



TE OPE KĀTUA O AOTEAROA
DEFENCE FORCE

New Zealand Defence Force
Savings Schemes

KIWISAVER RETIREMENT WITHDRAWALS



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When can I withdraw my KiwiSaver savings?

You can withdraw your KiwiSaver savings when you qualify for New Zealand Superannuation (currently at the age of 65).

You can continue to stay in KiwiSaver, but you will not be eligible for the Government contribution once you turn 65.

If you joined KiwiSaver or a complying superannuation fund before 1 July 2019, you may be subject to a five-year membership requirement before you can start making withdrawals.

Once you turn 65, you can opt out of this 'lock-in' period by making a retirement withdrawal. However, it's important to note that opting out means you'll no longer be able to get the Government contribution, and your employer can also stop their contributions.

What do I need to do to withdraw my KiwiSaver savings?

You will need to complete either a First Time Retirement Withdrawal Application form or a Subsequent Retirement Withdrawal(s) Application form, if you made a retirement withdrawal previously. The form is available for downloading on the www.nzdfsavings.mil.nz website or call our Helpline team on **0800 333 787**. The form needs to be returned to Mercer, the Scheme's Manager not Inland Revenue.

Congratulations on the steps you are taking to grow your retirement savings.

It is important to understand what options you have after you become eligible to withdraw your KiwiSaver money at retirement.

If you are eligible for a KiwiSaver Retirement withdrawal we strongly encourage you to obtain a retirement plan, prior to commencing withdrawals from KiwiSaver. Please contact Become Wealth or another financial and retirement adviser, to set up a retirement plan.

How long will it take to process my retirement withdrawal application?

For regular monthly withdrawals the first and subsequent payments will be processed on the 20th of each month following this request being received and processed. If the 20th falls on weekend or a public holiday, payment will be processed on the next business day.

For a partial withdrawal, payments may take up to five business days to process from when we receive the required withdrawal form.

Why do I need to verify my identity before I can make KiwiSaver withdrawals?

If we haven't verified your identity during your membership, to ensure that the funds are paid to the member who is eligible to make the withdrawal and to confirm that the person being paid is in fact the person who initially joined KiwiSaver.

How much will my savings be worth?

Your returns from the New Zealand Defence Force KiwiSaver Scheme (the Scheme) are a cash lump sum built up over time. There are a number of factors impacting on the amount you will receive. These include the amount of your own contributions and contributions made by NZDF or your employer and the Government. Your account balance will also be affected by investment returns achieved by your investment option/s, tax paid, fees charged and whether you have made any withdrawals before your retirement.

Is there a minimum amount which I have to withdraw?

If you would like to make regular withdrawals from your KiwiSaver account there is no minimum dollar amount that you have to withdraw.



If you would like to make a partial withdrawal the minimum withdrawal amount is \$500 per withdrawal.

The balance remaining after any withdrawal needs to be \$1,000 or more, otherwise the full amount will be paid out.

What type of withdrawals can I make?

You can choose to either:

- make up to four partial withdrawals each year,
- or make regular monthly withdrawals which will be paid into your account on the 20th of every month,
- or withdraw the full amount of your account balance.

What investment options can I withdraw my KiwiSaver money from?

If you invest in one investment option only, your withdrawal will come from that option.

If you invest in more than one investment option, you can withdraw your money proportionally from across your investment options or nominate one investment option to withdraw your money from.

How often can I make withdrawals?

If you choose to make regular withdrawals then these will be paid monthly into your nominated bank account on the 20th of each month. If you would like to receive less frequent payments then you will need to apply for a partial withdrawal.

If you would like to make a partial withdrawal it will be processed on the 20th of the month following your fully completed application form being received and processed each time. You can only make a maximum of four partial withdrawals per year.

How will I receive my money?

Your KiwiSaver withdrawal payments will be made directly to your nominated New Zealand bank account, building society or a credit union account.

The bank account must be in your name.

Do I need to let NZDF or my employer know if I want to stop contributing to KiwiSaver?

Yes, you will need to let NZDF or your employer know if you'd like to stop making contributions.

Can I still make contributions to my KiwiSaver account while making withdrawals?

Yes, you can still continue to contribute to your KiwiSaver account while making withdrawals.

Does my employer have to make contributions to my KiwiSaver after I become eligible for withdrawal?

No, your employer can stop making contributions to your KiwiSaver account on the day you become eligible to withdraw your KiwiSaver funds or from the next pay period unless you have agreed otherwise. If you are a member of NZDF, the current NZDF policy is to continue to make employer contributions to those aged 65 and over as long as the member contributes into their KiwiSaver account.

When will my KiwiSaver account be closed?

Once the full amount of your KiwiSaver account has been withdrawn, then your account will be closed. If your balance falls below \$1,000 the remaining funds will be paid out to you and your account closed. You can join KiwiSaver again at any stage if your circumstances change.

If applicable, please remember to cancel direct debits or automatic payments to your KiwiSaver account.

If I withdraw all of my money and change my mind, can I start KiwiSaver again?

Yes. You can join KiwiSaver again at any stage if your circumstances change.

Will Inland Revenue know I've fully withdrawn from KiwiSaver?

Yes, an account closure message will be sent from the Scheme to Inland Revenue.

Will I still be eligible for the Government contribution?

No, on the day you become eligible to withdraw your KiwiSaver savings you will stop being eligible for the Government contribution. If you became eligible to withdraw your funds part way through the year then you will be eligible for the Government contribution up to that point.

What happens to my investment strategy?

Once you become eligible to withdraw your KiwiSaver savings your investment strategy will not change automatically. It is important, however, that you take the opportunity to review your investment strategy and if you are unsure as to what is appropriate for you, seek advice from Become Wealth.

Are there any withdrawal fees?

No, there are no withdrawal fees in the New Zealand Defence Force KiwiSaver Scheme.

Will there be any changes to fees I pay to keep my KiwiSaver open?

Fees which are charged to administer and invest your KiwiSaver savings will remain the same.

Can I make KiwiSaver withdrawals if my spouse is making KiwiSaver withdrawals?

KiwiSaver is an individual's retirement savings scheme, so if you personally become eligible to withdraw funds you'll be able to make a withdrawal.

Do I pay tax on my withdrawals?

No, all withdrawals from your KiwiSaver account are tax-free.

Will I still have access to my account information online?

Yes, while you have KiwiSaver savings in your account you can still access and make changes to your details online.

Can I transfer to the New Zealand Defence Force KiwiSaver Scheme after becoming eligible to make a KiwiSaver Retirement Withdrawal?

While your KiwiSaver account remains open, you will be able to transfer your KiwiSaver to the New Zealand Defence Force KiwiSaver Scheme. You will need to complete an application form, which can be found at the back of the Scheme's Product Disclosure Statement or join online.

Call 0508 232 663
or email hello@become.nz.

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