

Retirement Planning Checklist

15-point factual checklist — super, Age Pension, estate planning & Centrelink — current at May 2026

This document contains factual information only and does not constitute financial advice. Speak to a licensed financial adviser before making any financial decisions.

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This checklist summarises factual topics relevant to retirement planning in Australia. It does not constitute financial advice.

Superannuation

<input type="checkbox"/>	Know your preservation age	Born before 1/7/1960: 55. Born 1960–61: 56. Born 1961–62: 57. Born 1962–63: 58. Born 1963–64: 59. Born on or after 1/7/1964: 60.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand access conditions	Super can be accessed tax-free from age 60 on meeting a condition of release (retirement, turning 65, transition to retirement, terminal illness, permanent incapacity, or death).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check contribution history via MyGov	Review ATO MyGov for super balance, lost super, employer SG received, and any excess contribution assessments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review beneficiary nominations	Binding nominations expire every 3 years. Non-lapsing binding: no expiry. Non-binding: trustee discretion. Check your fund's specific rules.

Age Pension — thresholds from 20 March 2026

<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand the eligibility age	Age Pension eligibility age is 67 for anyone born on or after 1 January 1957.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assets test — full pension thresholds	Single homeowner: below \$321,500. Single non-homeowner: below \$579,500. Couple (combined) homeowner: below \$481,500. Couple (combined) non-homeowner: below \$739,500.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Assets test — part pension cut-offs	Single homeowner: below \$722,000. Single non-homeowner: below \$980,000. Couple (combined) homeowner: below \$1,085,000. Couple (combined) non-homeowner: below \$1,343,000. Non-homeowners receive a \$258,000 higher threshold. Thresholds reviewed March, July and September each year.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Income test thresholds (from 20 March 2026)	Single: full pension below \$218/fortnight; part pension cut-off \$2,619.80/fortnight. Couple combined: full pension below \$380/fortnight; part pension cut-off \$4,000.90/fortnight.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deeming rates (from 20 March 2026)	Lower rate: 1.25% on first \$64,200 of financial assets (single) or \$106,200 (couple). Upper rate: 3.25% on amounts above these thresholds. Deeming rates are reviewed periodically — check current rates at servicesaustralia.gov.au .

Estate Planning

<input type="checkbox"/>	Have a current, valid Will	A Will specifies how your assets are distributed after death. Without one, intestacy laws apply — these vary by state and territory.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enduring Power of Attorney	Appoints someone to manage financial and/or legal decisions if you lose capacity. Rules and requirements vary by state/territory.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enduring Guardianship / Medical POA	Appoints someone to make health and lifestyle decisions if you cannot. Sometimes called an Advance Care Directive. Requirements differ by jurisdiction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Super death benefit nominations	Superannuation does not automatically form part of your estate. A valid binding nomination directs payment to a nominated dependant or legal personal representative.

Centrelink & DVA

<input type="checkbox"/>	Notify changes within 14 days	You must notify Services Australia of changes to income, assets, or personal circumstances within 14 days to avoid overpayments and penalties.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	Available to Age Pension age Australians not receiving the Age Pension, subject to an income test (not an assets test). Provides concessions on PBS prescription medicines.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Home Equity Access Scheme	A government scheme allowing eligible older Australians to access equity in their home as a voluntary non-taxable loan. Interest accrues and is recoverable from the estate.