



2022

Newsletter

METROPOLITAN

Metropolitan Life Retirement Annuity Fund
Metropolitan Provident Preservation Fund
Metropolitan Pension Preservation Fund

From your Board of Trustees

Just as we emerged from some tough COVID-19 restrictions over the past two years, and our lives started to get back to normal, we are yet again facing an onslaught of rising costs, inflation, continual loadshedding and the knock-on impact of global events.

We may be feeling that we have little control over the events that are affecting our lives and livelihoods. However, it doesn't have to feel that way. You've already put plans in place to secure a comfortable retirement; now it's up to you to ensure that you maintain those plans. Remember that investing in your retirement is a long-term savings goal.

In times like these you may want to make changes to your investment portfolios. Just don't be hasty to make a rash decision that will have a negative impact on your financial future, as things will get better. It's also important to bear in mind that your financial adviser is always available to discuss your concerns and help you navigate any changes to your circumstances.

Russia-Ukraine war and your retirement savings

You have all seen the headlines over the last few months about the war between Russia and the Ukraine. But how does this affect your retirement fund investments? We share the impact of this war on the investment markets and how it may influence your retirement savings.

While the investment portfolios used for your retirement savings have very little direct exposure to either country, it may be indirectly exposed to the crisis. However, Momentum Investments is continuously monitoring and managing the portfolios to minimise any potential negative impacts on your savings.

An indirect consequence of this war is the increasing price of fuel and other goods, and this is likely to affect your wallet negatively. All of us should therefore

carefully review our budgets and spending to protect ourselves against cashflow pressures. It is important to prioritise your retirement savings and keep contributing and paying your future self.

At times like these, it is important to remember that retirement fund investing is long term in nature. While the current uncertainty may make you feel like you want to make changes to your portfolio, it is very important to remember your end goal and to discuss any concerns or changes with a qualified financial adviser.

Source: Momentum Investments

“ It is important to remember that retirement fund investing is

Long Term in nature. ”



Use your retirement annuity benefits to *beat* inflation

One of the main reasons we save towards our retirement is so that we can retire comfortably and maintain the standard of living we are accustomed to. Saving for retirement is usually a long-term goal, so, we need to make sure that our retirement savings keep up with inflation. Inflation is the increase in the cost of goods and services.

Geopolitical events, including those in Russia and Ukraine, are adding to the increase in the price of petrol, food and other goods and services. This increase in inflation over the long term would affect your retirement savings, as the value of what you can buy reduces.

One way to counter the effect of inflation is to ensure that your retirement savings grow by more than the rate of inflation.

To do this, you can make use of the Automatic Inflation Management (AIM) benefit. This gives you an option to increase your monthly contributions each year at a level you can specify, or for this to be in line with an inflation index.

You can add AIM to your policy even after the date you started your Retirement Annuity - it's never too late.

To enhance your client service experience with Metropolitan, we have included some tips on how we can best assist you to **manage your Retirement Annuity**.

The *importance* of nominating a beneficiary on your retirement fund when you do not have any dependants.

The death of a loved one is an unfortunate reality which some of us may never be prepared for, and usually happens when you least expect it.

When you pass away, section 37(c) of the Pension Funds Act states that the trustees of the fund must first establish if you have any dependants (spouse, children, parents, etc.). If the trustees can't trace, or don't become aware of any dependants after 12 months, they will pay your death benefit to your nominated beneficiaries who are not dependants, provided that your estate is solvent.

If you have not nominated a beneficiary and have no dependants, the trustees will pay the death benefit to your estate and this benefit will be subject to executor's fees.

Not thinking ahead is one of the biggest mistakes we can make when it comes to ensuring that our loved ones are taken care of when we are no longer around to do so. Remembering to nominate your beneficiaries on your retirement fund will give you peace of mind that they will benefit from your hard-earned savings.



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How to *reinstate* your Retirement Annuity after it becomes paid-up

If, for whatever reason, you stop paying your monthly contributions, your benefit becomes 'paid-up'. As a member of the Metropolitan Life Retirement Annuity Fund you can restart your monthly contributions at any time so that you have a better nest egg for your retirement.

There are two types of annuity options, with different reinstatement steps:

Pure savings option

Option with life cover



How to reinstate a pure savings option

You can follow one of two processes:

1. Pay all outstanding contributions from the last date on which contributions were received to the date of payment.
2. Alternatively, pay one contribution. The benefit will then be recalculated accordingly.

Requirements:

- Proof of payment (if the amount does not reflect in our suspense account).
- Duly completed, signed, and dated future mode of payment, e.g., debit order.

We will provide Metropolitan bank details for direct deposits, when needed.



How to reinstate an option with life cover

All outstanding payments must be made.

Requirements:

- Proof of payment (if the amount does not reflect in our suspense account).
- Duly completed, signed, and dated future mode of payment, e.g., debit order.

- Medical requirements as per underwriter's request.

We will provide Metropolitan's bank details for direct deposits, when needed.

Contributing to your Retirement Annuity allows you to save money throughout your working life to provide for your needs when you stop working. It is therefore important that you commit to this goal so that you can enjoy a stress-free retirement.



To make any of the above-mentioned changes or updates to your Retirement Annuity, **please visit our website, your nearest Metropolitan office or contact us on 0860 724 724.** You can also **contact us digitally**, as outlined below.

Reach us digitally, *anytime* as follows:



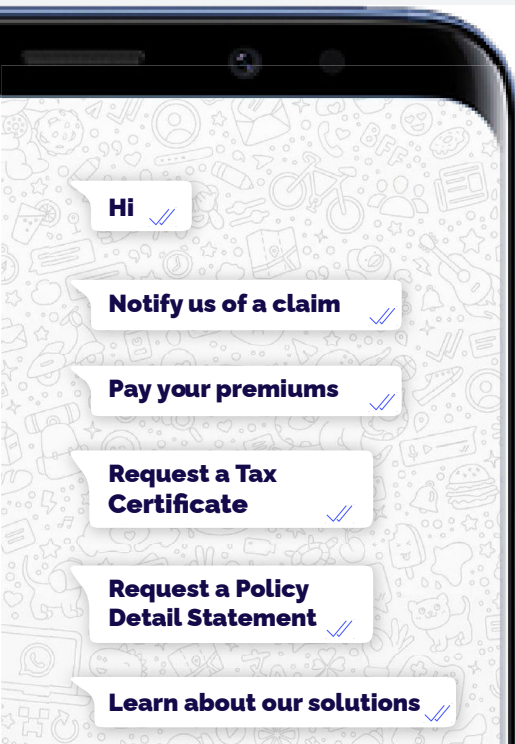
Send 'Hi' as a
WhatsApp message to
0860 724 724



Scan the **QR code**



www.metropolitan.co.za
Click on the
CHAT WITH US icon



Help us stay in touch by keeping your contact information up-to-date.

As our digital capabilities continue to grow and prove to be a convenient way to stay in touch, it's essential to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date so that we can continue communicating directly with you.

It's especially useful during processes such as claims, as well as communicating important changes that may impact your policy.

By keeping us informed of any changes to your contact information, we can provide you with better client service and keep you up-to-date with any policy changes. Having your updated contact information will enable us to streamline any service transaction.

When updating your contact information, please provide your cellphone number, email address, or the contact details of next of kin as an alternative contact for any important communication.

We've made it easier for you to update your details through our safe, secure and hassle-free self-service options.

We pride ourselves on delivering excellent services to our clients and have received several industry awards in recognition of this. Our most recent was being named a market leader in the South African Customer Satisfaction Index (SA-csi) for Life Insurance.



In closing,

We believe that a regular review of your retirement plans will help you to make informed decisions on your journey towards retirement. Remember, you aren't alone on your journey to a secure retirement. Lean into and use the expertise of your experienced financial adviser.

Regards, The Board of Trustees

Together we can

www.metropolitan.co.za



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