

INSIGHTS

JULY 2024

NZAS 
RETIREMENT FUND
Your Super. Your Future.

Message from the Trustee

Welcome to the second edition of Insights for 2024.

This edition is packed with valuable information. We provide an update on how the Fund's communications will be distributed in future, share the results of the recent member survey, and give you important details about the benefit payment processing freeze that will be briefly imposed in mid-August while we determine final year-end earnings rates.

Additionally:

- you'll find the latest market commentary and investment returns information, along with a helpful checklist for meeting a financial adviser, and
- we highlight some useful financial tools, such as the Financial Services Council (FSC) Retirement Planning Guide and the various tools and calculators available on the Sorted website.

We welcome to the Trustee Board Kyle Murray, who joined us on 1 July 2024 as an offsite Trustee Director. Kyle is an employer representative who is currently working for Rio Tinto in Brisbane as Manager – Performance and Productivity, but was previously based at NZAS in Invercargill. Kyle replaces Torsten Becht, who resigned as a Trustee Director on 31 March 2024 when leaving Rio Tinto.

As always, if you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to reach out to us. You can write to us at nzasrf@mercer.com, or call the Helpline on **0508 266 787**.

Regards,

NZAS Retirement Fund Trustee Board

Member survey insights

15%

of the Fund's total membership (135 members) completed the survey

87%

of respondents 'strongly agree' or 'agree' that the Fund's current investment options (Growth, Balanced, Conservative and Cash) are suitable for their needs

96%

of respondents indicate that they prefer to receive information by email

55%

of respondents have watched an Investment Insights video, with 88% of them rating them as 'excellent' or 'good'



Changes to the way you receive communications

This year, we are changing how we send email communications to you. Currently:

- regulatory communications, such as annual member statements and annual reports, are sent to you by post, and
- other communications, such as these newsletters, are sent:
 - if you are an employee member, to your work email address via NZAS, and
 - if you are a retirement account member, to your personal or work email address if you have supplied one, or by post.

Later this year, we'll be introducing communication preferences functionality on the Fund's website. You will be able to specify whether you prefer to receive regulatory communications by email (personal or work) or by post.

Additionally, you will be able to opt out of receiving non-regulatory communications such as newsletters.

Keep an eye on the website for more information about when we plan to introduce this functionality.

In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to update your email address to a personal one – or if we haven't got a personal email address for you, please provide one.

To update or advise us of your email address, please log in to your account via the website at www.nzasretirementfund.com, select your avatar at the top right, and click on 'Personal Details'. Here, in the future, you'll also be able to select your communication preferences.

To ensure that you receive your annual member statement and annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 by post in September without any delay, it is important that you log in and confirm that your address details are correct. Taking this step now will help ensure that these important documents reach you on time.

Investment option returns

The following table shows investment returns (after tax and investment-related costs) for each of the Fund's four investment options for the stated periods, each ended 30 June 2024.

	Cash	Conservative	Balanced	Growth
Fund year to date (12 months)	4.13%	4.30%	4.75%	5.11%
3 years (p.a.)	2.9%	0.7%	0.4%	0.5%
5 years (p.a.)	2.0%	2.4%	3.7%	5.2%
10 years (p.a.)	1.9%	3.9%	5.7%	7.6%

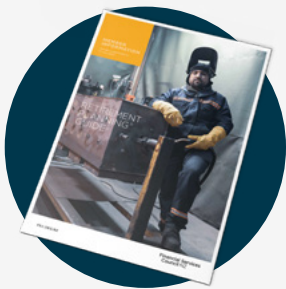
You can find the [latest earning rates](#) and general information about [how financial markets are performing](#) on the Fund website.

Market update

For period ending 31 May 2024

From March to May, there were fluctuations in investment performance. In March, international equities performed well, with the MSCI World Index up 3.4%. US equities were supported by the US Federal Reserve's projection of potential rate cuts, which also benefited international and New Zealand fixed interest markets. In April, the rally in risk assets came to an end due to inflation coming in higher than expected and a slowdown in US GDP growth. As a result, emerging market equities outperformed developed markets and fixed income assets posted negative returns. In May, strong corporate earnings and positive economic data boosted equities and fixed income. Inflation eased in developed markets and forward looking purchasing manager indicators remained in expansionary territory, indicating a positive outlook.

[Read more](#)



FSC Retirement Planning Guide

The Financial Services Council ('FSC') has created a guide for individuals who want to plan for retirement on their own. The guide aims to help people achieve a comfortable lifestyle in retirement without fully depleting their savings. It explains things that you can control when planning for retirement, such as your savings and spending habits. It also mentions factors that are beyond your control, like investment returns, inflation and life expectancy.

The guide includes:

- an overview of retirement planning
- guidance on how to use the Sorted KiwiSaver and Retirement calculators and tools, offered free by Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission
- a summary of some helpful 'rules of thumb' developed by the New Zealand Society of Actuaries for managing savings during retirement

[FSC Retirement Planning Guide](#)

Sorted tools

[Sorted.org.nz](#) offers a range of useful tools to help you with retirement planning, tracking your savings progress, and taking the necessary actions to achieve your financial goals.

These tools cover a range of areas, including budgeting, goal planning, and calculators to help you assess if you're on track for your desired retirement lifestyle.



[Budgeting tool](#)



[Retirement calculator](#)



[Savings calculator](#)



[Goal planner](#)



What to take when meeting a financial adviser

To make the most of your meeting with a financial adviser, it's important to have the necessary documents ready. This checklist provides a handy guide to help you gather the required Fund information. By having these documents on hand, you can provide your adviser with the necessary details to receive tailored advice and recommendations. Whether you're meeting in person or virtually, use this checklist to ensure you're prepared for your meeting.

[Financial Adviser Checklist](#)

Benefit payment processing freeze – mid-August

Each year, as part of the annual review process and to enable the calculation and allocation of final year-end earnings rates, the Trustee briefly suspends the processing of benefit payments (though any urgently required payments can still be processed in exceptional circumstances). The purpose of this suspension is to ensure that the correct account balances are used for earnings allocation purposes.

This year the Trustee intends that the benefit payments suspension period will be 12 to 18 August (or a shorter period if practicable).

To ensure that any near-term payment or withdrawal requests can be processed without being delayed by the required suspension, please make sure to email them to the Fund administrator at nzasrf@mercercor.com at least 10 working days before 12 August. This will allow us sufficient time to process your request.

Your Trustee Directors

You're welcome to contact any of your Trustee Directors if you have any questions about the Fund. Their details are [online](#) or you can call them on their direct lines:

Site-Based Trustee Directors

Paula 03 218 5571

Andrew 03 218 5989

Karen 03 218 5689

Offsite Trustee Directors

Tim 027 453 5565

Kyle +61 (0) 477 362 101

Bruce 027 284 0481

Allan 027 216 7312

Grant 022 071 3117

Any questions about the Fund? You can contact the Helpline on **0508 266 787** (Australia 03 8306 0964, and international +61 3 8306 0964) between 9am and 7pm Monday to Friday, except for national public holidays.

General disclaimer: Information in this newsletter is not intended to be financial advice or to take the place of a financial adviser. The information in this newsletter is for general information only, and has been prepared on behalf of NZAS Retirement Fund Trustee Limited (the issuer of the Fund) without taking account of your personal objectives, circumstances or needs. More information about the Fund can be found in the Fund's most recent [Product Disclosure Statement](#), a copy of which is available at www.nzasretirementfund.com. Past performance cannot be relied upon as a guide for future performance.

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