

# Retirement readiness in Australia

Key insights from the Brighter Super & Investment Trends  
2025 Retirement Income Report

Early guidance and advice are emerging as  
key drivers of retirement confidence – yet  
many Australians still wait too long to act



Australians who plan for their retirement generally feel more in control, have greater financial resilience and experience a smoother transition into retirement.



Brighter Super is delighted to partner with Investment Trends for a second consecutive year to deliver this comprehensive research into Australians' retirement readiness and confidence.

The findings of the Brighter Super & Investment Trends 2025 Retirement Income Report reinforce a message we see every day in our conversations with members: preparation builds confidence.

Pleasingly, retirement confidence is rebounding with more people taking deliberate steps to understand their position, however, it remains below the highs of the past five years.

Yet the report highlights a persistent challenge: while confidence has lifted, knowledge remains low. Too many Australians continue to struggle to understand the products, tools, and strategies available to them, and many are unsure where to turn for advice.

The research is clear, accessing early advice is emerging as the key to stronger retirement confidence. Closing the knowledge gap and encouraging Australians to act earlier is critical to improving retirement outcomes.

At Brighter Super addressing this gap remains a key priority.

Our advice pathway, education programs, and practical retirement tools are designed to provide members with

clarity and confidence - being right by our members' sides at every stage of their journey. We aim to ensure our members have access to advice and support that is accessible, affordable and relevant to their needs.

The insights in this research will enable us to further refine that support. They remind us that while every Australian's retirement journey is different, the need for clear information and timely action is universal.

I would like to acknowledge the thousands of Australians who generously shared their experiences and perspectives for this report. Their voices shine a light on the challenges and opportunities shaping the retirement journey and reinforce why empowering better outcomes matters more than ever.

It is my hope that this report sparks meaningful conversations - between funds, advisers, policymakers and, most importantly, members themselves - about how we can continue to strengthen retirement outcomes for Australians to ensure they feel confident and empower them to live their best lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Farrar'.

**Kate Farrar,**  
Chief Executive Officer, Brighter Super

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## Australian's who plan early, are nearly twice as comfortable in retirement.



The Brighter Super & Investment Trends 2025 Retirement Income Report shows a clear and consistent truth: early preparation is the single most important driver of retirement confidence.

The report is the result of a partnership between Brighter Super and Investment Trends. Results are based on a quantitative online survey conducted by Investment Trends of 3,679 Australian adults aged 40 and above, including 1,348 retirees, carried out between August and September 2025. More information on the survey methodology is available in the methodology section of this report on page 22.

While this year's report reveals an encouraging lift in retirement readiness and a narrowing of the expected income gap between what people expect to need in retirement and what they expect to receive – it also highlights an emerging divide.

Australians who take early, active steps – whether that's attending a seminar, reviewing their balance, or speaking with an adviser – enter retirement feeling more secure, more in control and far better equipped to handle rising living costs. They typically have strong super balances, lower debt, and a clearer understanding of the lifestyle they can afford.

Those who delay planning remain more anxious, more exposed, and more likely to feel unprepared as retirement approaches.

### Early advice bridges the gap from uncertainty to confidence

This year's research shows the most powerful catalyst for confidence is early guidance and advice. Pre-retirees who seek information, through webinars, tools, or advice, are far more likely to take meaningful action. Those who engage early are also less worried about running out of money and more optimistic about retirement.

Yet the advice gap remains. Many Australians know they need help but feel unsure where to start or assume personal advice is out of reach. Members tell us clearly that they want support that is simple, affordable and easy to act on. This is why Brighter Super has shaped a clearer, more accessible advice pathway to help members build confidence earlier in their journey with us.

### Signs of improvement, but readiness remains fragile

The Brighter Super Ready for Retirement Index (RRI) improved this year, reflecting a rebound in investment market conditions and a gentle rise in financial confidence. But it remains well below historical highs, showing that the recovery is far from complete. Only 38% of Australians feel prepared for retirement, and concerns about cost-of-living pressures continue to dominate among pre-retirees.

### Retirement often begins earlier than expected

Health, job changes and caring responsibilities remain strong triggers for earlier-than-planned retirement. This reinforces the need for flexible planning – with clear options that allow members to adjust when life happens. The transition from saving for retirement to spending in retirement is a particularly challenging stage, and many Australians still lack understanding of the products designed to support them. Confidence is highest among those receiving advice or guided support.

Satisfaction with retirement income products is strong among those who use them, but overall awareness and understanding remains low. This knowledge gap presents an opportunity for funds to better educate and support members especially as they approach preservation age.

### Trust in super funds is high but members want more personal guidance

Australians continue to trust their super funds to support their long-term financial wellbeing. Satisfaction with performance and service is also rising. However, members are clear about what they want next: more personalised guidance, greater transparency, and help navigating retirement income decisions. Personal financial advice is their top request for the second year in a row for retirees.

### Our commitment to helping members take action today

At Brighter Super, we believe every member deserves to feel confident about the future. A secure and fulfilling retirement is not an abstract goal; it's built step by step through informed, achievable actions.

We are acting on these insights by making advice more accessible, personal and affordable. Through clear education, practical tools, and a flexible advice pathway,

we're helping members take action with confidence – supported every step of the way.

This year's report reinforces an essential truth: start early, seek guidance and build confidence. When members are supported to plan early, the path to a comfortable retirement becomes clearer, calmer and within reach.

Brighter Super is committed to being right by your side at every step.

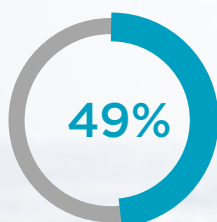
“Retirement is shaped by the decisions you make today, not those put off for years. And while the best time to start planning was years ago, the next best time is today. We want to empower our members to act early, seek advice, and build the confidence they need to retire well,”

– Jennifer McSpadden, Head of Retirement

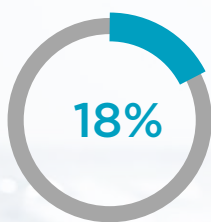
## Key Insights

### Preparing vs Living: The Retirement Reality Gap

#### Preparing for Retirement: Pre-retirees expect



Fear an income gap



Of those who feel unprepared for retirement have ever used financial advice



Fear inflation and rising prices

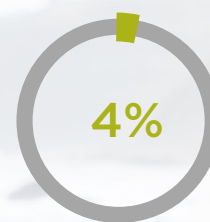


Unsure what to do at preservation age

#### Living in Retirement: Retirees experience



Live comfortably



Are struggling in retirement



Of retirees with >\$750k feel comfortable



Would rely on Government Age Pension if retirement savings ran out

Brighter Super's focus on quality member education has earned national recognition as *Money* magazine's Best of the Best 2026 winner for Innovation in Member Education and winner of Member Education at the 12th annual Super Review awards\*

\* For *Money* Magazine's award criteria, visit [moneymag.com.au](https://www.moneymag.com.au). Awards are only one factor to be taken into account when deciding to invest.

# Planning for a Brighter retirement



*Early planning and guidance lead to greater confidence and comfort in retirement.*

## Early planning leads to better retirement outcomes

The data is clear, those who start planning early feel more confident and better prepared for retirement. Pre-retirees who feel prepared typically began planning for retirement 6.6 years ago while those who feel unprepared for retirement began planning 3.8 years ago. On average, pre-retirees who feel prepared have a super balance of \$438,000 compared to an average of \$177,000 for pre-retirees who feel unprepared.

**Prepared pre-retirees plan earlier, save more, use more advice and take more action, resulting in far stronger financial readiness than those who feel unprepared**



**Those who feel prepared for retirement**



**Those who feel unprepared for retirement**

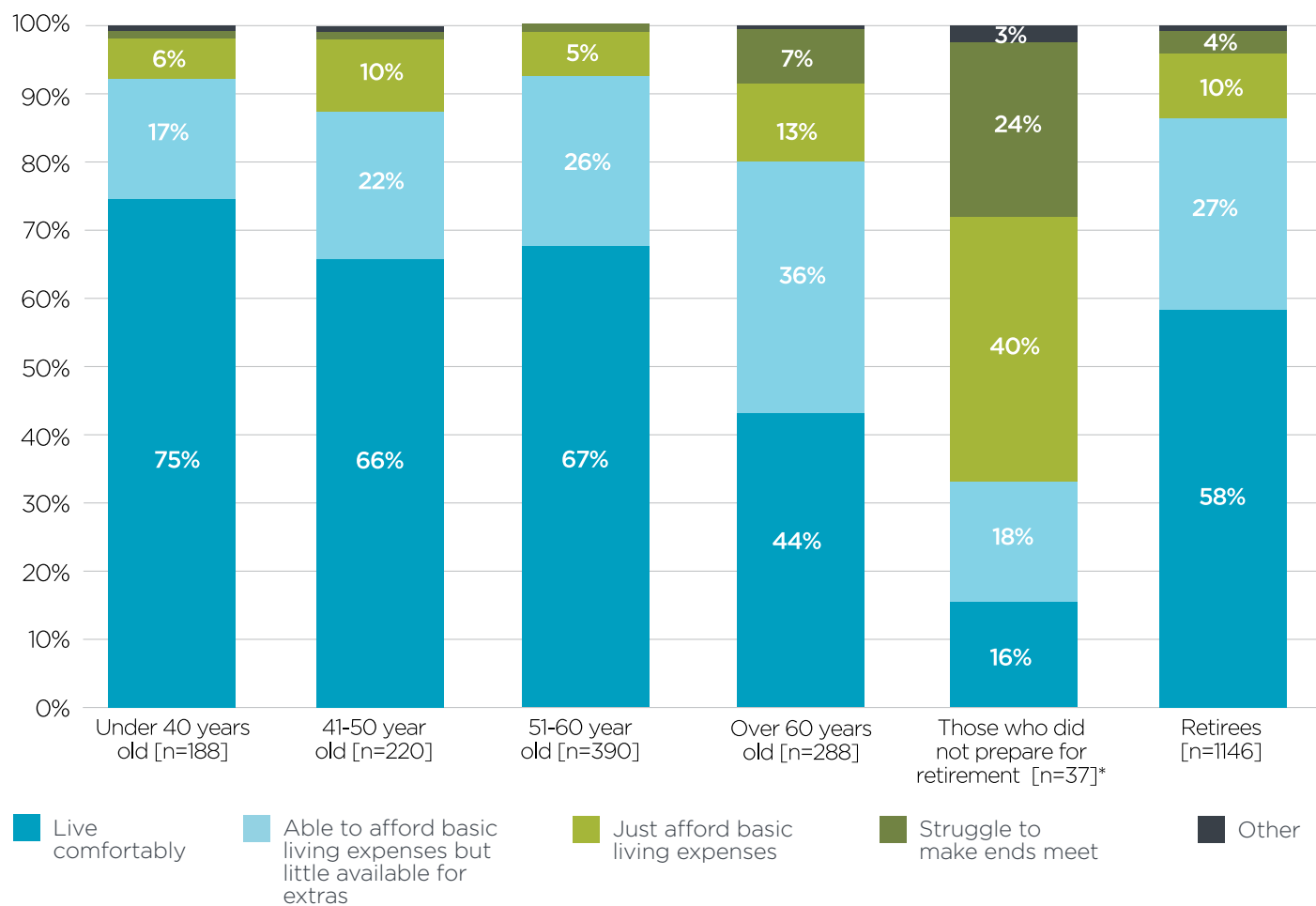
	<b>6.6 years ago</b>	<b>3.8 years ago</b>
Ave time since started planning for retirement		
Average super balance	<b>\$438k</b>	<b>\$177k</b>
Advise usage	<b>30%</b>	<b>18%</b>
Percent with income gap	<b>30% (average gap &lt;1%)</b>	<b>73% (average gap 47%)</b>
Drivers to start preparing for retirement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Fear of not having enough to retire on (29%)</li> <li>2 Feeling more secure about my future (29%)</li> <li>3 Having more control over when to stop work (27%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Fear of not having enough to retire on (53%)</li> <li>2 Major life event or milestone (30%)</li> <li>3 Health reasons (23%)</li> </ol>
Sources of retirement information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 My super fund (38%)</li> <li>2 Financial adviser (29%)</li> <li>3 Friends/family (28%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Friends/family (32%)</li> <li>2 My super fund (29%)</li> <li>3 Financial adviser (16%)</li> </ol>
Actions taken since using retirement information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Made voluntary super contributions (38%)</li> <li>2 Prepared a will (26%)</li> <li>3 Used a retirement planning digital tool (24%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Made voluntary super contributions (24%)</li> <li>2 Spoke to family/ptnr about retirement plans (17%)</li> <li>3 Reviewed insurance cover (11%)</li> </ol>

## Planning for a Brighter retirement cont'

Confidence also extends to expected income in retirement. Only 30% of pre-retirees who feel prepared anticipate an income gap, and for them, the gap is minimal — less than 1%. In contrast, 73% of pre-retirees who feel unprepared expect to fall short, with an average income gap of over 47% between what they expect to earn and what they believe they'll need.

### Similarly, retirees who began preparing for retirement before age 40 are by far the most financially comfortable later in life

How well off do you feel financially? By actual age at which Aus adults begin preparing for retirement. Among retirees



\*Small sample, indicative only

### Starting early delivers lasting comfort

The earlier Australians begin preparing, the more likely they are to live comfortably in retirement. Among retirees who began preparing for retirement before age 40, 75% said they were able to live comfortably. Around two-thirds of those who began planning between the ages of 41 and 50 and 51 and 60 reported living comfortably. But among those who began preparing after 60, only 44% reported living comfortably. Strikingly, only 16% of those who didn't plan at all say they are living comfortably.



Brighter Super offers a range of tools, events and advice options to help you get started on your retirement planning.





### What it takes to achieve a comfortable retirement

Comfortable retirees are better positioned to handle unexpected financial or lifestyle shocks. Those who plan ahead are less likely to make reactive decisions and are more likely to have contingencies to manage challenges as they arise.

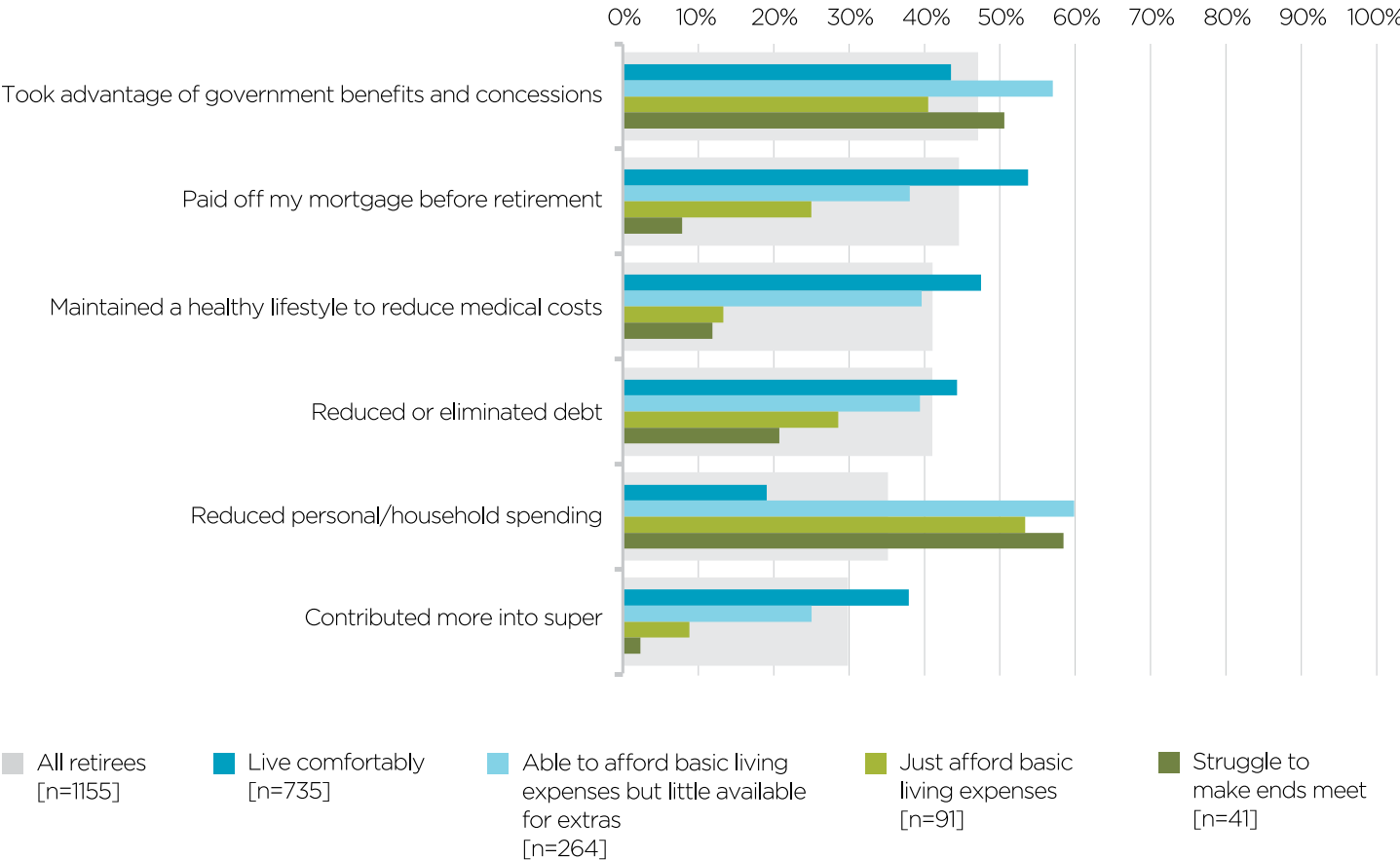
Comfortable retirees credit a mix of practical and proactive financial behaviours for their security in later life.

The most influential actions they took include:

- Paying off the mortgage before retirement
- Maintaining a healthy lifestyle to reduce medical expenses
- Reducing or eliminating debt
- Taking advantage of government benefits and concessions
- Contributing more into super

### Those who are comfortable in retirement have deployed multiple strategies, including paying off debt early and disciplined saving.

Reflecting on your retirement journey, which of the following actions or decisions have contributed to your sense of living comfortably today? (Multiple responses permitted) How well off do you feel financially? Among retirees





## Planning for a Brighter retirement cont'

By contrast, those struggling to make ends meet, or just able to afford basic essentials, focus primarily on reducing personal and household spending and taking advantage of government benefits and concessions.

Comfortable retirees are less likely to have concerns about day-to-day challenges compared with those who are struggling to make ends meet, for instance:

- Struggling retirees are more than three times as likely as those living comfortably to identify the rising cost of living as their biggest challenge when transitioning to retirement
- Struggling retirees are also twice as likely to express concern about health or mobility issues
- Around 35% of struggling retirees are worried about their sense of purpose or identity, compared with just 8% of comfortable retirees

Confidence levels in dealing with rising costs show the same divide. Nearly all comfortable retirees (93%) say they can adapt to sharper than expected rises in living costs, compared with 86% of struggling retirees who say they are not confident they could adapt.

### What pre-retirees want to know

Financial concerns continue to remain a priority for pre-retirees ahead of retirement, followed by how to optimise their superannuation, improve investment strategies and, plan lifestyle and security in later life.

Information sought by pre-retirees to help them better prepare for retirement includes:

- How much is needed to retire comfortably (35%)
- How much will they likely receive from super in retirement (32%)
- How to improve retirement outcomes (30%)
- Likely super balance at retirement (30%)

Knowledge among pre-retirees of the support available from their super fund is low. Overall, less than half of pre-retirees are aware of their fund's retirement planning tools. Across all funds, 17% are aware the tools existed and had used them, while 26% said they knew they existed but had not used them.

When pre-retirees were asked about their fund's lifestyle projection tools, only 17% were aware that their super fund offered them and had used them, while a further 23% said they were aware of them and intended to use them in the future.

When it comes to learning, pre-retirees prefer information delivered in formats that allow time to absorb and revisit key details. Email updates and newsletters are the top choice, followed by one-on-one sessions and comprehensive PDFs or online resources.



Brighter Super's online tools and calculators can be used by members to take control of their retirement planning – from estimating income to setting goals with confidence.



# Retirement readiness

*Readiness is lifting, but confidence still hasn't recovered.*

## Retirement readiness is improving but confidence remains low

Influenced by strong fund and market performance, Australians' retirement readiness rebounded in 2025, with the Brighter Super Ready for Retirement Index<sup>1</sup> (RRI) rising to 60 points in 2025 from 57 points in 2024 compared to national industry level which rose from 53 to 58.

The RRI, which combines measures of preparedness among pre-retirees and confidence among retirees, reflects how close Australians feel to achieving their ideal retirement lifestyle. It also factors in perceptions of their super fund's suitability for retirement.

## Despite the rebound, confidence remains subdued overall

The upward trend indicates cautious optimism rather than full recovery, suggesting that while market conditions have improved, many Australians remain uncertain about whether they're financially ready for life after work.

While retirement preparedness rose to 38% in 2025 from just 29% the year before, it remains well below the

60% recorded in 2021 - indicating that post-pandemic confidence has yet to recover.

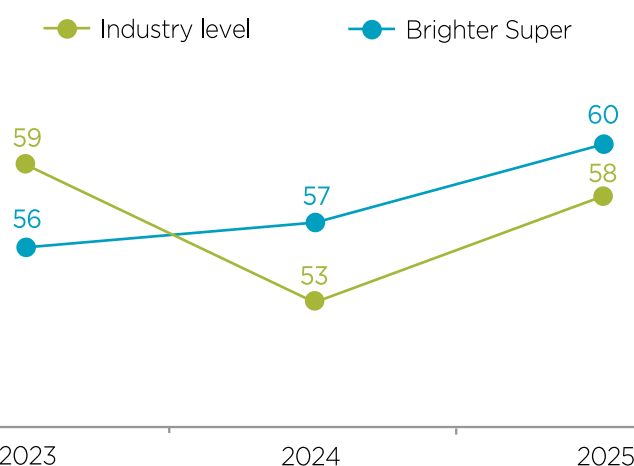
## Retirement income gap narrows

Almost half of pre-retirees anticipate a significant shortfall between what they will earn in retirement and what they believe they will need to live comfortably; however, the gap has narrowed noticeably over the past 12 months, suggesting improved confidence in Australians' ability to fund their later years.

In 2025, pre-retirees estimated they would need a median income of \$4,300 per month to live comfortably, compared with the \$3,300 they expect to receive - a gap of \$1,000 or 23%. This \$1,000 shortfall represents an improvement on 2024, when the median expected income gap was \$1,300 or 31%, signalling a meaningful lift in retirement confidence.

The proportion of pre-retirees anticipating an income gap also declined, falling to 49% in 2025 down from 62% in 2024 and 55% in 2023.

## Brighter Super Ready for Retirement Index (RRI) Among Australian adult population



The **Brighter Super Ready for Retirement Index** combines measures of preparedness among pre-retirees, confidence among retirees and member satisfaction with the suitability of their super fund for retirement

## Expected income in retirement & Perceived income required for a comfortable retirement



## Actions to close the gap

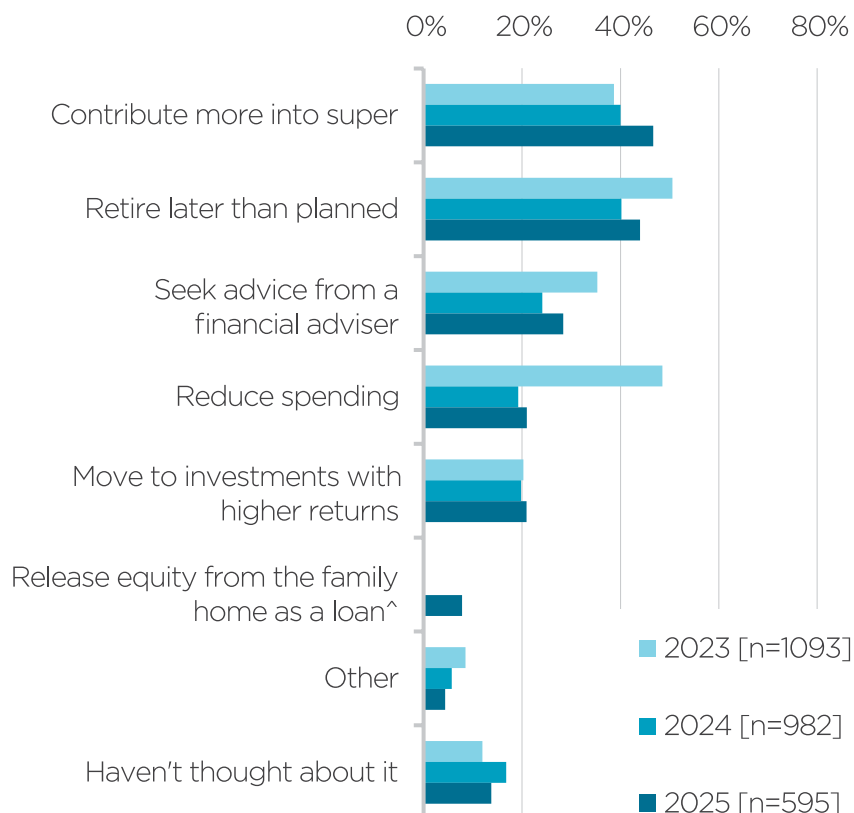
Australians are taking more deliberate steps to bridge the gap between their expected and desired retirement income. Over the past 12 months, the proportion of pre-retirees planning to contribute more to super has risen to almost 50% while more than 40% are considering delaying retirement to strengthen their financial position.



Not sure if you're on track? Brighter Super offers a Retirement Health Check for members at no additional cost.

## Many pre-retirees are looking to bridge the retirement income gap through greater super contributions and deferring retirement.

How do you intend to close the gap between the income you need and that which you expect to receive in retirement?



\*New option added in 2025



# Retirement readiness cont'

Among pre-retirees who feel unprepared for retirement, the most common intended actions are:

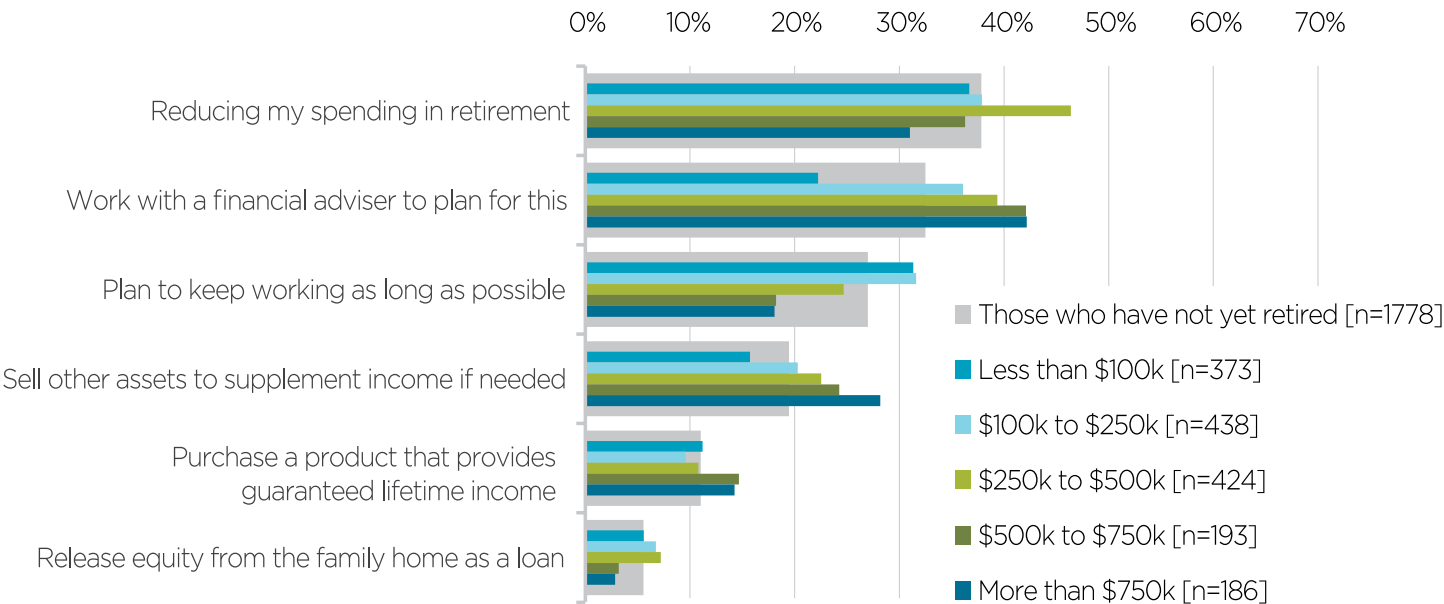
- Retiring later than planned (58%)
- Contributing more to super (46%)
- Seeking advice from a financial adviser (27%)
- Reducing spending (21%)

The findings highlight the growing influence of advice.

Super balances also shape behaviour. Pre-retirees with higher super balances are more likely to engage a financial adviser to structure their savings for longevity, while those with balances below \$250,000 typically plan to work longer or reduce discretionary expenses.

## Higher-balance members actively manage their savings through advice or asset sales, while lower-balance members are more likely to delay retirement

How do you plan to make your retirement savings last throughout retirement?  
(Multiple responses permitted) By super balance. Among those who have not yet retired





# Transitioning to retirement



*Flexible transitioning to retirement is preferred, but it could come sooner than expected.*

## Making the transition from saving for retirement to spending in retirement

The shift from savings to spending is one of the most complex stages of the retirement journey. While about 30% of pre-retirees don't know what action they will take when they reach age 60 (preservation age), among those that have started planning there is a preference to stay in accumulation for longer (19%).

While one in five retirees intend to remain in accumulation phase beyond preservation age, 11% plan to take some money out in a lump sum but keep the majority of their balance in the accumulation phase.

Only about 9% plan to take all their money out as a lump sum, while about the same proportion plan to open a transition-to-retirement account while continuing to work. About 7% plan to switch to a pension account within their own fund, while 12% plan to consult a financial adviser about their options.

The most common reason retirees remain in the accumulation phase is that they do not need immediate access to their funds. Other key reasons include a desire to continue making contributions and beneficial tax considerations.

The transition from accumulation to pension products that support decumulation is also a pivotal stage in the relationship between super funds and their members. When asked why they chose to stay with their current super fund when transitioning to a retirement income product, the top reason was that the process to transition was easy. This was closely followed by confidence in their fund's performance.

## What motivates Australians to plan for retirement?

For many Australians, retirement planning is driven more by emotion than strategy. Nearly 40% of pre-retirees cite fear of insufficient funds as their primary motivator, while over 20% say their desire to stop working prompts action.

Around 20% of pre-retirees also highlighted the following as key motivators to start planning for retirement:

- A major life event or milestone
- Feeling more secure about their future
- Having more control over when to stop working
- Travelling, pursuing hobbies or enjoying retirement

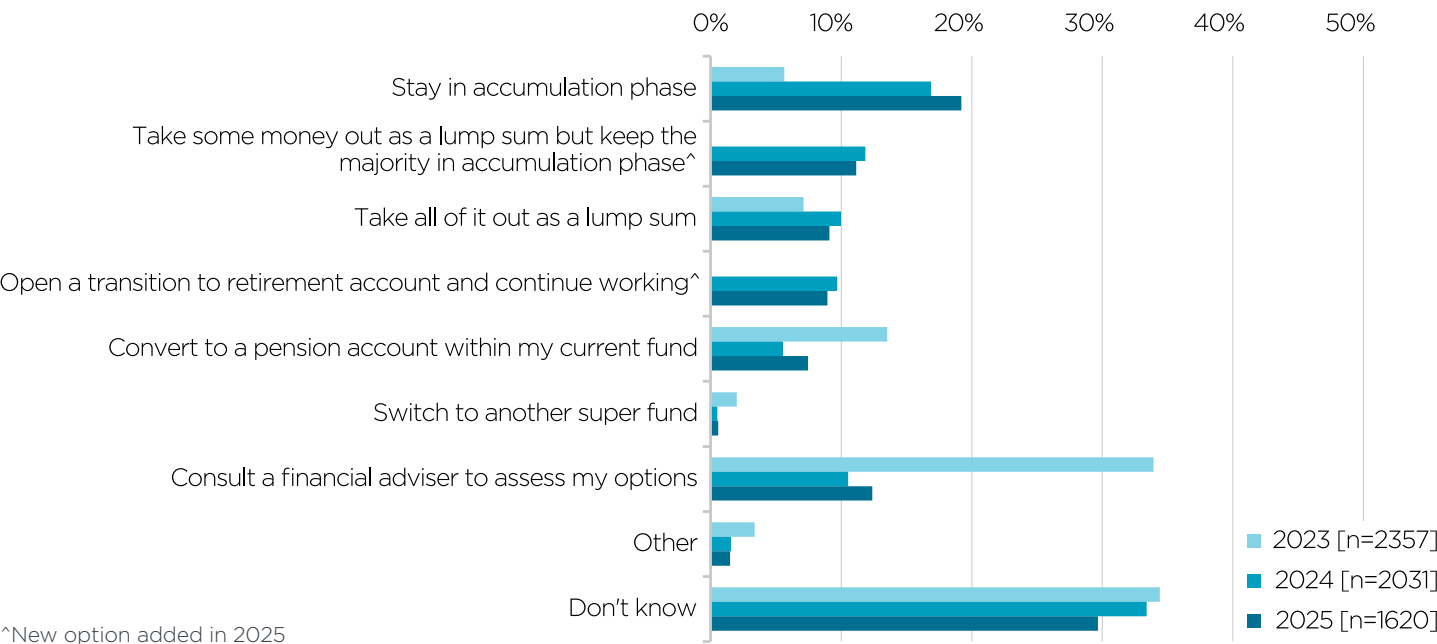
Among retirees, the motivations were more lifestyle oriented. The leading reasons for planning for retirement were wanting to stop work, followed by aspirations to travel, pursue hobbies, or enjoy greater freedom and control over their time.

Retirement often comes sooner than expected

Australians would prefer a phased rather than abrupt transition into retirement with three in 10 pre-retirees not knowing what they will do when they reach preservation age. This reflects emotional hesitation and lack of confidence in navigating retirement complexity.

Three in 10 pre-retirees don't know what action they'll take when they reach preservation age, underscoring uncertainty as retirement approaches

When you reach the preservation age that allows you to access your super, what action do you intend to take? Among those who have not yet retired



Retirement comes earlier than expected for a significant proportion of the population. In 2025, 39% retired earlier than they intended, while 45% retired at the time they had planned and 13% delayed retirement beyond their original plans.

Almost 30% of those who had retired earlier than planned cited health issues, followed by no longer wanting to keep working and unexpectedly becoming unemployed – which rose sharply between the 2024 and 2025 surveys from 18% to 24%.

By contrast, personal choice and financial necessity drove those that retired later than planned.

The top motivations included:

- A desire to keep working full-time (33%)
- A desire to keep working part-time (30%)
- Not having enough money to retire comfortably, which was cited by 28% - down sharply from 44% in 2024

Retirees report greater financial comfort than expected

While pre-retirees' continue to report low retirement preparedness, the reality for most retirees is far more positive. The majority of retirees (58%) said they are living comfortably, and a further 27% of retirees reported being able to afford basic living expenses, though with little room for extras.

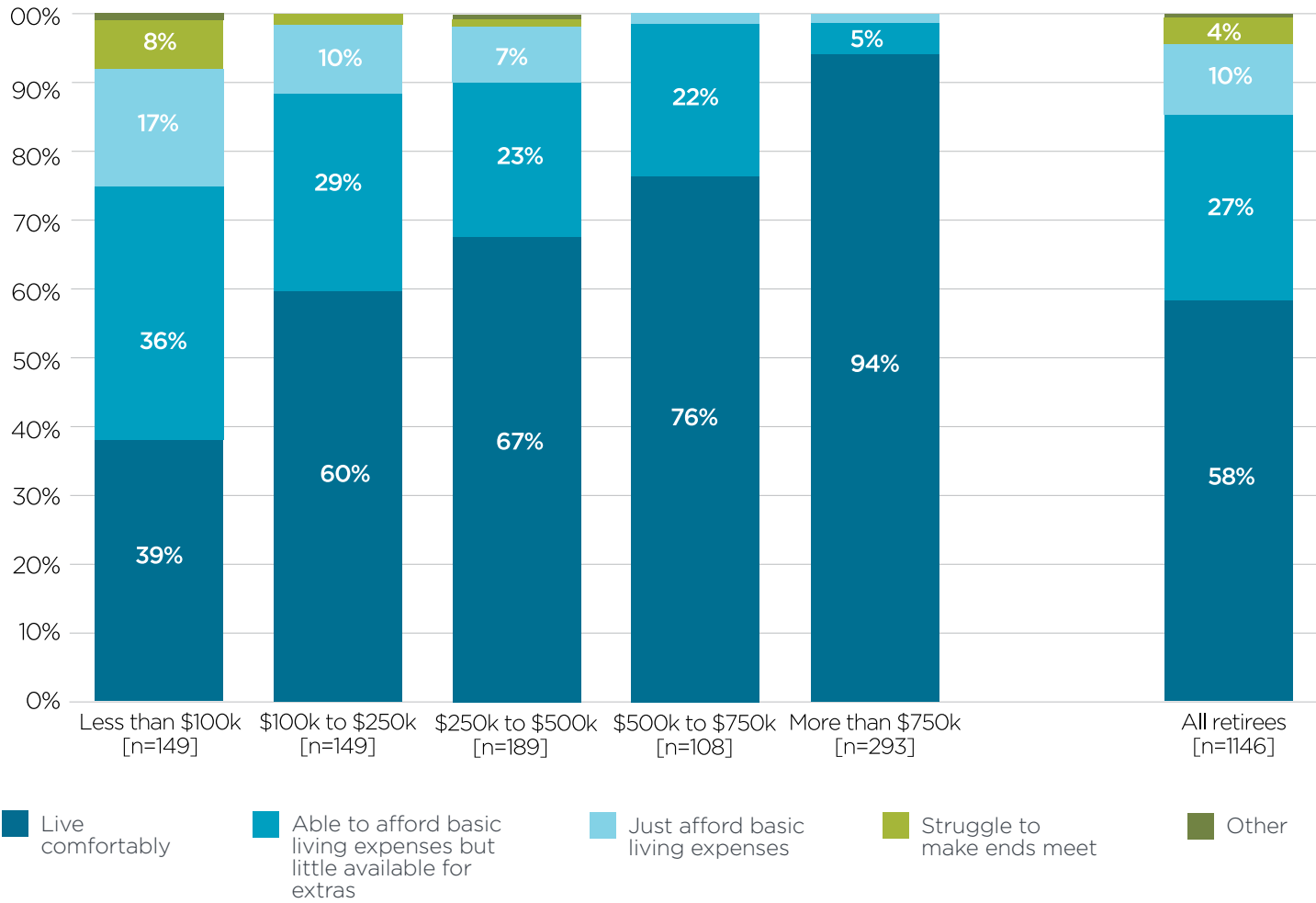
Only a small minority are struggling. Just 4% of retirees said they are unable to make ends meet, while a further 10% reported they are only just managing to cover basic living expenses.

Super continues to play a key role, with financial comfort among retirees increasing with higher super balances, peaking at 94% with those with balances more than \$750,000.

Financially comfortable retirees are far less worried about outliving their savings than those who are struggling to make ends meet. Among retirees living comfortably, 27% said they were not concerned at all about outliving their savings. In contrast, among those struggling to make ends meet, 46% were extremely concerned that they would outlive their savings while just 19% were not concerned at all.

**Financial comfort rises sharply with higher super balances, reinforcing the link between accumulated wealth and retirement confidence**

How well off do you feel financially? By Super balance. Among retirees



**What retirees would tell their younger selves**

While half of all retirees said they would not have done anything differently, the other half believe that better budgeting, saving and investing could have significantly improved their current circumstances.

When asked what they would change if they could prepare for retirement again:

- 27% said they would have contributed more to super
- 15% would have retired later than planned
- 13% would have reduced their spending
- 12% would have sought financial advice earlier

Among retirees who are struggling, the message is even clearer. Their biggest regrets were:

- Not reducing spending (65%)
- Not contributing more to super (62%)
- Not retiring later than planned (48%)
- Not seeking advice from a financial adviser (35%)
- Not investing in higher-return options (17%)

# The knowledge gap: understanding of retirement products



*Knowledge is limited, but those who use retirement income products are highly satisfied.*

## Understanding about retirement income products is low

Less than three in 10 retirees (29%) have a clear understanding of their retirement income and only 36% of retirees report confidence in their understanding of super and retirement income products.

Only 62% of retirees currently use any type of retirement income product. The most popular is an account based pension used by 54% of retirees, with another 9% intending to use one. Immediate annuities follow with just 14% of retirees using them and a further 4% intending to use them.

Financial advisers remain the key influence when Australians choose a retirement income product.

With over 30% of retirees selecting their product based on a recommendation from an adviser, while about a quarter of retirees made their choice independently. A similar pattern appears among pre-retirees, with nearly one-third indicating they would rely on an adviser, slightly more than the 30% who would decide on their own.

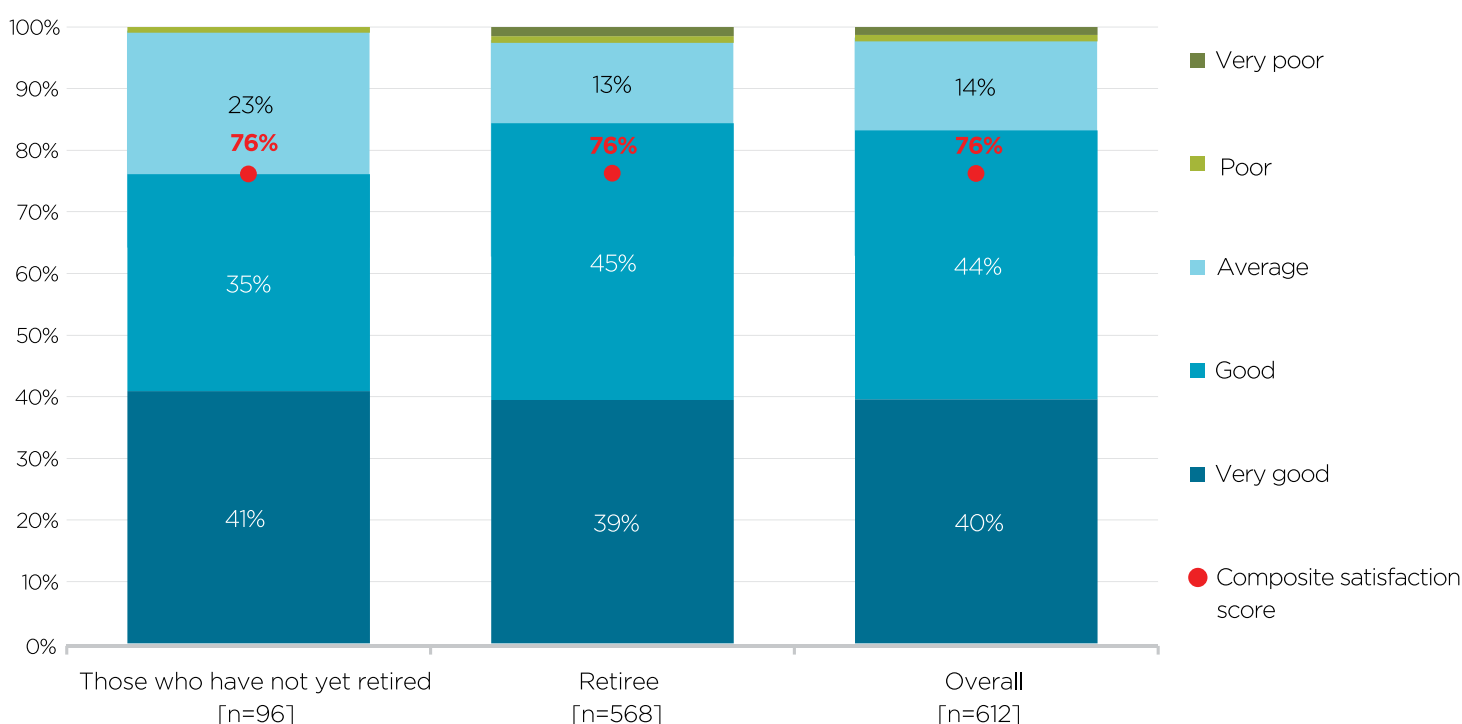
The most important factor when selecting a retirement income product from those who use one is competitive fees and charges. This was followed by providing income that lasts for life no matter how long the retirees live.

Retirees who use retirement income products report very high satisfaction (76%).

## Retirement income product users report high levels of satisfaction with their current retirement product

How would you rate your satisfaction with your current retirement income product?

By Retirement status. Australian adult population who are currently using a retirement income product





## Retirees seek guidance but knowledge gaps remain

Just over half of retirees reported receiving some form of guidance when transitioning from the accumulation phase to the pension phase, with their primary super fund being the main source of support.

However, awareness and use of retirement planning tools vary significantly among funds.

Just under half of retirees (46%) are withdrawing from their accounts at the minimum rate, while 8% are withdrawing above the minimum rate. A further 21% said they did not have a retirement account while 15% said they were unsure of their drawdown rate.

The amounts withdrawn by retirees are largely determined by:

- Monthly expenses and needs (29%)
- Advice from a financial adviser (28%)
- Withdrawals in line with a personal budget (27%)
- The minimum required rate (27%)

## Government Age Pension remains the primary safety net for retirees

Almost 60% of retirees said they would rely on the Government Age Pension to support themselves if they ran low on savings. About one quarter of retirees said they would downsize their home, while just under 20% said they would reduce spending.

About 10% of retirees said they would consider going back to work part-time or releasing equity from the family home as a loan. One in five retiree respondents said they hadn't thought about it.

Expected reliance on the Government Age Pension rises sharply among those facing financial strain. More than three quarters of retirees who are struggling say they will rely on the Government Age Pension should their retirement savings become depleted, while just over half of retirees who consider themselves comfortable expect they will rely on the Government Age Pension.

- Among struggling retirees, 40% said they would reduce spending if money ran low
- Among comfortable retirees, fewer than 20% of retirees would do the same – instead preferring to downsize their family home, the second-most common strategy after relying on the Government Age Pension

## Advised retirees tended to have clearer and more diversified plans in place

While about the same number of advised and non-advised retirees (just under 60%) said they would rely on the Government Age Pension, advised retirees were more likely to outline specific backup strategies such as downsizing, reducing spending, returning to work part-time or releasing home equity.



# The role of super funds



*While members trust their super funds, guidance remains the biggest opportunity - with personal advice the top request.*

## Where Australians turn for guidance

Super funds remain the leading source of retirement information for Australians, particularly those within 10 years of retirement. This highlights the central role funds play in helping members plan, transition, and move into retirement with confidence.

Encouragingly, most people who sought out retirement information took meaningful action, with only 21% reporting doing nothing. The most common steps included preparing or updating a will, making voluntary contributions to super, seeking financial advice, speaking with family about retirement plans, and attending webinars or seminars.

When asked how their fund could better support them as they prepare for retirement, pre-retirees most commonly requested:

- Lower advice fees (33%)
- A retirement goal progress tracker (30%)
- Personalised income projections (27%)
- A free annual super review call (26%)

## Super funds maintain trust but lag in guidance

Industry super funds continue to be among the most trusted financial institutions, ranking just behind accountants and ahead of industry regulators, banks and retail funds. However, confidence in funds' ability to guide members into retirement remains flat, with only half of pre-retirees expressing confidence, unchanged from 2024.

Overall satisfaction is trending positively. Among pre-retirees, satisfaction rose to a four-year high of 63% (up from 59% in 2024), and among retirees, it climbed to 72%. Pre-retirees also recorded their highest satisfaction in four years with fund performance over the past twelve months and returns over the past three to five years.

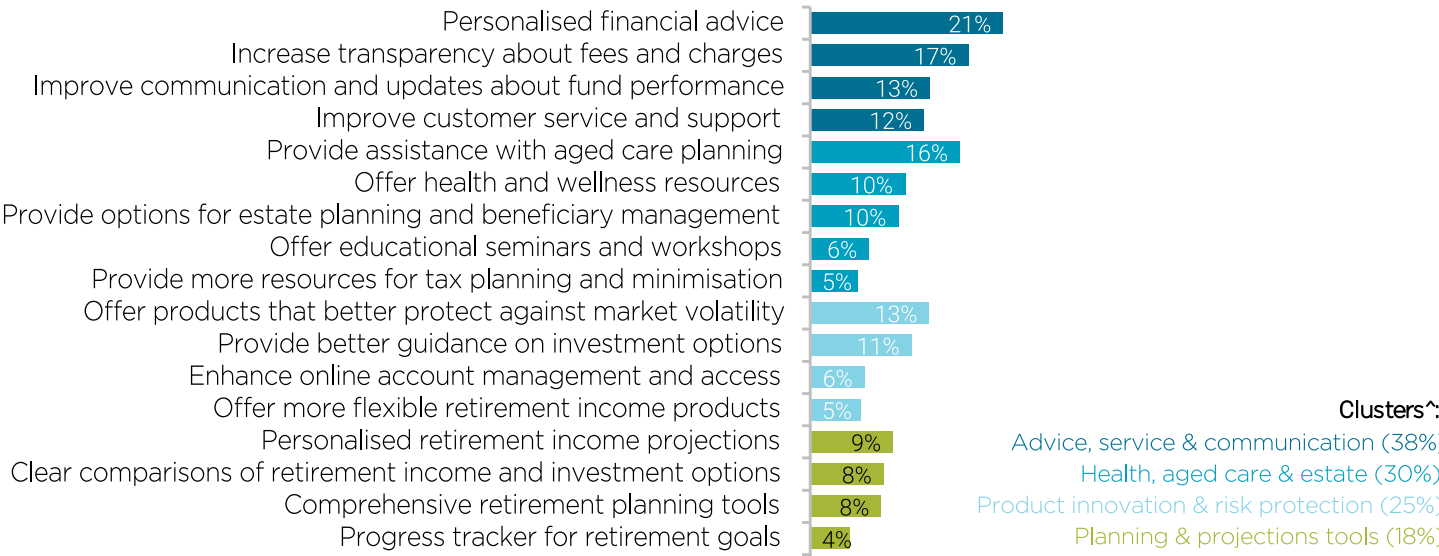
While retirees' overall satisfaction edged higher, satisfaction with a range of information and guidance service elements slipped. This underscores the need for more personalised communication and support.

Among pre-retirees, only 9% felt their super fund provided guidance fully tailored to their personal needs, while 36% felt it was somewhat tailored, pointing to a clear opportunity to enhance personalisation.



Key areas in which retirees want better support include advice and service, health, aged care and estate assistance, product innovation and planning/projection tools

How can [main super fund] better support you with your retirement? Among retirees



^Percentages account for overlaps



# The Brighter advantage



## Building retirement confidence

Brighter Super's focus on value, guidance and retirement-ready products is being recognised nationally. Chant West has awarded Brighter Super its Epic Retirement Tick<sup>2</sup>, with the fund named as one of only six in Australia to receive this independent benchmark that recognises funds that are well prepared to support members as they approach and move into retirement.

The assessment looks at the things that matter most to members in retirement: fair fees, quality retirement income products, meaningful guidance and advice, and investment options that support different retirement goals.

For members, this recognition reflects our commitment to helping members retire with confidence and reinforces that Brighter Super is built for retirement – and ready to support members through every stage of life.

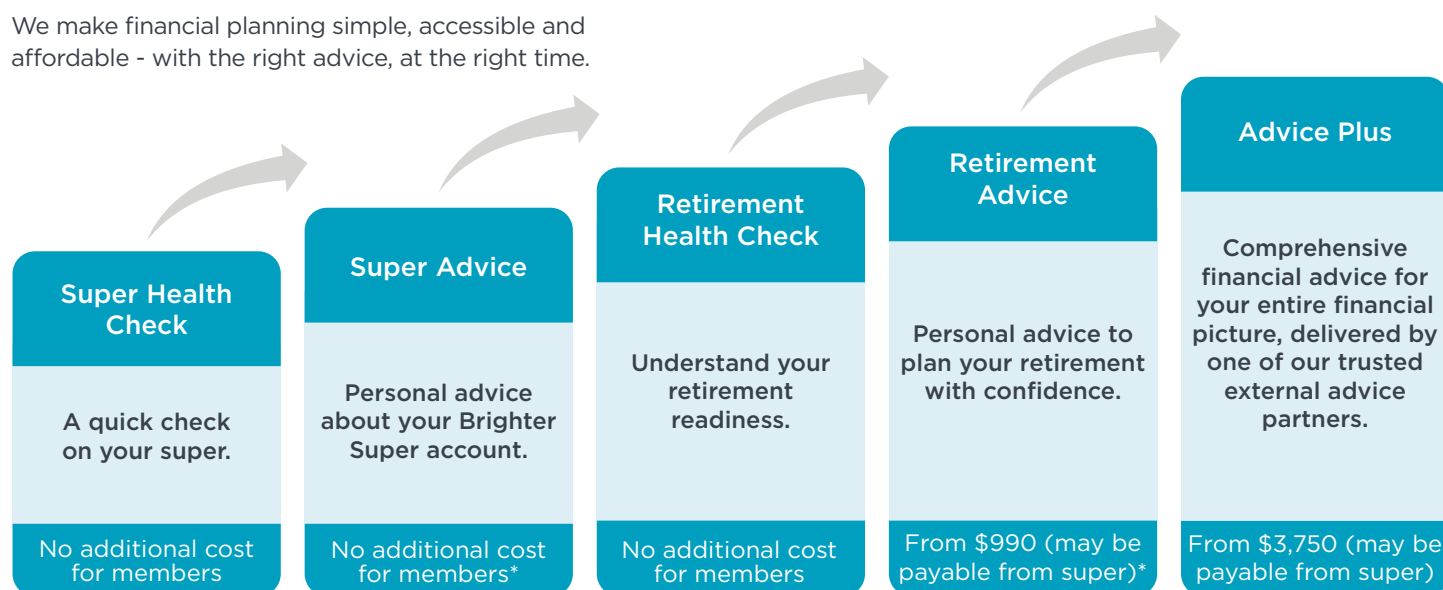
## Getting advice is the first step to a Brighter future

Brighter Super is committed to being right by your side as members navigate their journey to retirement. We believe our personal approach to guidance and advice leads to better retirement outcomes for our members. Through our advice pathway, delivered through our local super specialists, advisers and advice partners, we help ensure members receive support that reflects their individual goals and circumstances.

Each year, thousands of Brighter Super members join our face-to-face seminars and online webinars, where senior members of our team share updates on the fund's performance, explain retirement options and offer practical strategies to help members make the most of their super.

## Supporting members at every stage of their journey

We make financial planning simple, accessible and affordable - with the right advice, at the right time.



\*A fee from \$500 applies for each additional service such as advice on consolidating super accounts or including a non-Brighter Super member.



Brighter Super has introduced a new advice fee structure expected to reduce the average cost of Retirement Advice by nearly 50%\*, with fees payable directly from members' super accounts.

\* A reduction in fees of 47% was calculated by comparing Brighter Super's actual average retirement advice fee in FY2024/25 of \$3,722, with an estimated average fee in FY2025/26 of \$1,961. The estimate is based on the new advice model pricing and assumes the complexity of advice is the same as the prior year. The actual reduction may differ from this estimate.



“We believe every member should retire with the help of guidance and advice, as it can make a real difference to retirement outcomes. That’s why we’re making our advice services even more accessible, affordable and easy to navigate.”

- Kate Farrar, CEO Brighter Super



# Methodology

The results in the Brighter Super & Investment Trends 2025 Retirement Income Report are based on a survey of 3679 Australians aged 40 or more, including 1348 retirees<sup>^</sup>, conducted between August and September 2025.

Respondents included Australian adults aged 40 and above, sourced from Investment Trends panel, media providers and individual service providers. Data was calibrated to reflect the target population of Australian adults (aged 40 and above). Maximum sampling error (95% confidence interval, centre of the range) +/- 1.62%.

## How the Ready for Retirement Index (RRI) is calculated

Category	Topic	Metric	Sample	Range
Self-assessed preparedness	Retirement readiness	%'very prepared' + 'somewhat prepared' for retirement	Non-retirees	0-100%
		% confident + very confident they have enough to fund retirement	Retirees	0-100%
Superfund suitability for retirement	Satisfaction with fund's suitability for retirement	% satisfied with superfund for 'overall suitability for retirement'	Non-retirees	0-100%
		% satisfied with superfund for 'overall suitability for retirement'	Retirees	0-100%

Comparisons have been drawn from previous surveys conducted by Investment Trends. The survey was conducted in two phases, a main industry-level survey of Australian adults sourced from a broad-based survey of the Australian adult population, supplemented with respondents from the Investments Trends opt-in panel.



right by your side

<sup>^</sup>Retirees are determined based on employment criteria, not on age threshold.

<sup>1</sup> The Brighter Super Ready for Retirement Index is based on the Brighter Super & Investment Trends 2025 Retirement Income Report. Ready for Retirement Index figures for previous years were retrospectively calculated using data from the relevant Investment Trends Retirement Income Survey.

<sup>2</sup> The Epic Retirement Tick is powered by Chant West. It recognises funds that meet a high benchmark across retirement criteria. It is not a recommendation or personal advice. Consider your circumstances and read the relevant disclosure documents before making decisions. Recognition date: 2 Oct 2025. © Brighter Super. Epic Retirement Tick used under promotional terms from Chant West.