



••• **CONNECT *Fast Facts***

Your Industry - Your Super

Superannuation for the electrical contracting and communications industries

CONNECT

get **connected** / stay **connected**

If you work in the electrical contracting and communications industries CONNECT is your super fund

CONNECT has been serving people like you since 1985

While CONNECT has grown and improved its member services over the years, its basic purpose has never changed. CONNECT exists to benefit its members. It's a great place to invest and grow your super. And it offers valuable, low-cost insurance cover.

CONNECT is an industry super fund: all our profits go back to our members.

CONNECT is run by a Trustee Board made up of people with hands-on knowledge of the industry. Like Chair Mac Russell, who was recently awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for his contribution to industry development and training. Or Peter Tighe, National Secretary of the CEPU (Communications Electrical Plumbing Union). Mac, Peter and our seven other Trustee Directors are all committed to making sure CONNECT is efficiently run and achieves solid, competitive returns, within an appropriate range of risk.


CONNECT is run by people like you, for you.

Check out CONNECT's great features for members

- ✦ Competitive investment returns
- ✦ Up to \$2.2 million Death or Death & Total and Permanent Disablement cover
- ✦ A choice of three investment options, or any mix of these
- ✦ Low fees
- ✦ Low-cost insurance cover
- ✦ Online access for our members
- ✦ Two great pension products including a Transition to Retirement Pension for members approaching retirement
- ✦ Access to independent financial planning through Industry Fund Financial Planning (IFFP)
- ✦ Friendly administration service
- ✦ All our profits go back to our members.

CONNECT is great for employers too

We take the hassle out of super with practical information, tools and tips that lighten the administration load, including online access.



*“I like being in a fund
with other electricians...
one that’s related
to our industry.”*

Brad Farrell

electrician (Maxim Electrical Services (VIC) Pty Ltd)
CONNECT member for five years

Your fund growing strong

CONNECT at a glance*

- 🔗 Serving the electrical contracting and communications industries
- 🔗 28,000 members
- 🔗 4,000 participating employers
- 🔗 Assets of \$620 million
- 🔗 Your fund grew strongly over the past five years, with average annual growth of over 18%.

*September 2008

Check out our proven returns, low fees

CONNECT's declared crediting rates for the past five financial years have been:

Annual crediting rates – to 30 June each year

Investment option	5 year average to 30/06/08	07/08	06/07	05/06	04/05	03/04
Growth	10.40%	-10.96%	18.78%	19.27%	11.91%	16.20%
Balanced	9.51%	-5.79%	14.66%	16.17%	10.86%	13.20%
Capital Stable	6.44%	-0.26%	9.26%	9.20%	7.84%	6.47%

CONNECT compares favourably with major super funds over the same period.

CONNECT is committed to achieving strong investment returns while keeping your money secure.

And because we are an industry fund, CONNECT's fees and charges are typically lower than you'd pay in a retail (or for-profit) fund.

It's your choice how you invest your super

CONNECT gives you the choice of three 'ready made' investment options: **Growth**, **Balanced** or **Capital Stable**. You can choose just the one option, or you can choose to split your account across multiple options with your total mix equalling 100%.

Each option has a different investment strategy, asset allocation and level of risk, so it's important that you take the time to compare each option and choose the option or mix of options that best suits you.

Generally a more aggressive investment, such as the Growth option, will produce higher returns over the long term, but has a higher risk of producing a negative return in the short term. A more conservative option such as Capital Stable, is likely to be more stable over the short term but the returns are usually lower over time.

CONNECT allows you to switch your investment options up to twice a year at no cost and make additional switches for a nominal cost.

Past performance is not an indicator of future investment returns.

*“I compare our
fund’s returns
to others and
CONNECT is
doing well.”*

Brenton Stephens

electrician (Road Runner Electrics Pty Ltd)
CONNECT member for three years



You insure your car but are *you* covered?

With CONNECT you can protect your most valuable asset – YOU

Nothing can replace your life or your health. But the right insurance cover can protect the financial security and wellbeing of your family if you're not there or not able to work.

It's reassuring to know that as a CONNECT member you automatically get insurance cover against death and total and permanent disablement.

The benefit that is paid in the event of death or total and permanent disablement equals:

🔗 the accumulated amount of super in your account

PLUS

🔗 your insurance cover

LESS

🔗 any applicable fees or taxes.

Get the cover you need – from \$55,000 to \$2.2 million

As a CONNECT member you are automatically insured for one unit of Death and Total and Permanent Disablement (TPD) cover on joining. For a member age 55 or under, one unit = \$55,000 of Death and TPD cover. This costs \$2.07 per week and is deducted from your account each month. CONNECT's cover is flexible. As a member you can apply for up to 40 units of cover (a maximum of \$2.2 million). Each unit provides an additional \$55,000 worth of cover and costs an additional \$2.07 per week. Your application will be assessed by CONNECT's insurer and cover will be subject to the insurer accepting your application.

Typically members who have debts or dependants choose to select a higher level of cover, which is why CONNECT insurance is flexible.

CONNECT has been able to use its buying power to get a much better deal on insurance cover for members than you as an individual would typically be able to negotiate.


A lifetime of financial protection

Your financial security is our main concern – right throughout your working life, and after you retire. We help protect you financially while you're working by providing essential insurance cover – Death and Total and Permanent Disablement – at a low cost. At the same time we're helping you save, through super, for a financially secure retirement, when you're no longer earning an income.

Typically members who have debts or dependants choose to select a higher level of cover. Do you have enough insurance for your family's needs? CONNECT can help.

You'll find full details of the insurance cover available in the CONNECT Product Disclosure Statement available at www.connectsuper.com.au or call us on 1800 025 464.

With CONNECT you are insured for death and total and permanent disablement 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, whether at work, at home or anywhere else.



*“It’s nice to have
the peace of mind
CONNECT insurance
offers, for myself and
my family, if something
were to happen.”*

Katanya Finlay

Service Supervisor (Russell Smith)

CONNECT member for four years

Whatever your age or stage, CONNECT helps you reach your super savings goal

When you're **young and single**, with low or no debt

CONNECT offers...

- ✦ a great place to grow your 9% super
- ✦ low-cost insurance cover
- ✦ the option of making additional contributions yourself.

TIP

Start early and let your investments do the hard work by getting the benefit of **compound interest** – earning interest on interest by leaving your money invested.

Get the government to boost your super for free. Depending upon your income the government's co-contribution could be worth up to \$1,500 a year to you.

In your **middle years** when you're likely to have a family and big bills

CONNECT offers...

- ✦ a great place to grow your 9% super
- ✦ more insurance when you need it (for example, if you have children or a mortgage). You can apply for up to \$2.2 million worth of cover
- ✦ the ability to roll-over other super into CONNECT at no cost, consolidate your super and save on fees.

TIP

Top up your super with salary sacrifice or personal after-tax contributions when you can afford to.

Older, getting close to retirement, with lower debt and fewer bills

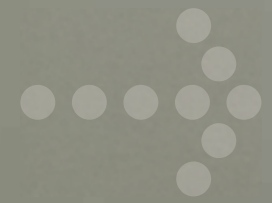
CONNECT offers...

- ✦ a great place to grow your 9% super
- ✦ the flexibility to ramp up for retirement by contributing through salary sacrifice or personal after-tax contributions.
- ✦ a Transition to Retirement Pension to give you increased flexibility and choice in the lead-up to retirement

TIP

You can **minimise tax** or avoid it completely on your super payment by carefully planning how and when you'll retire. We can help you with that.

At CONNECT we'll give you the information you need to make the right decisions so you don't find yourself short down the track.



*“If you don’t need the money right now put it into super and earn **compound interest.**”*

Adam Willrath
electrician (Elecrafter)
CONNECT member for 13 years

Two great pension products give older members more flexibility and choice

Approaching retirement? Check out the Transition to Retirement Pension

With a **Transition to Retirement Pension** you can access your super savings while still working, as long as you have reached your preservation age.

This can give you the flexibility to reduce your working hours without reducing your income, or help you ramp up your super by taking advantage of the tax benefits from combining a pension with salary sacrifice contributions.

Retired? Check out the Account Based Pension


An **Account Based Pension** allows you to take all or part of your super savings as regular income, rather than a lump sum, upon retirement. You can choose how much is paid out across the year (subject to minimum levels set by the government).

As well as offering tax savings, this will save you the time, effort and worry of investing the money yourself. Effectively you get the best of both worlds as you can still make lump sum withdrawals if you want to.

Why CONNECT is a top choice for pensions

- ✦ A minimum investment of \$25,000 is all that's required to start your account
- ✦ Tax benefits
- ✦ Low fees
- ✦ Competitive investment returns
- ✦ A choice of three investment options or any mix of the three
- ✦ Flexibility to choose how much you get paid
- ✦ No commissions to agents

*Now you can stay with **CONNECT** for life and continue to take advantage of our low fees, even in retirement.*



*“I can get a monthly pension and continue to build my active account tax effectively through **salary sacrifice.**”*

Mervyn Sherriff

Operations Manager (The Tree Doctor)

CONNECT member for 20 years

Tailored financial planning services mean expert advice you can trust, when you need it

CONNECT has appointed Industry Fund Financial Planning (IFFP) to provide our members with expert financial planning advice.

As a result, we now have our own in-house expert financial planner, backed up by the expertise and additional resources of IFFP.

IFFP specialises in helping industry superannuation fund members like ours. Their planners don't receive or charge commissions, which means you can be confident your interests are being put first.

A financial planner can work with you to understand your individual circumstances and goals and use this information to construct a plan to help you achieve these goals. Good financial advice from a financial planner can play an important role in helping you to achieve your financial goals from the time you enter the workforce to when you're in retirement.

Advice is tailored to your personal situation, goals and needs.

Services include advice on:

- how to invest your super
- selecting the right insurance cover
- how much to contribute to super and the tax benefits of salary sacrifice
- retirement planning, including making the most of how super is taxed, social security and the super rules.

Now CONNECT members can access specific tailored financial planning advice for free and comprehensive financial plans for a fee.

Advice on a single superannuation-specific issue such as how to invest your super or how much insurance cover you need is free.

If you require more extensive advice – for example a comprehensive pre-retirement plan – this is charged on a 'fee for service' basis.

All costs associated with preparing a financial plan are explained up front so you can decide whether or not to proceed.

Whatever your age or stage, CONNECT helps you reach your super savings goal.



Life stage

How a financial planner can help you

Starting out

- Establish your life goals.
- Develop budgeting skills.
- Devise a savings/borrowing plan to buy your first house.

Consolidating

- Develop a long-term savings and investment plan.
- Prepare for the cost of raising children.
- Check your Will is up-to-date and you have adequate insurance.
- Develop a 'good debt' strategy – debt that is tax deductible.

Considering winding down

- Fine tune investment strategies for retirement.
- Minimise tax and maximise your retirement income (including super and government benefits).

Accessing this service is simple. Call **1800 025 464** to arrange for our financial planner to contact you.

Super straight talk

CONNECT appreciates that while we are super experts, you're not

We work hard at stripping away the jargon and giving you the facts on super so you can make the right decisions about:

“Which investment option should I select?”

“How much should I put in?”

“How can I get the most out of the super system?”

CONNECT's member publications and online tools are designed to help you make the choices that are right for you.

Real people, ready to help, when you need it

It's reassuring to know that if you have a question about your super you can contact CONNECT.

••• CONNECT administration service
1800 025 464 (freecall) from
8.30 am – 5.00 pm (AEST)
Monday to Friday

••• email us at
connect.admin@aas.com.au

••• Talk to CONNECT's Field Officer,
Scott LaFerlita, on **0400 029 304**
(mobile).



“I'm here to help employers and members better understand their super.”

Scott LaFerlita
CONNECT Field Officer

Joining CONNECT is easy



1 Get a copy of the CONNECT Product Disclosure Statement (PDS)

The PDS has all the detail when it comes to our benefits, features and how we operate. You can download a PDS from www.connectsuper.com.au or request one on **1800 025 464**. You should read our PDS if you are considering joining CONNECT.

2 Fill out a Member Application Form

Available in the PDS or you can download it from www.connectsuper.com.au or call **1800 025 464**.

3 Return your completed form to CONNECT or to your employer

If you work in the electrical contracting and communications industry your employer is likely to participate in CONNECT already. If not, you will still be able to join CONNECT as long as you are legally eligible to make your own choice of superannuation fund. If you must have your employer super directed to a fund other than CONNECT due to an industrial award or agreement, your employer will let you know.

Staying CONNECTed is easy, too

Because of Choice of Fund, it's highly likely that if you change jobs you will still be able to stay with CONNECT. You simply need to direct your new employer to make super contributions for you to CONNECT. Having just one super fund will save you money in fees and the hassle of keeping track of multiple accounts.



*To find out how to make the most of your super read **CONNECT Switched On Super**. Call us on **1800 025 464** to get your copy.*

CONNECT would like to thank Fund members for allowing their images and statements to be used in this booklet.

This booklet dated November 2008 is issued by SPEC Pty Ltd (ABN 49 006 476 740 AFSL 266591) (Trustee), the trustee of the CONNECT Superannuation Plan (ABN 93 419 175 950) (CONNECT).

The information contained in this booklet is about CONNECT and is of a general nature only and does not take into account your personal objectives, financial situation or needs. If you require advice that is based on your own personal situation we recommend that you contact an appropriately licensed financial advisor before making any decision about your investments. All care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is correct, but neither the Trustee nor its advisors accept responsibility for the content or any error or misprint or for any person who acts on this information. For more information about CONNECT, call **1800 025 464** or go to **www.connectsuper.com.au** for a copy of our combined *Product Disclosure Statement* and *Financial Services Guide*.