

A guide to comparing super funds

There are a number of benefits in consolidating multiple super accounts into a single fund. So if you have more than one super fund, read on!

This workbook lists the key benefits and features you should consider before deciding into which fund you should consolidate your super. It's designed to help you:

- consider what you need from your super fund
- compare the benefits and features of your existing super funds against Asgard Elements
- take the next steps to consolidate your super funds.

When you've read through this workbook, you may decide you need advice to help you make the right decisions. A Securitor adviser operates a privately owned and run business as an authorised representative of Securitor Financial Group Ltd. Securitor is owned by Westpac Banking Corporation (Westpac), one of Australia's leading financial services companies. Securitor financial advisers are not employees of Securitor or any company in the Westpac Group. Together, Securitor and the Westpac Group provide your adviser with support with the aim of ensuring you receive quality financial planning advice.

We recommend you always seek advice from an authorised financial adviser if your existing fund is a defined benefits fund, located overseas or a self-managed super fund (SMSF).

Advantages of having a single super fund

Consolidating your super into one fund can make administration, asset allocation and investment management easier. It may also help reduce the total administration fees you pay.

If you don't check your super regularly, you may find the investments you hold are not performing as well as you'd like or they no longer meet your needs and objectives. The bottom line is that some super funds are better than others and you should consolidate your super into the fund which best meets your specific needs and objectives.

Where to find the information you need

You'll find information about your super fund on your account statement or on the fund's website. If you can't find it, you may need to contact your super fund directly by phone or email (contact details should be shown on your account statement).

Another useful contact is Superseekers, part of the Australian Taxation Office. Superseekers can help find your lost or dormant super funds. You can contact them on 132 865 or through the website address at www.ato.gov.au/super. Simply follow the 'Find your lost super with Superseekers' link.

How to use this workbook

The tables inside show the main benefits and features you should consider when choosing a super fund.

We've already included information for the Asgard Elements Super Account. This is the preferred super fund for many Securitor advisers, as it provides many of the benefits and features that most people look for in a super fund, including competitive fees. Both Asgard and Securitor are members of the Westpac Group.

Record the information on the other funds you're considering so you can make a direct comparison. This should help you decide which fund is best suited to your specific needs and objectives.

In making your decision you should give greater weighting to those benefits and features you value most.

Contributions - What types of contributions does the fund accept?

	Asgard Elements	Super fund 2	Super fund 3
Employer (Super Guarantee Contributions)	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Personal contributions (including self-employed)	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Salary sacrifice	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Spouse	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Contribution splitting with your spouse	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Government Co-contributions	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Investment options - Which of these options are available to you?

	Asgard Elements	Super fund 2	Super fund 3
Multi-manager diversified funds (for example Balanced, Growth, Capital Stable portfolios)	Y – 5 Multi Manager Diversified Funds	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Transparency of underlying investments for these funds	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Multi-manager single asset funds (for example, Australian shares fund)	Y – 6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Single-manager funds (for example Advance Imputation Australian Share Fund)	Y – 60	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Direct shares	N	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Term Deposits	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Transfer between all investment options	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Auto-rebalance	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Nominate specific funds for regular withdrawals	N	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Member reporting - Consider how important this is to you.

	Asgard Elements	Super fund 2	Super fund 3
Frequency of account revaluations	Daily	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Frequency of underlying investment revaluations	Daily	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Online access to these valuations	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Statement frequency	Yearly	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Member newsletter	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Taxation

	Asgard Elements	Super fund 2	Super fund 3
Switch from super to pension without selling your investments (in-specie transfer)	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Death benefit includes a refund of contributions tax (anti-detriment provision)	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Risk insurance cover - You should only transfer your super and cancel existing insurance policies after your new cover is confirmed. You'll find more information about the importance of insurance on the FIDO website at www.fido.gov.au under the 'Products' link.

	Asgard Elements	Super fund 2	Super fund 3
Level of death cover	\$50,000 minimum, no maximum	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Death cover cost	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
Total and permanent disablement cover	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total and permanent disablement cover cost	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
Salary continuance cover	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Salary continuance cost	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
Salary continuance waiting period	Choice of 30, 60 or 90 days	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Salary continuance benefit period	2 years or to age 65	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Other features

	Asgard Elements	Super fund 2	Super fund 3
Minimum contributions	No minimum	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Regular saving plan	\$100 per contribution	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Minimum withdrawal	No minimum	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Minimum account balance	No minimum	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Binding nomination of who gets your super if you die	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Death benefit pension for your spouse	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Lump sum payments	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Child pensions	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Account options - Does the fund allow transfer to a pension or drawdown option when you retire?

	Asgard Elements	Super fund 2	Super fund 3
Allocated pension	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Non-commutable allocated pension (Pre-retirement pension)	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Other benefits and features

	Asgard Elements	Super fund 2	Super fund 3
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Financial advice - Which of the following services/conditions apply?

	Asgard Elements	Super fund 2	Super fund 3
You must have a financial adviser to open and operate an account	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
You can negotiate the fees and commissions paid to your financial adviser	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
You can arrange payment of financial planning fees directly from the super account	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
You have access to general advice on super and the super product	Y ¹	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
You have access to strategic advice to meet your needs	Y ¹	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
You have access to advice to help you choose your investment options	Y ¹	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Fees - What fees do you pay?

(ASIC's consumer website, FIDO at www.fido.gov.au has a calculator to help you compare fees)

	Asgard Elements ²	Super fund 2	Super fund 3
Entry fee/Contribution fees ³	Up to 5.125%	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Exit fee	N	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Monthly/Yearly account fees	\$0	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Administration fee ⁴	1.30%	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Administration fee less adviser remuneration ⁵	0.70%	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Expense recovery fees	0%	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Trustee fees	0%	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Investment fees ⁶ - diversified funds	Up to 0.81%	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Investment fees ⁶ - multi-manager funds	Up to 0.95%	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Investment fees ⁶ - single manager	Up to 1.86%	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Fees charged by the underlying managers are fully disclosed	N	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Switching fees	N	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Buy/sell costs when switching	Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Tiered pricing (discounts if you have a larger balance)	N	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

¹ These services would be provided by a licensed financial adviser.

² Percentages shown include a net GST cost recovery (after reduced input tax credits) of 2.5%.

³ You can negotiate these fees and commissions (generally associated with services marked 1 under 'Financial Advice') with your financial adviser.

⁴ Asgard Elements Administration fee is inclusive of adviser remuneration and shown as a total amount of 1.30% in the Asgard Elements Product Disclosure statement (PDS).

⁵ This shows the administration fee less the standard adviser remuneration of 0.60%. However, the adviser remuneration can be negotiated between the adviser and client and therefore the administration fee may vary (to a maximum of 1.30%) depending on the adviser remuneration negotiated.

⁶ Applicable as at 15 May 2009 (PDS Part 2 issue date).

Other important considerations

Life insurance

Your existing super fund may include life insurance, salary continuance insurance or other personal insurance. If you want to maintain the same or a greater level of insurance, check with your new super fund if this cover can be established before closing your existing super fund. If you do not wait for this confirmation you may be in a position of having no insurance.

Time out of the market

It generally takes several weeks to close an existing fund and transfer the funds to a new super fund. This is because underlying investments in your existing super funds have to be sold and underlying investments in your chosen super fund bought.

During this time, a portion of your funds is likely to be invested in cash rather than your selected assets. This means if the value of your selected assets was to rise you wouldn't get the full benefit, but if the value was to drop, you would get a better return from the cash investment.

Buy/sell costs

When you change your investment there may be a buy/sell differential included in the unit prices of your underlying managed investments. This means the price you pay to buy a unit in an investment is slightly more than the price you will receive when you sell the same unit. The buy/sell differential varies for each investment and, in relation to the underlying managed investments for Asgard Elements, is generally between 0% and 1.04%, although it can be higher. For example, if you have \$20,000 in an investment, the buy/sell differential will generally be up to \$300.

What are your next steps?

If you've chosen a super fund with which you already have an account:

1. Contact your chosen fund for help with consolidating all your funds or contact the funds you are closing and ask them to send you the transfer/withdrawal forms you'll need to complete. You may find the forms you need on the funds' websites.
2. Check your account statements or ask your chosen fund for the ABN or Superannuation Product Identification Number and record these details on the transfer/withdrawal forms.
3. Send completed forms to the super funds you are closing.
4. Allow for a transfer to take 30 days. If it is not completed in this time you should re-contact the super fund.
5. Check your chosen super fund to make sure your investment options are still meeting your needs and objectives. Your Securitor financial adviser can give you a brochure 'Guide to investment risk and return' to help you with this.

If you've read the Asgard Elements product Disclosure Statement and chosen to open an Asgard Elements Account:

1. Contact a financial adviser to help you open an Asgard account.
2. You'll generally be charged a nominal fee for help with consolidating your super where you've chosen your fund and investment options without their advice. Your financial adviser will get you to sign an execution only form which confirms you haven't received advice.
3. Select the investment options that best meet your needs and objectives. Your Securitor financial adviser can give you a brochure 'Guide to investment risk and return' to help you with this.

If you don't check your super regularly, you may find the investments you hold are not performing as well as you'd like.

We recommend you always seek advice from a qualified financial adviser

Things you should consider

This publication provides an overview or summary only and it shouldn't be considered a comprehensive statement on any matter or relied upon as such. This publication doesn't take into account your personal objectives, financial situation or needs. It's important for you to consider these matters before making any financial decision and we recommend you seek help from a financial adviser.

Your financial adviser can give you a copy of the relevant Product Disclosure Statement for any financial product you are considering and you should read this document carefully before making any decision to acquire, or to continue to hold, the product.

For further information

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This information was prepared by Securitor Financial Group Limited ABN 48 009 189 495 AFSL 240687 and is current as at March 2010. Asgard Capital Management Ltd ABN 92 009 279 AFSL 240695 is the issuer of interests in Asgard Elements Super.