



MEDIA RELEASE

Certainty and Sustainability are the Key Objectives of Superannuation

In its submission to the Treasury on the Objective of the Superannuation System, the Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) Ltd has emphasised the need for the system to embrace certainty and support the maintenance and protection of income producing assets needed over the many years in retirement to produce a self-sustaining and equitable retirement income.

“A.I.R. fully supports the Government in seeking a broad political and community agreement to enshrine in legislation the Objective of Superannuation. It is, however, critical that this Objective reflects the position for those who now and in the future will self-fund their retirement and that it clearly reflects the need for improved and increased self-sufficiency in retirement,” said Sue Hart, Executive Officer of A.I.R.

“A.I.R. members are seeking a reassurance that the impact on those who will be most impacted by any change to the operation of the superannuation system (ie. those who now self-fund their retirement or have planned to do so on the basis of current understandings) are specifically considered in the determination of this important Objective.”

A.I.R. proposes the adoption of the following definition: *“To enable Australians to have a sustainable and self-managed income stream in retirement that will adequately support a comfortable and active retirement lifestyle”.*

Mrs Hart said key considerations in framing the Objective should be self-sufficiency and the need for self-managing assets and investment strategies to generate the retirement income stream. This may be done via self-managed superannuation or by using an industry or retail superannuation fund but with no Government involvement in specifying the detailed management of an individual’s assets and investments. Government does, however, need to strongly manage on behalf of consumers the activities, risks and fees charged by industry or retail superannuation funds. A strong set of rules needs to be developed to underpin the Objective and operation of the superannuation system.

For further information, contact Sue Hart, Executive Officer on 02 6290 2599

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The Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) Ltd is a member-driven national, not for profit, non-political organisation which works to advance and protect the interests and independent lifestyle of Australians in retirement. A.I.R. seeks to secure recognition and equity for Australians who, through their diligence and careful management, fully or partly self-fund their own retirement needs.