

QSUPER PROTECTS MEMBERS' INSURANCE

The superannuation fund that covers Queensland Government workers has extended insurance coverage so new default members are immediately covered against pandemic-related illnesses.

The extension removes an exclusion clause which previously required a 30-day wait for all new members to have access to cover if they became ill through a pandemic.

This means all new QSuper members joining the fund through the Queensland Government or a default employer will be covered. These are the majority of new members.

The exclusion period will continue to apply for new members joining directly and to current members wanting to increase their coverage.

Any new member impacted by the exclusion will receive clear information when they join or increase their insurance cover to make an informed decision about whether our insurance is right for them.

Exclusion clauses, designed to reduce the cost of premiums, are common in insurance policies. QSuper's change to its pandemic clause was in process before the World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic. It became effective on March 18.

QSuper Chief of Member Experience, Jason Murray said the change was made in recognition of the role taken by frontline workers who become default members of the fund.

"QSuper is committed to looking after the people who look after our country and supporting them when it matters most. We know that many of our members who receive our default cover are working on the frontlines in health, education and emergency services and may be at a higher risk of becoming sick as a result of a pandemic illness," he said.

Mr Murray said QSuper data shows one in three members will make an insurance claim in their lifetime and the Fund had to keep its insurance cover affordable and accessible.

"That means balancing features and exclusions for the benefit of the membership overall," he said

"QSuper is a not for profit fund and we are focused on protecting our existing members' retirement savings and insured benefits first and foremost.

"Without a pandemic clause for new non-default members we ran the risk that we would have to increase premiums for everyone who we try to service with economical insurance coverage.

"We didn't believe that was fair and equitable particularly to those frontline members who are protecting the community. They are covered, those joining them will be covered and we are honouring our obligations to our whole membership."

From April 1, members younger than 25 or with balances below \$6,000 will need to proactively opt in to insurance if they want coverage. This change is the result of the Australian Government's 'Putting Members' Interests First' reforms.

About QSuper

QSuper is one of Australia's largest superannuation funds, with more than \$113 billion in funds under administration. From humble beginnings over a century ago, today we manage the retirement savings of more than 585,000 members.

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