



Kochie joins Brighter Super in Cairns to to help locals tackle the retirement preparedness gap

Cairns residents will have a chance to hear from Brighter Super experts and former Sunrise host David 'Kochie' Koch at the **Planning Your Brighter Retirement** seminar in September, as research shows regional Queenslanders are among the least prepared in the country for retirement.

Brighter Super's 2024 Ready for Retirement Index (RRI)¹ revealed that only 48% of retirees in regional Queensland feel confident they will have enough to fund their retirement, compared with 60% nationally.

Pre-retirees in the regions also face an average funding gap of 35% between what they expect to need and what they expect to have when they stop work.

Aimed at individuals looking to retire in the next 10 years, Brighter Super's **Planning Your Brighter Retirement** seminar, held at the **Hilton Cairns, 34 Esplanade, from 6-8pm on Wednesday 10 September**, will feature presentations from Mr Koch, as well as Brighter Super Chief Investment Officer Mark Rider, and Chief Member Officer Lisa Kay. Media are welcome to attend.

The free event for members and non-members will unpack retirement strategies to help locals close the gap, from making extra contributions and salary sacrifice to understanding pension accounts and concession card entitlements. Attendees will also have the opportunity to speak with Brighter Super's superannuation specialists.

Brighter Super Chief Member Officer Lisa Kay said, "Regional Queenslanders are telling us they feel less prepared for retirement than those living in the southeast. That's why we're investing in supporting regional Queensland with member education events like our Planning your Brighter Retirement in Cairns. This event will give members clear, practical steps to help them prepare for life after work and is part of our ongoing commitment to ensure that regional Queenslanders retire with confidence."

It's never too late to make changes, even small ones now could make a big difference when it's time to retire," Ms Kay said.

Topics include:

- How much you may need to retire.
- How to calculate if your super is on track for your preferred retirement age.
- The different ways to grow your super.
- How to put a plan in place to achieve your goals.

Mr Rider will look at investment trends over time and how to navigate super through periods of uncertainty.

The Cairns seminar is part of a two-day program that also includes a lunchtime **Fund & Investment Update** for members **on 10 September** and a **workplace seminar with Cairns Regional Council on Thursday 11 September**.



Event details:

- Fund & Investment Update seminar: Wednesday 10 September, 12.00–2.00pm, Hilton Cairns, 34 Esplanade. [Register here.](#)
- Planning Your Brighter Retirement seminar: Wednesday 10 September, 6.00–8.00pm, Hilton Cairns, 34 Esplanade. [Register here.](#)
- Cairns Regional Council Workplace Event: Thursday 11 September, 1.00–2.00pm, Cairns Civic Centre

For more information on Brighter Super events visit: brightersuper.com.au/superannuation/learning-about-super/seminars

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

WHO:

- Mark Rider, Chief Investment Officer, Brighter Super
- Lisa Kay, Chief Member Officer, Brighter Super
- David Koch, Retirement Advocate
 - WHEN: Wednesday 10 September
 - TIME: Between 10.00am to 11.00am or between 2.30pm and 4.30pm
 - WHERE: Hilton Cairns, 34 Esplanade

¹ Derived from the Brighter Super & Investment Trends 2024 Retirement Income Report, the index is based on a quantitative online survey of 5,315 Australian adults aged over 40 – including 991 from Queensland in July and August 2024. Ready for Retirement Index figures were retrospectively calculated using data from the 2023 Investment Trends Retirement Income Survey.”

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About Brighter Super

Brighter Super is a 100% member-owned, Queensland-based superannuation fund managing more than \$35 billion in retirement savings for over 280,000 members, as at 30 June 2025.

Following the merger of LGIAsuper, Energy Super, and the acquisition of Suncorp Super, Brighter Super is proudly the fourth largest non-government financial institution* in Queensland.

The fund is dedicated to being right by members’ sides, empowering them to retire confidently with advice, focusing on solid performance and low fees.

For more information, please call Brighter Super on 1800 444 396 (in Australia).

* Based on assets under management of non-government financial institutions in Queensland.



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