

FINANCIAL PLANNING WEEK (AUGUST 22-28) ADVERTISING FEATURE

Don't wait until it's too late.

How will retirement look?



DON'T BE LEFT IN THE COLD: By obtaining high quality professional advice about your superannuation options, you too can aim for a warm and satisfying retirement.

**BY CATHERINE STAMATIS,
REGIONAL MANAGER,
STATEPLUS**

IT'S easy to let your super slip to the back of your mind. We live busy lives, after all. But as you near retirement, it's a good idea to think about how you can make the most of what you've got.

If you work in the public sector and are a member of a public sector superannuation scheme you're likely to have good prospects for a comfortable retirement. However, these schemes have complex rules. And unless you're an expert, it can be easy to miss opportunities to maximise the benefit you'll receive when you retire.

Let's look at the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS) as an example. What should you be doing with your contributions? Often people are focused on paying off the mortgage and don't realise they may be better off making additional contributions to their scheme instead.



CONSULT THE EXPERTS: "Have you ever felt you could be getting more from your retirement savings? You're probably right," says Catherine Stamatis from StatePlus.

Your CSS benefit is made up of three components: your employer-financed component, your productivity component, and your member component. By making the basic contribution of 5 per cent of your salary, you're increasing the member component of your benefit. But you also have the option of making supplementary contributions (in addition to your basic 5 per cent) which can increase the value of your member

component, giving you more money to live on in the retirement years.

Getting your contributions right doesn't just have an impact on your retirement benefit. Your contribution level will also impact the employer-financed component you receive if you leave your employer before retirement age and you have a deferred benefit.

With the right planning, retirement can be something to look forward to rather

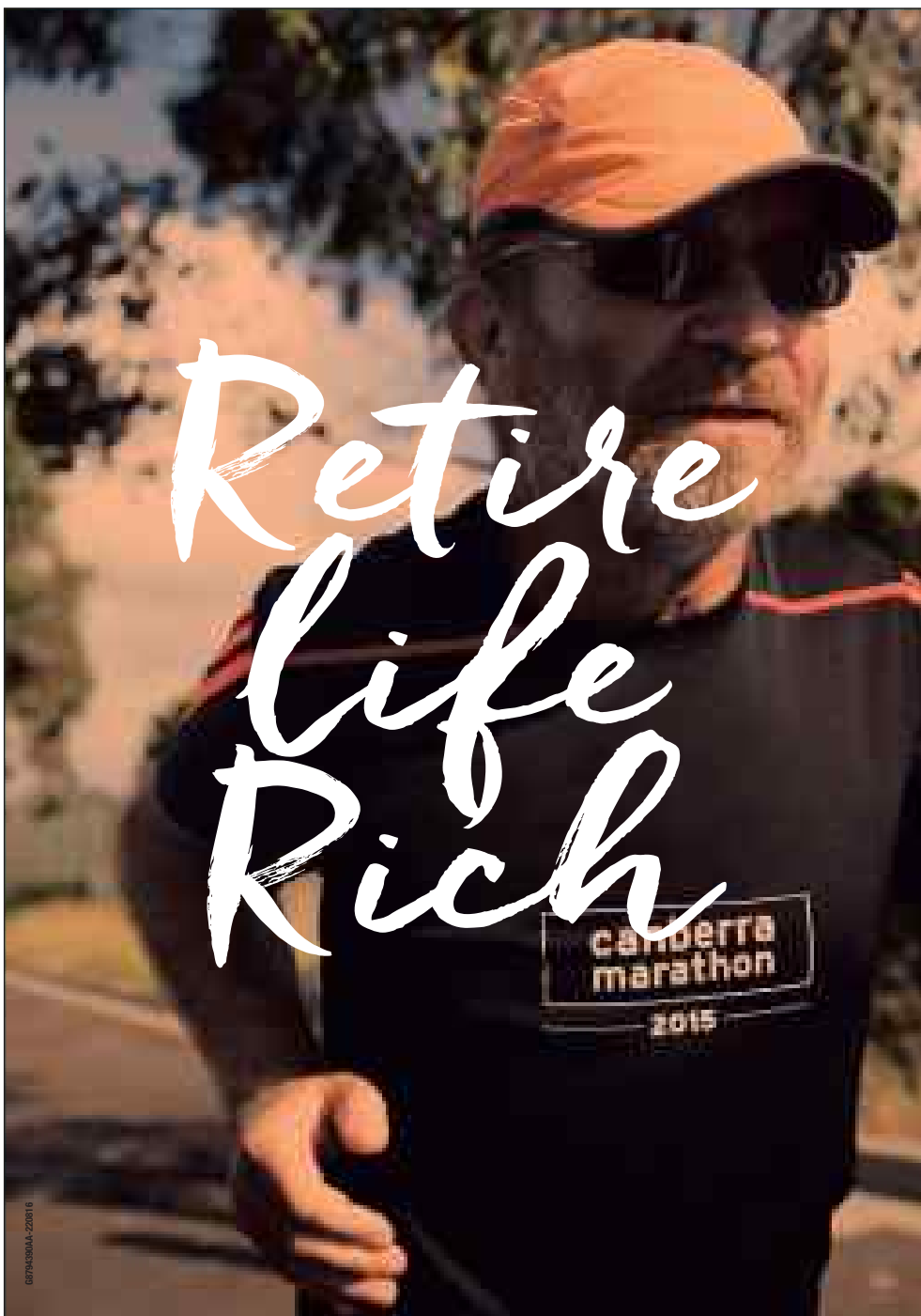
than worry about. And making the most of your scheme is a great place to start. These five questions will help you ensure you've got the fundamentals covered:

1. What should I be doing with my contributions?
2. Should I maximise my contributions or pay off my mortgage?
3. How is my benefit calculated?
4. What happens when I leave my employer or retire?
5. Should I take a pension or a lump sum when I retire?

If you're not sure about some answers, it could be time to speak to an expert.

A planner who specialises in public sector superannuation schemes will be able to cut through the complexity of your scheme and give you professional guidance about how to best secure your future.

For further information, to find office locations, or to book an appointment, phone: 1800 620 305 or visit: www.stateplus.com.au.



**“I retired from work.
Not from life.”**

Public sector super schemes can provide good prospects for a comfortable retirement. But they are complicated and it can be easy to miss opportunities to get the most out of your scheme. The good news is that expert help is available.

At StatePlus, we understand the ins and outs of public sector superannuation schemes. In fact, during the past 25 years we've helped thousands of people like you navigate their options in retirement. Our aim is to simplify the complex and give you the peace of mind that you've taken the right steps to live the lifestyle you want when you retire.

Visit stateplus.com.au/guide and find out how to get the most out of your public sector scheme.



StatePlus

Formerly State Super
Financial Services