



## Hon John Key

Member of Parliament for Helensville  
Prime Minister

### Protecting Superannuation in tough economic times

My Government is committed to keeping existing Superannuation entitlements.

New Zealand Superannuation for married couples will continue to be at least 66% of the after-tax average wage, paid from age 65. All other Superannuation rates will continue to be calculated from this base.

The Government is committed to these settings and I have said many times that I would resign rather than change them. These settings are affordable and are built into our long-term spending plans, as set out in our first Budget.

There has been some debate about Superannuation recently, because of the decision we made in the Budget to suspend full contributions into the "Super Fund". I can assure you that suspending full contributions to the Fund in no way affects people's entitlement to Superannuation payments, either now or in the future. Suspending full contributions is a temporary response to the very difficult economic conditions New Zealand currently faces.

We will resume full contributions when the Government's books are in a stronger financial position and we do not have to borrow to make those contributions.

At the moment, making full contributions would require borrowing around \$30 million every week for the Fund to invest in world financial markets. Borrowing so much money would increase the debt burden on future generations and we are not prepared to do that.

If you would like to receive further regular updates from me, please sign up for my email newsletter at [www.johnkey.co.nz](http://www.johnkey.co.nz).

Yours faithfully,

Hon John Key  
Prime Minister

