

AUGUST 2026

ACIRTNEWS



Genuine Redundancy IS BACK

Research findings revealed
What you want from ACIRT

[Read more P5](#)

Message from the Chair and CEO

Driven by Industry Built on Trust



Welcome to our August update, which includes your ACIRT statement. For more than 30 years, ACIRT has proudly supported construction workers as one of Australia’s most trusted redundancy funds.

We are proud of that history, but we also recognise that honouring your trust means continuing to evolve. Member needs are changing, and so are we. Your recent feedback is helping shape the next chapter of ACIRT’s service, support and member value.

Listening to members

We recently undertook a comprehensive member survey to better understand what matters most to you. You told us that you value the stability ACIRT provides, while also looking for broader support to meet the modern challenges of life on-site. A 92% member satisfaction rating is a strong endorsement, and we are grateful for your trust. It also reinforces our responsibility to keep improving.

Our 2026 Member Roadmap

Your feedback has helped shape our new 2026 Member Roadmap. ACIRT is focused on protecting your entitlements today while strengthening support for the future.

ACIRT is focused on protecting your entitlements today while strengthening support for the future.

Our key commitments include:

Genuine Redundancy returns

We have secured the reintroduction of tax-free Genuine Redundancy payments from 19 October 2026. This restores an important financial safety net, helping eligible members keep more of their hard-earned money when they are between jobs.

Expanded protection

We are exploring new options, including Income Protection and Accident and Illness cover, to provide additional support when members need it most.

Health and resilience

We are partnering with industry experts to develop practical resources, including on-site physical and mental health programs, to help address the pressures members told us they are experiencing.

Financial education

We are developing tailored programs to provide practical guidance and help members manage money with confidence, particularly during quieter periods of work.

ACIRT is growing, evolving and working hard to support the people who build Australia. Thank you for helping shape this next chapter.

We look forward to continuing to build a stronger, more supportive future together.

Michael Hiscox
ACIRT Chair

Dascia Bennett
ACIRT CEO

A New Vision. A New Brand.

Reinforcing our care for you

You may have noticed ACIRT’s fresh, modern new look.

Our new logo represents two hands carefully safeguarding construction workers’ financial futures.

Our refreshed vision is grounded in trust, integrity and genuine care. ACIRT is more than a fund holding your money until you need it. We are a reliable safety net, designed to support members through changing circumstances.

Every dollar of employer contributions is credited directly to member accounts, and profits are returned to members each year.



Brand launch at the May CFMEU ACT Delegates Meeting

We officially unveiled ACIRT’s new look and 2026 Member Roadmap in Canberra at the May CFMEU ACT Delegates meeting.

The launch provided an important opportunity to share our updated Member Guides and future direction directly with union stakeholders and site delegates.



Member Survey

You told us
loud and clear

Our recent member survey gave us valuable insight into what matters most to you. You told us you value the trust and stability ACIRT provides, while also looking for support that reflects the modern challenges of life on-site.

92% Satisfaction	Member satisfaction with ACIRT remains strong and steady.
75% Trust ACIRT	Members said they trust ACIRT to pay insurance claims, compared with 17% for OTHER industry providers
Top challenges	Mental health and burnout are among the key challenges currently facing construction workers.
Key priorities	Members want improved redundancy options, insurance, financial education, and health programs.



How we are responding

We listened to your feedback and are acting on it. In 2026, we are evolving our services to better support members through the changing demands of construction work.

→ Genuine Redundancy payments

We are reintroducing Genuine Redundancy payments so eligible construction workers can access industry leading benefit payments

→ Expanded protection

We are exploring new options, including Income Protection and Accident and Illness cover.

→ Health and wellbeing

We are partnering with industry experts to develop practical resources, including on-site physical and mental health programs.

→ Financial education

We are developing practical online digital programs to help members manage money with confidence.

Congratulations
to our survey
winners!

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent survey. Your insights are helping guide ACIRT’s next chapter.

As a token of our appreciation, we are pleased to announce the three lucky members who each won a Bunnings Gift Voucher.



Jesse Boyle (ACT) \$1,000



Ross Stewart (SA) \$400



Heidi Marlow (NSW) \$700

Genuine
Redundancy

Tax benefit returns **19 October 2026**



More Choice, Less Tax

From 19 October 2026, ACIRT will reintroduce a new industry-leading benefit design—the dual claim benefit. Eligible members can now choose how to structure their payouts:

1. Genuine redundancy
tax-free thresholds

This restores an important financial safety net, helping eligible members keep more of their hard-earned money when they are between jobs.

2. Voluntary termination (ETP)

Members can elect to claim on voluntary termination via an election process and receive a benefit payment according to relevant tax rules.

Maximising your
tax-free payout

When a position is abolished and an employer certifies the separation as a genuine redundancy, part of an ACIRT claim may be tax-free.

The ATO statutory threshold includes a base amount of \$13,100, plus \$6,552 for each completed year of service. Amounts above this threshold are taxed at the applicable concessional rate.

ACIRT’S claims process will provide maximum flexibility - allowing members to either access their entire ACIRT account balance or retain a portion of their account.



When a worker is made genuinely redundant, they should be able to access all their account and as much of their tax-free entitlement as possible.

ACIRT new genuine redundancy tax-free threshold will help eligible members retain more of their ACIRT benefit and provide greater financial certainty during a period of transition.”

ACIRT CEO
Dascia Bennett

If you are unsure about your separation paperwork or need help with a claim, contact your ACIRT coordinator or the call centre on 1800 060 467.



ASIC Compliance
Transparency,
integrity and
Trust

To enhance transparency, accountability, and member confidence, ACIRT is working toward full compliance with ASIC regulatory requirements.

We will be submitting our Australian Financial Services (AFS) License application by the end of August 2026.

Being ASIC licensed will further strengthen ACIRT’s oversight and governance in line with the standards expected of major financial institutions.

This compliance uplift reinforces our commitment to managing member entitlements with the utmost professionalism, transparency, and integrity.

Dave McNamara ACIRT Coordinator

On the ground with Dave

Simplifying your account

Dave McNamara, ACIRT’s Southern Region Coordinator, knows the industry well. With 35 years’ experience, he is not only an ACIRT representative but also an advocate for the workers building our cities and critical infrastructure. Whether members are on-site or at home, Dave helps ensure their entitlements remain secure.

While the construction landscape is evolving, Dave remains close to the action. He notes that although the current industry pace differs from previous major booms, work remains steady. There is a clear shift toward data centre construction, alongside ongoing infrastructure work such as the Hume bypass and stadium upgrades. Whatever the pace, Dave is there to help members understand their options if work slows down.

Genuine redundancy
A win for your pocket

The biggest news on the horizon is the return of Genuine Redundancy payments, scheduled for 19 October 2026. Dave is clear about the benefit: **“It’s about tax relief. It keeps more money in your pocket when you need it most.”** For eligible members, this means improved tax treatment compared with standard ETP payouts.

Get in touch with Dave

Call **0490 490 714** Email **dave.mc@acirt.com.au**

Making your entitlements work

One of Dave’s strengths is making complex issues simple. Whether he is helping members merge multiple accounts, recover lost distributions or navigate administrative issues, he provides practical support.

Dave recently identified more than \$29,000 in lost distributions for members on-site.

For members who are less comfortable with apps or technology, he also provides face-to-face assistance and home visits where needed.

How to connect with Dave

Dave is regularly out on-site conducting toolbox talks and account tune-ups. Don’t wait for an issue to arise—reach out today to ensure your beneficiaries and bank details are up to date.



Tom’s Story
Helping hand at home

Tom, a long-term member since 1995, recently received personalised support from ACIRT Southern Region Coordinator, Dave McNamara. During a home visit, Dave assisted Tom and his wife, Anka, with his ACIRT.

Dave helped update the spelling of Tom’s name, set up his direct bank details, and successfully retrieved an unclaimed distribution cheque. Tom was relieved to avoid bank queues and greatly appreciated Dave’s patient, face-to-face help with logging into the portal and fixing his details.

Barry Martin QLD ACIRT Coordinator

On the ground with Barry

Making your entitlements simple

ACIRT’s Northern Region Coordinator, Barry Martin, is a familiar face on major construction sites.

Whether members are working on the Coomera Central project, the Wave project on the Sunshine Coast, or the renewable energy district near Dunedoo, Barry is often on-site and ready to help.

Support where you work

Barry’s role is all about making the complex simple. For many new starters in the industry, their first interaction with ACIRT happens on-site. Barry is there to guide you through the essentials: checking your balance, verifying employer contributions, ensuring your beneficiaries are set up correctly, and getting the ACIRT app running on your phone.

Real-world problem solving

He recently shared a story that highlights exactly why that face-to-face support matters. A member



on the Coomera Central project had ended up with two separate ACIRT accounts after moving from a labour hire firm to Fulton Hogan. To make matters more complicated, his name had been spelled differently on his documentation, preventing the systems from recognising that he was the same person.

“It was causing a real headache for him,” Barry explains. “I helped him complete the statutory declaration to confirm his identity, corrected the spelling issue and merged both accounts into one.” It was a practical administrative fix, but for the member it provided peace of mind that his entitlements were accurate and held in one place.

Get in touch with Barry

Call **0419 775 324**
Email **barry.martin@acirt.com.au**



Keeping watch on the pipeline projects

Barry is currently keeping a close watch on the projects pipeline, from the Rocky Ring Road to the Alkimos Seawater Alliance Project in WA. As he says, “I’m here to make sure you know who to call when you finish a project, or how to use the app to make your claim.”

Don’t hesitate to say hello if you see Barry doing the rounds on your site. Whether you have a complex account issue or just need a quick tutorial on your next claim, he is there to help you navigate your journey—from job to job, and site to site.

ACIRT Your trusted safety net

Every step of the way



ACIRT is more than a fund. It helps protect members' futures by keeping redundancy entitlements secure, accessible and protected in one place, whether members are moving from site to site or job to job.

We know life on-site is busy, so we make it easier for members to manage their entitlements:



Fast and easy access

Our goal is to process claims within three business days, and often faster.



Manage on the go

Use the ACIRT mobile app to check your balance, verify employer contributions and submit claims from anywhere.



Local, on-the-ground support

Our onsite coordinators understand the industry and are available to provide face-to-face assistance, including home visits where needed.



Annual distributions

As a member-owned fund, profits are returned to members, not shareholders, through an annual distribution based on each member's daily account balance.

You don't have to make an application to receive your distribution, we pay direct into your account.



Family protection

Eligible members receive a \$12,000 Funeral Benefit at no extra cost, providing peace of mind during difficult times.

Need help?

Contact us

Sydney

Level 22, Buildings 6 and 8
Parramatta Square
10 Darcy Street Parramatta NSW 2150

1800 060 467
acirt.com.au



DAVE McNAMARA

Southern Region
Coordinator

P: 0490 490 714

E: dave.mc@acirt.com.au



BARRY MARTIN

Northern Region
Coordinator

P: 0419 775 324

E: barry.martin@acirt.com.au

For the latest ACIRT news

Like us on Facebook facebook.com/redundancyfund or get ACIRT on your phone by searching for ACIRT on the App Store or Google Play



This report was prepared as of August 2026. Every reasonable attempt has been made to ensure that it represents an accurate summary of the Fund. However, if a question of interpretation arises, the trust deed and audited accounts will be the only valid source of reference. Neither the Directors nor their service providers accept responsibility for any error or misprint. ACIRT Pty Limited | ABN 39 062 330 170