

Making Employers Pay

By Joe de Bruyn

A worker's right to have the employer pay superannuation payments into an eligible superannuation fund is clearly set out in law.

But, what if the employer fails to pay ?

What if the employer is late in making payments, either due to neglect or just keeping the money within his business as long as possible ?

Chasing Up Employers

REST has long had a policy of chasing up employers who fall behind in making superannuation payments for their employees.

REST carefully monitors payments received from employers.

Where it appears an employer has fallen behind, that information is referred to a professional service dedicated to the recovery of the superannuation contributions.

The employer is contacted by letter and/or by telephone. This is usually sufficient to make the employer catch up with their obligations.

However, where the employer still fails to pay, a prosecution is launched to recover the money in a court proceeding.

Recovering the Money

REST receives monthly reports on progress in making employers catch up on their legal obligations.

In February this year, for example, REST recovered \$1,169,395 from employers in superannuation payments that were overdue.

Over the twelve months to February, REST recovered over \$14.96 million in overdue superannuation contributions – that's more than \$1 million per month !

Look at Your Pay Slip

Many employers record their superannuation contributions for each employee on the employee's individual pay-slip.

This enables the employee to monitor that payments are being made.

The employee can also access information on the REST web-site, including their individual REST account balance details.

The Government is legislating to make it compulsory for employers to provide the details about superannuation contributions on each employee's pay slip.

So if you have any doubts that the employer is making regular contributions into your superannuation account, contact the Union for advice and assistance.
