

Advertorial

Time to do a little financial spring cleaning

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We are getting to that time of the year with the December holidays fast approaching.

During this time most of us like to take stock on what we accomplished during the year.

Why don't you set aside one morning to spring clean your financial affairs? We work so hard to build up funds during the year, you owe it to yourself to take a proper look at what you've built up, or not, during 2018.

Some pointers:

1. When last did you check where your pension money gets invested? Is it not sitting in a low-risk investment that was automatically chosen for you by your HR department? Make sure you have enough equity exposure in your pension to allow it to give you inflation beating returns. Only when you are less than five years away from retirement can you start to include lower risk investments systematically.

2. When last did you increase your monthly savings? Even better, add an

automatic 10% increase for your monthly savings to keep up with inflation.

3. If you are not able to save, set up a budget and cut the luxuries.

4. Review your Risk Cover. As your personal circumstances change, your risk cover should evolve. Do you have adequate protection in case you should lose your job? If you have young children or dependants do you have enough risk / disability benefits?

4. When last did you review your will? If you have assets offshore, make

sure that it will be covered by your local will, and you may even need an offshore will.

5. If you are lucky enough to receive a bonus at the end of the year, consider investing it.

Lastly, if all of this sounds too overwhelming for you, or you feel totally clueless, rope in the help of a financial adviser, he/she would be happy to assist.

► *Sonia du Plessis is a certified financial planner at Brenthurst Wealth.*