



# Severance & Redundancy Account

Australia's leading industry severance scheme



Protect is the fully ATO compliant severance fund offering tax free redundancy payments.

No waiting periods, no claim limits, just full access to your balance.

60,000+ members.

One goal: Protect what matters.

# Who is Protect?

We are Australia's leading industry severance scheme and providers of superior income protection insurance.

Since 2000, we've proudly supported workers across a broad range of industries, including electrical, manufacturing, maritime, fire rescue, rail and civil construction.

Our purpose is to stand by you and your family through times of unemployment, injury, illness or personal difficulty.

To protect what matters.

We achieve this by offering workers a range of services, including:

- Paying severance or redundancy claims to workers when they cease employment
- Facilitating income protection insurance\*
- Offering wellbeing services, including free counselling, to members and families

As a member of Protect, you are part of the industry scheme preferred by more than 60,000 workers and 1,200 employers across Australia and New Zealand.

## How do I become a Protect member?

To join, your employer must register you with Protect. Employers then pay severance contributions and/or income protection insurance premiums to us on your behalf, in accordance with a certified industrial agreement.



\* The insurance policies administered by Protect are held by the relevant industry union, and are issued by ATC Insurance Solutions. Please visit [www.atcis.com.au](http://www.atcis.com.au) for further information regarding the benefits, exclusions and limitations of these policies.

# Who contributes to my Protect account?

Employers contribute to a Protect severance account on behalf of their workers, providing a safety net for you should you become unemployed.

Employer contribution amounts are determined by each workplace agreement and therefore the amounts vary.

# When can I make a claim?

Workers with a Protect account receiving severance may make a claim at any time you leave employment including:

INVOLUNTARY REASONS	VOLUNTARY REASONS	OTHER ELIGIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES
Redundancy	Resignation	Total & permanent disability
Termination	Retirement	Death (via beneficiaries)
	Promotion	
	‘off the tools’	

You don’t have to remain unemployed to make a claim on your Protect severance account. If you’re in new employment you can make a retrospective claim from a previous employer.

# Will I be eligible for a tax free component?

The tax you pay is set by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and is determined by the reason your employment ended.

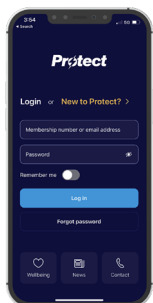
- If your employer makes you **genuinely redundant** your claim will be paid to you tax free up to the maximum amount allowed by the ATO  
**NOTE:** If your account balance is greater than the tax free threshold and you choose to claim your maximum entitlement, tax will be applied to the portion above the threshold
- If your employment is terminated for **any other reason** your claim will be taxed

Tax information is detailed on pages 6, 7 and 11 of this brochure.

# Do I have to do anything?

Once your employer registers you with Protect, you will receive a welcome email with your membership number and information regarding Protect services available to you.

## 1. Download the Protect App:



The Protect Services App is available from the App Store or Google Play.

Select 'New to Protect' to generate login details.

- Check your account balance
- Lodge a severance claim
- Display your membership card
- Review employer contributions
- Change your password or contact info
- Access wellbeing services & Protect news

## 2. or... activate your account online:

- After you have been provided your membership number, visit the workers login portal from the Protect website [www.protect.net.au](http://www.protect.net.au)



- Select 'register for online access'
- Verify your contact details and set a password

The Protect App and the workers portal both have a 'forgot password' feature that you can use if required, to reset account access at your convenience.

## Note:

When you are registered as a Protect member, your employer must provide contact details for you that includes your email and mobile number. Account security measures will restrict your ability to generate or reset your Protect password, unless your contact details match what is registered on our system.

If you have any difficulty please call us on **1300 344 249**.

# How do I make a claim?

If your employment ceases, a claim can be made from the Protect App at any time. A claim feature is also available when you log in to your account via the workers portal at the Protect website [www.protect.net.au](http://www.protect.net.au)



Workers Login

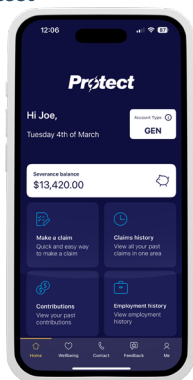
## Steps to claim payment:

### 1. Your employer updates their online Protect account with your employment status

However, you may proceed with your claim as soon as you have separated from your employment.

### 2. You complete a Protect claim

For fastest results, submit a claim via the App. Start at the home screen, select 'make a claim' and follow the prompts.



### 3. Any missing details are followed up

If your employer hasn't provided us with a termination date, you may upload a separation certificate as confirmation of termination. Otherwise, we will contact your employer to confirm your termination status.

### 4. Your claim is paid into your nominated bank account

Please allow 1-3 business days for the funds to clear.

## Are there claim limits?

You may claim the entire balance of your account regardless of your reason for leaving employment. Removal of claim limits applies to all new claims submitted on or after 1 July 2025 and ensures faster, fairer access to your entitlements.

## Payment summary access

With the implementation of single touch payroll (STP), claims that attract tax (i.e. any claim excluding a genuine redundancy claim) will have payment summary information made available via your myGov account: [my.gov.au](http://my.gov.au)

# GEN CLAIMS

## IF YOU HAVE BEEN MADE GENUINELY REDUNDANT:

Genuine Redundancy Claim	
When can a genuine redundancy claim be paid?	If you have been made genuinely redundant* and you are under pension age**
Initial genuine redundancy claim limit	No limit You may claim your full account balance
<b>2025/26 Financial year TAX FREE THRESHOLD</b>	<b>\$13,100 plus \$6,552 for each complete year of service</b>
Tax withheld from genuine redundancy claim where the amount is UNDER the tax free threshold	Nil
Tax withheld from genuine redundancy claim where the amount is OVER the tax free threshold	- Under preservation age: 32% - Over preservation age: 17%
GEN claim waiting period	No waiting period

\* Redundancy over pension age is considered by the ATO as ‘non-genuine redundancy’ and attracts a 17% tax rate

\*\* ‘Under pension age’ is at the date of termination, not the date of payment

## IF YOU HAVE BEEN MADE UNEMPLOYED DUE TO OTHER NON VOLUNTARY REASONS:

General Account Claim	
When can a claim be paid from your General Account (GEN)?	If you have been terminated or your contract has expired
GEN claim limit	No limit You may claim your full account balance
Tax withheld from a GEN claim	- Under preservation age: 32%* - Over preservation age: 17%* - Over pension age: 17%*
GEN claim waiting period	No waiting period

\* Includes the 2% Medicare levy

\*\* ‘Over preservation age’ is in the year of termination. For example: You may be 54 and have your claim taxed at 17% if you reach preservation age by 30 June

# VTA CLAIMS

## IF YOUR EMPLOYMENT HAS VOLUNTARILY TERMINATED:

Termination Claim	
When can a voluntary termination claim (VTA) be paid?	If you have ceased employment due to resignation or you have been promoted to an above award position 'off the tools'
VTA claim limit	No limit. You may claim your full account balance
Tax withheld from VTA claim	- Under preservation age: 32%* - Over preservation age: 17%* - Over pension age: 17%*
VTA claim waiting period	No waiting period

\* Includes the 2% Medicare levy

\*\* 'Over preservation age' is in the year of termination. For example: You may be 54 and have your claim taxed at 17% if you reach preservation age by 30 June

## IF YOU ARE RETIRING:

Retirement Claim	
When can a retirement claim be paid?	Once you have reached your preservation age
Claim limit	No limit You may claim your full account balance
Tax withheld from retirement claim	17%*
Retirement claim waiting period	No waiting period

\*Includes the 2% Medicare levy

GEN and VTA	Subsequent Claim
When can a subsequent claim be paid?	If you made a claim but did not access your full balance you may claim remaining funds
Subsequent claim limit	No limit You may claim your full account balance
Tax withheld from subsequent claim	A genuine redundancy claim under the Tax Free Threshold pays no tax. Amounts over the threshold are taxed. - Under preservation age: 32%* - Over preservation age: 17%* - Over ETP cap: 47%*
Sub claim waiting period	No waiting period

\*Includes the 2% Medicare levy

**NOTE:** The ETP cap for the 2025/26 financial year is \$260,000

# Two account types

Protect offers two severance account types to ensure a distinction between redundancy payments and voluntary termination payments for the ATO.

You can only hold one type of account at a time. All new members start with the default GEN account.

The reason you leave employment decides which account type you claim from.

## 1. GENERAL ACCOUNT (GEN)

Pays claims due to *involuntary* end of employment.

- Tax free Genuine Redundancy
- Non Voluntary Termination (such as dismissal or end of contract)

## 2. VOLUNTARY TERMINATION ACCOUNT (VTA)

If you *choose* to leave you job you must change to a Voluntary Termination Account as part of the claim process.

Pays claims due to *voluntary* end of employment.

- Resignation
- Retirement
- Promotion off the tools

**NOTE:** Both accounts make payment for total and permanent disability and death (via beneficiaries).

# Changing to VTA is permanent

If your reason for leaving employment is voluntary, and therefore does not fit the criteria of a GEN claim, you may change to a VTA during the claim process.

Changing to VTA is a permanent election that cannot be reversed.

If your Voluntary Termination Account remains open, any future contributions will be allocated to that account and can only be accessed with another resignation claim or on retirement, not redundancy.





## VTA claim & close

If there's a chance you will return to the industry, you'll want to keep future claiming options open.

So when making a VTA claim, consider withdrawing your full balance and closing the account.

If you return to work with a Protect-contributing employer, you'll rejoin as a new member with a default General Account.

GEN has the widest claiming options - it pays tax free redundancy and other non-voluntary claims, and allows the option to switch to a VTA again if needed.

### TALK TO US

Before deciding, speak with one of our team to discuss if a VTA claim & close is the right choice for your situation.

 1300 344 249  [info@protect.net.au](mailto:info@protect.net.au)

# What is my Preservation Age?

Your preservation age is generally the age that you can retire and access your superannuation or other retirement-related benefits. Your preservation age depends on your date of birth and affects the rate of tax you will pay.

Protect members who have retired and are over their preservation age may claim their entire severance balance.

Date of Birth	Preservation Age
Before 1 July 1960	55
1 July 1960 - 30 June 1961	56
1 July 1961 - 30 June 1962	57
1 July 1962 - 30 June 1963	58
1 July 1963 - 30 June 1964	59
After 30 June 1964	60

# What age do I qualify for the pension?

The pension age is relevant to some Protect members as ATO rules only allow tax free redundancy up to pension age.

The current age pension qualifying age is 67 years.

Date of Birth	Age Pension Qualifying Age
1 July 1952 to 31 December 1953	65 years and 6 months
1 January 1954 to 30 June 1955	66 years
1 July 1955 to 31 December 1956	66 years and 6 months
On or after 1 January 1957	67 years

# Additional Tax Information

## Late Termination Payments

We are legally required to withhold 47% tax from claims made beyond 12 months of your retirement/termination date. For example, if you are terminated on 1/05/2025, and lodge your initial claim on 2/05/2026, your claim will be taxed at 47%.

This does not apply to genuine redundancy claims.

## Employment Termination Payment Cap

An Employment Termination Payment (ETP) is taxed at concessional rates in accordance with tax legislation, up to the ETP Cap. The ETP Cap is an amount determined by the ATO and is indexed annually. From 1 July 2025, the ETP Cap is \$260,000.

Amounts up to the Cap are currently taxed at 32%\* or at 17%\* if you have reached your preservation age. Amounts in excess of the Cap are taxed at 47%\*.

\*including the Medicare Levy of 2%

## Deceased Claim Tax Rates

If you die, payments from your Protect severance account to your beneficiaries are generally not taxed if they are your financial dependents. If your beneficiaries are not your financial dependents, 32% tax will generally apply to the payment from your account.

## Whole-of-Income Cap

Any payment received not resulting from redundancy may also be subject to higher taxation via your personal tax return, if your taxable income plus this payment exceeds \$180,000.

Please consult your financial advisor if you believe this may apply to you.

## Other payments and Government Benefits

Your Protect severance payment may affect other Commonwealth Government benefits, such as the family tax benefit, childcare benefit and private health insurance rebate.

You should consult your financial advisor, the Australian Tax Office or Centrelink for advice on how your personal circumstances may be affected.

**Note:** All claim limits and taxation rates quoted within this brochure are correct at the time of publication. Limits and rates are subject to change.



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## Protect Member Services

Tel: 1300 344 249  
Email: [info@protect.net.au](mailto:info@protect.net.au)  
Web: [www.protect.net.au](http://www.protect.net.au)

Level 7, 380 Docklands Drive  
Docklands VIC 3008

P0 Box 482, North Melbourne VIC 3051



**DISCLAIMER:** This brochure is intended to provide a general summary of Protect severance entitlements. It does not purport to contain all information that may be relevant and is provided as a matter of general interest only; it does not constitute financial advice. Protect members and employers should check the accuracy, reliability and completeness of any information provided and obtain independent and specific advice relevant to their needs.