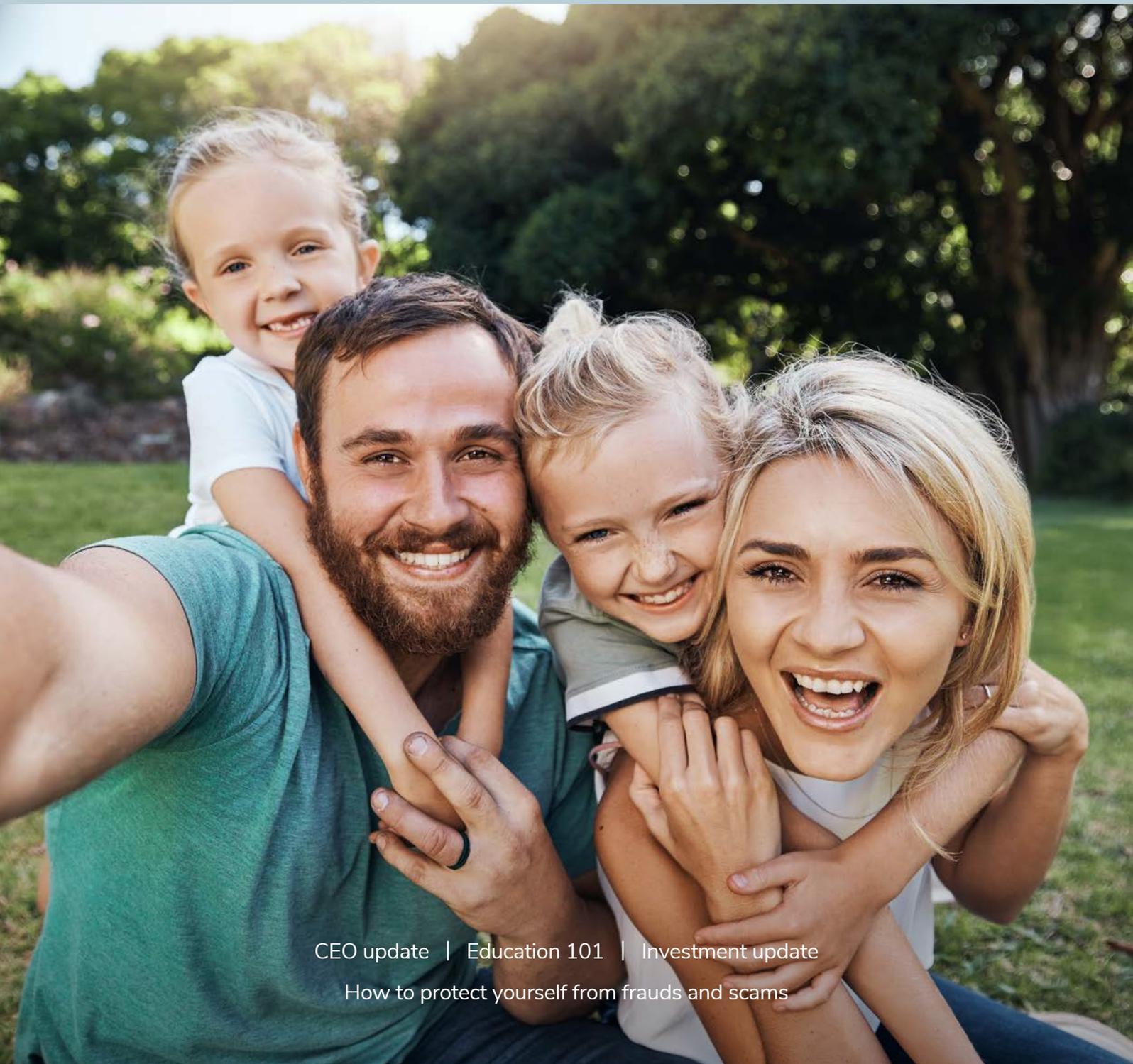




Insight

MEMBER NEWSLETTER **SPRING 2023**



CEO update | Education 101 | Investment update

How to protect yourself from frauds and scams



CEO

update

Welcome to your September quarterly update from Vision Super.

It's been a busy spring in the world of super – we've prepared statements, written our Annual report and held our Annual members' meeting, where it was great to catch up with members. If you missed attending on the night, you can view the presentation at: www.visionsuper.com.au/AMM2023.

This year has been exceptionally busy, as we're also working with our counterparts at Active Super on preparing for the planned merger in the second half of next year. The merger won't mean a lot of immediate, visible changes for our current Vision Super members – but we will be working to extract merger synergies, and over the longer term we will be hoping to see scale benefits from being part of a larger fund. You can find out more at any time by visiting the merger page on our website: www.visionsuper.com.au/merger/.

I've been working in the super industry for a while now, and over that time it sometimes seems like the only constant has been constant change!

Superannuation rules and regulations shift to support public policy outcomes – for people who don't work in the industry, keeping up to date with the changes and working out how to get the most out of your super can be hard.

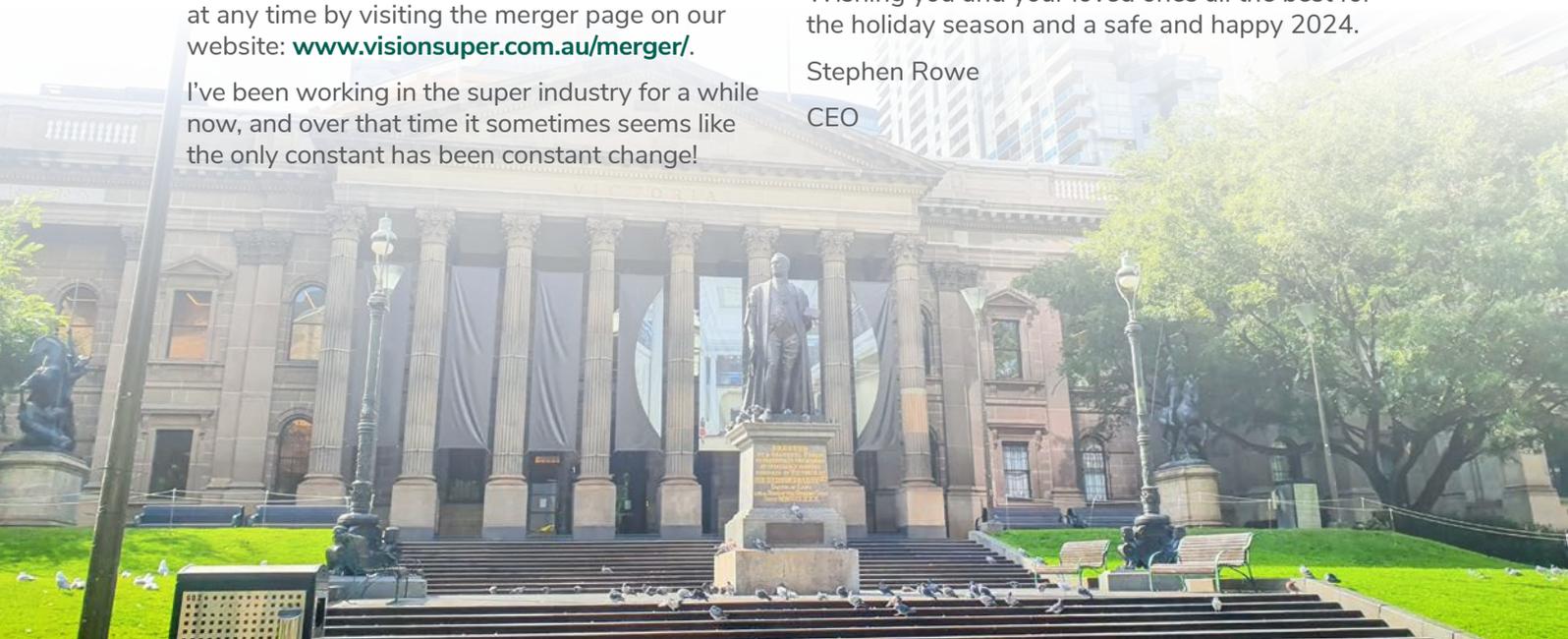
We see educating our members as a fundamental part of what we do, and we know financial security is a top priority for most people. But a lack of knowledge can lead to missed opportunities, inadequate retirement savings, and even financial insecurity in old age.

That's why we're excited to introduce on-demand educational content that can help you stay up-to-date with the state of play and make informed choices about your retirement. You can read all about it in this update.

Another focus for us here at Vision Super is cyber security. We do everything we can to keep your money safe, but this is an area where we need your help too – knowing the signs of a scam and being cautious about giving out your details is an important part of protecting your super savings. We've included an article in this quarterly with some information about protecting yourself against fraud and scammers. Also in this update is the usual investment update, where you can find out about how the market's performing and the outlook ahead.

Wishing you and your loved ones all the best for the holiday season and a safe and happy 2024.

Stephen Rowe
CEO





Education 101

Superannuation is designed to provide financial security during your retirement years. But navigating the world of super can be complex and confusing. This is where Vision Super's educational, on demand content steps in to help empower you with the knowledge and tools to help you make informed decisions about your retirement savings.

While superannuation is a fundamental part of Australian working life, many people lack a clear understanding of how it works and how to optimise it for their benefit. This lack of knowledge can lead to missed opportunities, inadequate retirement savings, and even financial insecurity in old age.

Vision Super's educational, on demand content can help to address this knowledge gap through eight chapters provided by Money101. Here's what it covers:



How to choose a super fund, and how to identify the key features that matter



Discover what super is, and how to read and understand your statement



How to contribute and the difference between contribution types



Retirement – the basics, funding your retirement, and transitioning into it



Cyber security and keeping your accounts secure.

The content allows you to access information at your own pace when it suits you. Whether you're new to the workforce or nearing retirement, you can find content tailored to your needs.

Superannuation rules and regulations have changed regularly over time. On-demand content can help you stay updated with the latest developments and empower you to adjust your retirement plans accordingly.

In a world where financial security is a top priority, our educational, on demand content assists those seeking to improve their superannuation knowledge. It empowers individuals with confidence, and the tools to navigate the complexities of superannuation effectively. So, whether you're just starting your career or looking to enhance your retirement savings, consider tapping into the wealth of superannuation education available on demand. Your future self will thank you!

Vision Super is here for you

All you have to do is go to www.visionsuper.com.au/education at any time to browse the chapters that are relevant to you. It's quick, easy, and always available. If you'd prefer, we can call you! Just request a call back with your preferred time and contact details and we'll contact you.

Investment update – Q3 2023 review

Global equity markets fell in the quarter ending 30 September 2023 (see Chart 1), following a period of robust performance in the first half of the year. Although inflation in the developed world has fallen from its peak, it is still elevated compared to central banks' targets. The Federal Reserve and the Reserve Bank of Australia have kept rates on hold at 5.25-5.5% and 4.1% respectively over the last several months but have communicated that further interest rate increases may be required.

A key development in financial markets recently is the sharp rise in US bond yields. The US 10-year bond yield has reached 16-year highs (see Chart 2), putting downward pressure on equities during the September quarter. As bond prices are inversely related to bond yields, bond prices fell sharply during the quarter.

The labour market in Australia remains tight but our leading indicators suggest a slowing in employment growth over the next six months. House prices across Australia's capital cities have increased by 6.6% since they troughed in January this year and grew 2.2% over the September quarter (see Chart 3). Factors which have supported the rise in prices include a shortage in housing supply, a tight rental market and high levels of immigration.

The Chinese economy is weak and faces material medium-term headwinds due to problems in its property and infrastructure sectors. A couple of large Chinese property developers, Country Garden and Evergrande, are facing severe financial stress from high levels of property inventory, coupled with less demand from an ageing domestic population. The scope for meaningful stimulus by policymakers is less than previously because of high debt levels and over-building.

Weak Chinese growth has also contributed to a 2.6% decline in the Australian dollar relative to the United States dollar over the quarter. Other factors contributing to a weaker Australian dollar include moderately lower interest rates in Australia and a stronger US economy.

Outlook

At the time of writing, a tragic conflict in the Middle East is unfolding. The implications for the global economy are unclear at this stage. Historically, most geo-political events tend to pass within a few months from an investment market perspective. However, there is a risk of a larger and more enduring impact on investment markets from the current conflict.

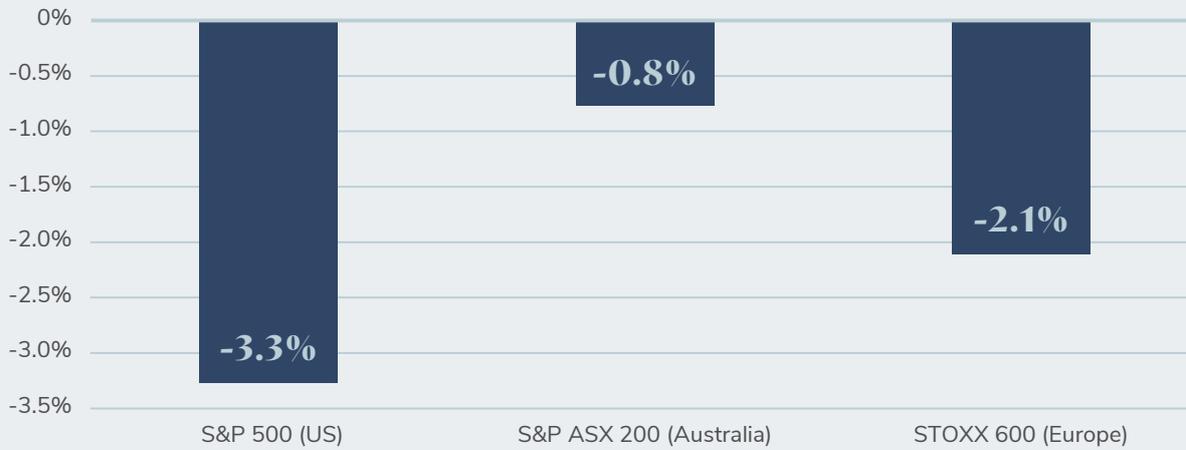
Our leading indicators suggest the risk of a US recession in the next 12 months is high. US equity market valuations are elevated and risk aversion is moderate. We anticipate a material deterioration in the US economy as the full impact of interest rate rises is progressively transmitted to the economy.

The key upside risk to our central case in a more resilient US economy and inflation quickly subsides to a benign level. The main downside risk is a deeper-than-anticipated US recession.

In Australia, a recession in the next 12 months is not our central case, but the risk of such an outcome has increased. While the housing market appears resilient, risks remain around expiring fixed rate home loans and high levels of household debt. Additionally, household consumption growth is weak, increasing by just 0.1% in the June quarter 2023.

Chart 1: Equity markets

Total return in local currency for the 3 months to 30 September 2023



Source: Bloomberg

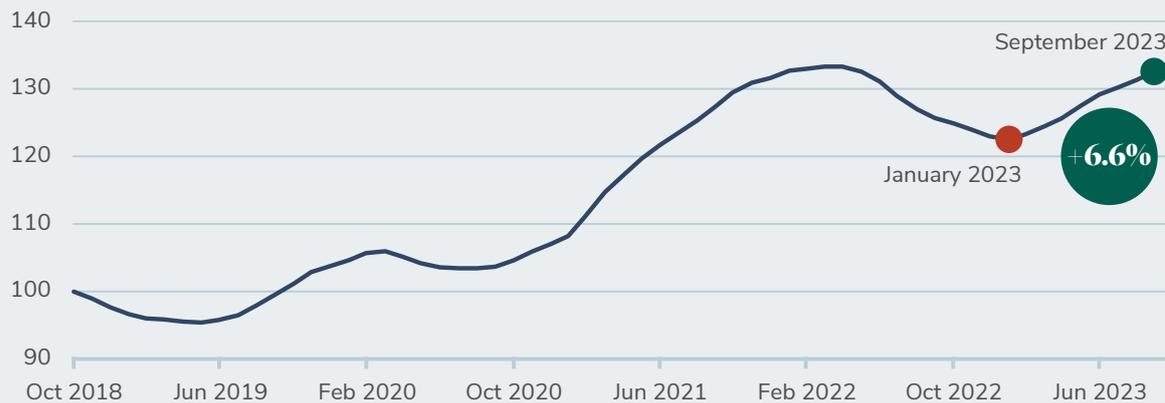
Chart 2: US 10 year bond yields (%)



Source: LSEG Datastream

Chart 3: CoreLogic home property value index – capital cities

Indexed, level at October 2018 = 100



Source: LSEG Datastream

How to protect yourself from fraud and scams

October was Cyber Security Awareness Month, a time for all Australians to improve our cyber security knowledge and take action to protect our information and devices from scams and fraud.

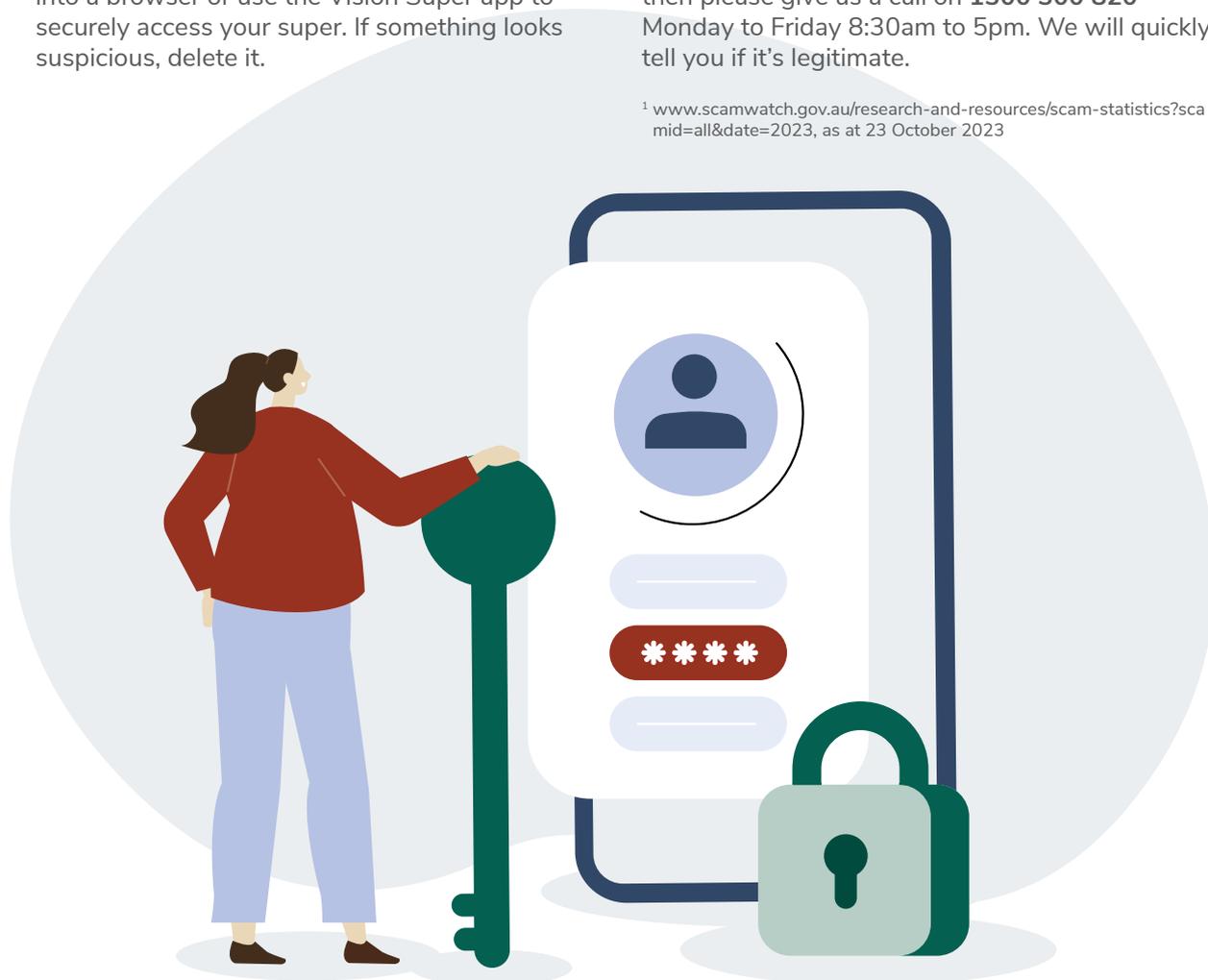
Some common scams involve cold-calls to Australians and unsolicited emails and text messages about accessing your super early. In 2023 alone, a whopping \$367,553,759 has been lost to scammers, and investment scams have made up the bulk of this statistic¹.

If you receive a message from Vision Super, remember we'll never ask for your superannuation information, such as your membership number or password, and we'll never send you a link to log on directly from an SMS. Always type www.visionsuper.com.au into a browser or use the Vision Super app to securely access your super. If something looks suspicious, delete it.

Vision Super has partnered with Money101 to improve your super knowledge, and also to help you understand how to increase your online security. Visit www.visionsuper.com.au/education/ for an interactive module that will help you understand how to keep your passwords safe.

If you receive a phone call from us that you weren't expecting, feel free to hang up politely and give us a call yourself – we won't be offended! And if you ever receive any correspondence from us that doesn't look right, then please give us a call on **1300 300 820** Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5pm. We will quickly tell you if it's legitimate.

¹ www.scamwatch.gov.au/research-and-resources/scam-statistics?scamid=all&date=2023, as at 23 October 2023





How to avoid falling victim to a scam

1 

Know that scams exist. When someone contacts you by phone, mail, email, in person, or on social media, don't automatically assume it's genuine. Some people have ulterior motives, and usually if it seems to be too good to be true, it is.

2 

Keep up to date with your account. Check in with your account often, by logging in or calling Vision Super. Not only will you be able to track your balance and familiarise yourself with contributions and insurances, but it will allow you to quickly detect any unusual activity that may be occurring.

3 

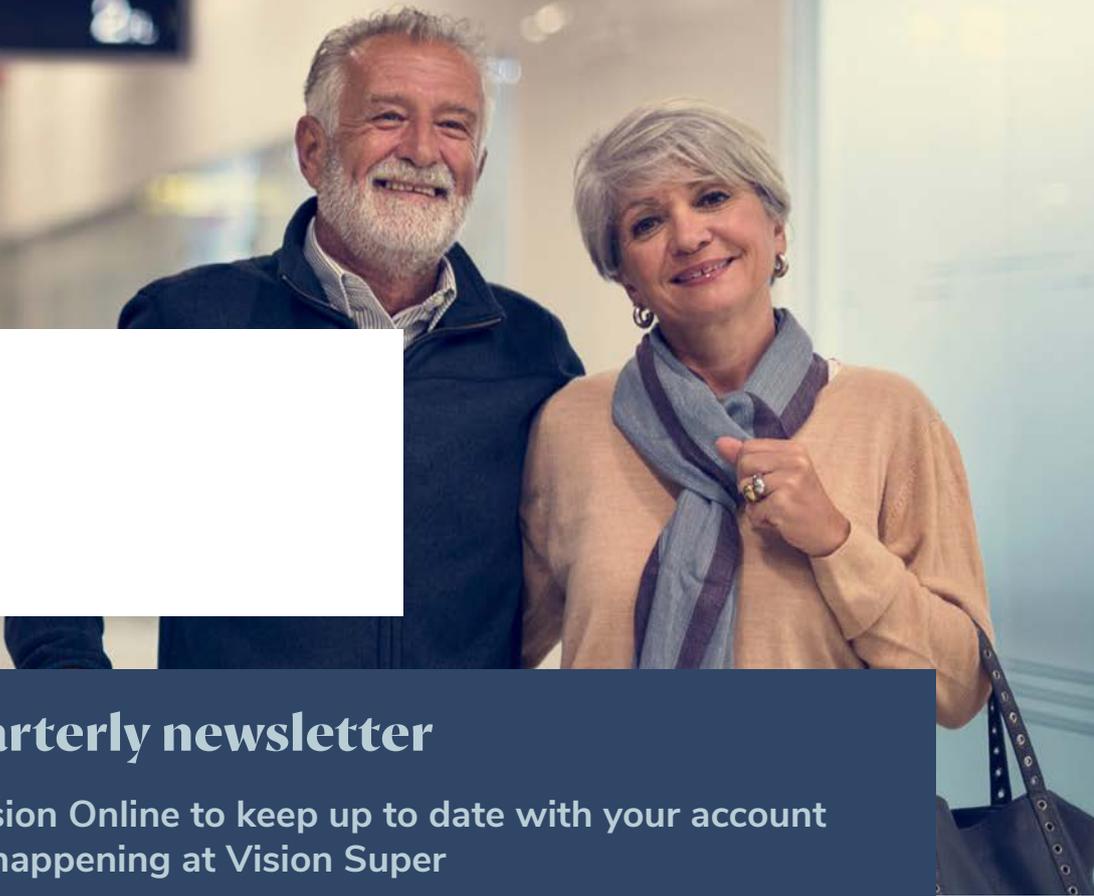
Fraudsters won't give you the time to think things through but will often ask you to take action immediately. Question why it's so urgent. Don't feel pressured to do anything without hanging up and checking. If they're pretending to be from the ATO, call the ATO and verify. Or check the Scamwatch website for updates.

4 

Don't give away your personal details. If scammers are wanting you to make a payment, consider how they're requesting this payment. Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, so fraudsters prefer other payment methods such as gift cards, preloaded debit cards or virtual currency. Scammers may also ask you to verify who you are, often pretending to be from a trusted source, so ensure you're not confirming personal information to someone who calls you unexpectedly.

5 

Ensure your password is secure, update it regularly, and avoid using the same passwords that you use for social media or your bank.



Your quarterly newsletter

Log in to Vision Online to keep up to date with your account and what's happening at Vision Super

Investment fee and cost updates

The estimated fees and costs for our investment options have been updated as at 1 October 2023.

To view visit www.visionsuper.com.au/super/fees-and-costs




Vision Super wins...
the Service Quality award at the Super Review 10th Annual Super Fund of the Year Awards!

Vision Super's 2022/23 annual report available now on our website



Your annual statement is now available

To view log in at: www.visionsuper.com.au



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