30,000² for 2025/26). If you don't fully utilise your CC cap in the five previous financial years you can 'carry forward' the unused cap amount, and you may be eligible to make 'catch up' concessional contributions in the current financial year. For example, for the 2025/26 financial year, you may be eligible to utilise the unused cap amounts from 2020/21 to 2024/25. The annual CC cap for 2020/21 was \$25,000, for 2021/22 to 2023/24 was \$27,500 and for 2024/25 was \$30,000.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible to make catch up CCs, you need to:

- have a total 'total super balance'³ at 30 June prior below \$500,000 (eg at 30 June 2025 for the 2025/26 financial year)
- be eligible to make super contributions (up to age 754), and
- to claim a tax deduction for personal super contributions, the contribution is received by the super fund before you turn 67, otherwise you need to have met the work test in the financial year you're making the contribution or be eligible for the work test exemption.

You can only carry forward unused CCs for five financial years, after which they expire.

- 1 Income for this purpose includes taxable income, reportable fringe benefits, total net investment losses, net amount on which family trust distribution tax has been paid and low tax contributions (concessional contributions that are within your concessional cap).
- ² Cap may be indexed in future years.
- ³ Total super balance includes the total of all amounts you hold in super accumulation and pension accounts, in-transit rollovers, and if you have a self-managed super fund, it may also include your share of the outstanding balance of a limited recourse borrowing arrangement. The total is reduced by personal injury or structured settlement contributions made to super.
- ⁴ Super contributions can be received by the super fund up to 28 days following the end of the month you turn 75.

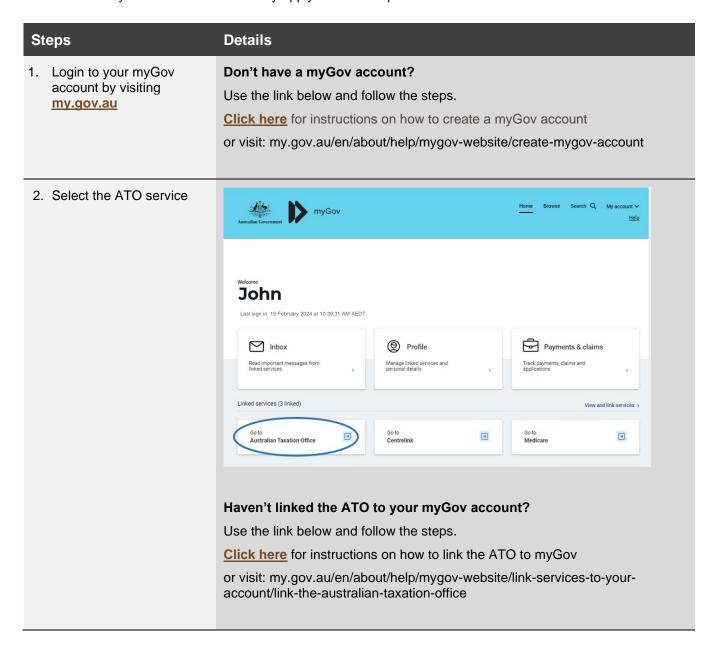
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How to access carry forward CC details on myGov

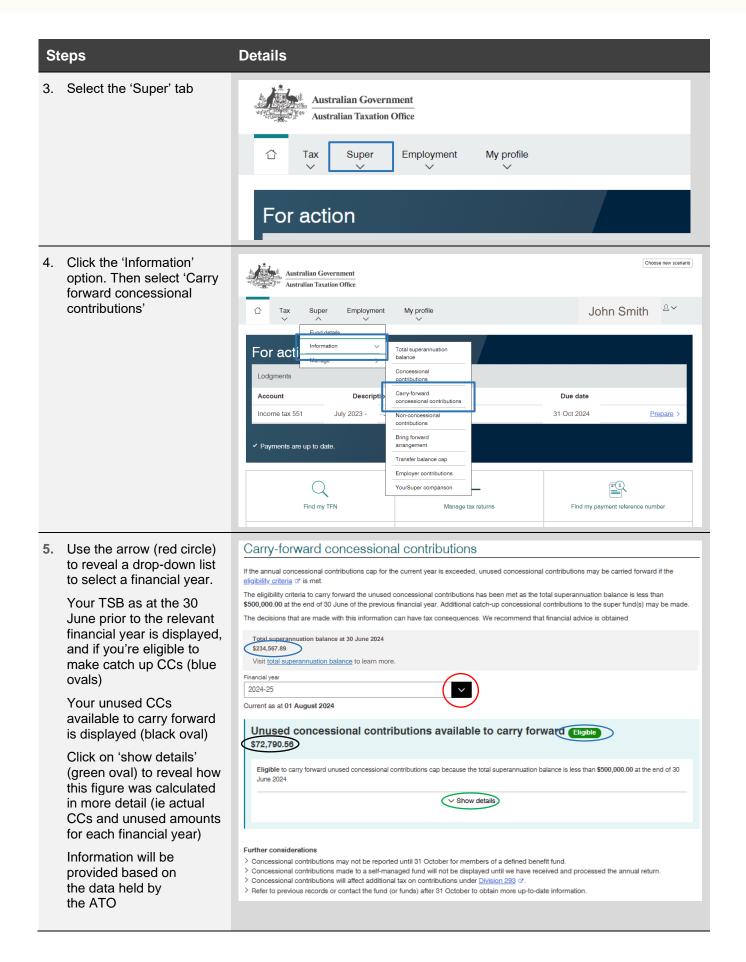
There are a few ways you can monitor your available carry forward CCs. This includes:

- keeping detailed records of all the contributions you and others (such as your employer) have made to your super accounts for the last five financial years
- contacting your super funds to check what contributions have been received to your account in the past (including the accounts you may have closed), and
- checking your details on myGov.

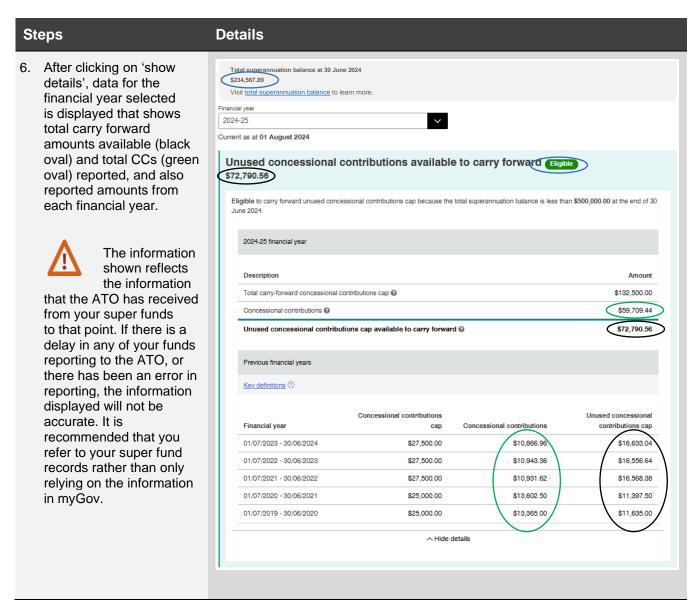
The following pages explain the steps to access your carry forward CC information through myGov. However, there may be a delay before your super fund reports details about your contributions to the ATO. It is recommended that you refer to your super fund records rather than only relying on the information in myGov as additional tax may apply if the CC cap is exceeded.



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Next steps

Contribution rules and eligibility criteria for catch up CCs are complex. This guide is not designed to provide comprehensive information about how the rules work or apply to you. It is important that you speak with your financial adviser, your registered tax agent and visit the ato.gov.au for more information.

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