



IN-TANDEM INSIGHT

June 2024.

Welcome from the Chairman.

Welcome to the second edition of the 2024 In-Tandem Insight newsletter.

In this edition, we explain our recent transition to electronic communications as our default method and explore some of the benefits of Scheme membership, including free life insurance and our retirement calculator MySuper Planner.

We also share the latest market commentary and investment returns for the Scheme, while exploring the importance of estate planning and having an up-to-date will.

If you have any queries regarding the Scheme or this newsletter, please call our Helpline on **0508 IN TANDEM (0508 468 263)**.

Bruce Kerr

Chairman

Scheme snapshot.

- **\$392,169,010** in accumulated retirement savings as at 31 May 2024
- **4,646** members and **111** pensioners as at 31 May 2024
- **600** new members joined In-Tandem between 1 July 2023 and 31 May 2024



Transition to electronic communications.

The Trustee has decided to transition to electronic communications as the default method for delivering Scheme communications and membership information from mid-2024. This means that members will receive all Scheme communications such as this newsletter, annual reports and member statements and any other updates through email, instead of through postal or physical delivery. We will use the personal email address you have provided to us (preferred) or your individual Westpac email address (if you have not advised us of a personal email address you want us to use).

Why are we making this switch?

Convenience: Electronic communications allow you to receive important Scheme updates, member statements, and other information directly to your email inbox.

Speed: With electronic communications, you will receive information in real-time, ensuring that you stay up to date with the latest developments regarding your membership and the Scheme.

Environmental impact: By reducing our reliance on paper-based mailings, we may reduce our environmental footprint and collectively contribute to a more sustainable future.

What do you need to do?

Members who are content with receiving communications electronically do not need to take any action. However, if you are receiving this communication to your Westpac email address, you may wish to provide a personal email address. You can do so by logging in to your account at westpacnzstaffsuper.co.nz and clicking on the 'Personal details' link under your avatar to update your email address.

Members who previously received their personalised annual report and member statement by post will receive an email later in the year with instructions on how to access this information electronically.

For any questions or concerns, members can contact the Helpline team on **0508 468 263** (+61 3 8306 0969 if calling from overseas) or by emailing westpacstaffsuper@mercer.com.



Free life insurance for members.

If you're a permanent employee (Category E and F members), you're usually eligible for free life insurance, referred to in the Scheme Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) and Trust Deed as the "Additional Benefit". This covers your death or total and permanent disablement while in Service, for claims accepted by the insurer.

If you join the Scheme within the first 90 days of being employed (and are at work on the day you join), you are automatically eligible for life insurance regardless of any pre-existing medical conditions (up to a maximum cover amount of \$1 million, depending on your salary level). If you join the Scheme after 90 days of being employed, or your cover would be more than \$1 million, you'll need to undergo medical disclosure that may result in you not being covered for some pre-existing conditions or cover being declined.

The value of your life insurance is additional to the balance of your Member and Company Accounts. See page 2 of the **Member Booklet** for how your life insurance is calculated (this can also be found online on the 'Documents' page, under 'Member booklets and fact sheets'. You can find further information in the 'Additional Benefit' section available within the **PDS** at westpacnzstaffsuper.co.nz.

Investment commentary.

Quarter ended 31 March 2024

Supplied by: *BT Funds Management*

The narrative for the March quarter revolved around the stock market's ability to continue to rally despite lower expectations for interest rate cuts by the major central banks. Notably, US equities rallied for a second straight quarter and the S&P 500 had its best performance to start a year since 2019.

In New Zealand, economic growth for the quarter ending December 2023 (GDP) printed a marginally negative number. This followed the previous quarter's decline in economic activity and, further, marked the fourth quarterly contraction in the economy out of the past five quarters. At its monetary policy meeting in February, the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) said that risks to the inflation outlook have become more balanced and softened its previous intentions of further rate hikes to get inflation back to its target range. While the RBNZ indicated the possibility of reductions in the official cash rate in 2025, financial markets began to speculate on rate cuts starting as soon as August this year.

Looking ahead, analysts retain their view of continued economic resilience. However, downside risks include sticky core services inflation in the US, evidenced in the hotter than expected January and February inflation data releases over the quarter. This may delay and/or limit the extent of interest rate cuts and in turn limit further upside for stocks, especially for the mega-cap names. Also, softer consumer spending data in February and dampened pricing power are a key risk to earnings growth. Additionally, commercial real estate exposure in regional banks remains an overhang; however, policy officials and industry leaders are of the view that contagion risk appears limited.

[Read the full market update here](#)

How has your fund performed?

Investment performance as at **31 March 2024** after fees and tax.

	3 months	1 year	3 years (p.a.)	5 years (p.a.)	10 years (p.a.)
Cash Fund	1.1%	4.3%	2.4%	1.9%	2.0%
Defensive Fund	1.2%	5.0%	1.5%	2.0%	2.6%
Moderate Balanced Fund	3.2%	8.2%	1.9%	3.5%	4.4%
Growth Fund	4.6%	10.4%	2.3%	4.5%	5.5%
High Growth Fund	6.7%	13.6%	3.1%	6.1%	7.3%

Returns are based on unit prices (determined by Mercer) for the respective funds.

The latest unit prices can be accessed [here](#).

Source: *BT Funds Management*



Do you have a will?

Having an up-to-date will is an important part of planning for the future. It is a legal document that specifies who will inherit your assets or estate after you pass away. It is important to ensure that your will accurately reflects your current situation, as your financial and personal circumstances may have changed since you last updated it. If you do not have a will, there are a few options available to you. You can have one created by a trustee corporation or lawyer, or you can use a write-your-own-will toolkit from an online service or book retailer. However, if you choose to write it yourself, it is recommended to have a lawyer review it to ensure it is done properly.

For more information about wills and the estate planning process, please visit the Sorted website:

[How to make a will » Sorted](#)

Estate planning – enduring power of attorney.

An enduring power of attorney (EPA) is a legal document that gives someone you trust (referred to as your “attorney”) the power to make decisions on your behalf if you lose the ability to make decisions yourself.

There are two types of EPA:

- **EPA for Personal Care and Welfare** – this gives someone the authority to make important choices about your health and wellbeing, like picking a care facility or deciding on medical treatment. However, it only applies when a doctor or court determines that you are unable to make these decisions yourself.
- **EPA for Property** – this gives a trustee corporation or one or more individuals the power to make decisions regarding your financial and physical assets. You have the choice to make this take effect right away or only when you cannot make decisions for yourself anymore. Your attorney(s) must follow any rules in the document. The Citizens Advice Bureau provides advice on what to consider when giving someone power of attorney. You can set up an enduring power of attorney through your lawyer or trustee corporation.

[Read the full article](#)



MySuper Planner.

The MySuper Planner is an industry-leading retirement income calculator, designed specifically for the Westpac In-Tandem Scheme. This tool enables you to estimate your projected retirement savings and how long it may last in retirement.

The planner is designed to estimate your total retirement income, including benefits from NZ Super or other investments. You can also consider your spouse or partner’s retirement savings and see how a career break or part-time work may affect your projected savings. This allows you to assess your financial position in retirement and plan accordingly.

[Try the calculator here](#)

Important reminder.

We wanted to take a moment to remind you about an important aspect of our retirement Scheme. All contributions to the Scheme are made through payroll, ensuring a seamless and secure process. We want to emphasise that the Bank or Trustee will never request payment to another bank account.

If you ever receive any communication or request asking for payment to a different bank account, please contact the Scheme's Helpline on **0508 468 263** (+61 3 8306 0969 if calling from overseas).

Useful links and contacts.



In-Tandem Helpline
0508 468 263



Investment advisers
0800 942 822



Scheme website
westpacnzstaffsuper.co.nz



Feedback
bruce.kerr@westpac.co.nz

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We recommend that you read the **Product Disclosure Statement** and take **financial advice** from a financial adviser before making any investment decisions. In addition, past performance cannot be relied upon as a guide to future performance.

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