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Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Eighteenth Report of the Senate Select Committee on Superannuation

Review of the Superannuation Complaints Tribunal

Canberra April 1996

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Senator John Watson Chair Tasmania

Senator Chris Evans Deputy Chair Western Australia
Senator Bruce Childs New South Wales
Senator Alan Ferguson South Australia
Senator Sue West New South Wales

Senator John Woodley Queensland

Secretariat Staff:

Secretary: Ms Krista Gerrard Senior Research Officers: Mr David Risstrom

Mr Rod Adams

Executive Assistant: Ms Jade Ricza

Address: The Senate

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: (06) 277 3439

Facsimile: (06) 277 5719

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RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER 2

Recommendation 2.1:

The Committee recommends that the government reconsider the legislative requirement that the Tribunal must include the Chair or Deputy Chair when exercising its powers and assess whether it would enhance the timeliness of the Tribunal to have a less restrictive provision such as those found in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act, Social Security Act and the Migration Act.

Recommendation 2.2:

The Committee recommends that the Superannuation Complaints Tribunal develop a charter of access and service, using those developed by the Federal Court, the Family Court and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal as a model.

CHAPTER 4

Recommendation 4.1:

The Committee recommends that all superannuation fund members, including members of excluded funds, should have access to the Superannuation Complaints Tribunal. The Committee has reservations about the participation in excluded funds of employee members and is of the view that such membership should be discouraged.

CHAPTER 5

Recommendation 5.1:

The Committee recommends that where possible the trustees should provide reasons for their decisions.

CHAPTER 6

Recommendation 6.1:

The Committee recommends that a limited government funded superannuation consumer advice service be established within the existing community legal or credit advice centres; that there be a general limit of two appointments for each client; and that the service be restricted to providing advice and information only and not extend to the running of cases before the Tribunal. The Committee further recommends that this arrangement be reviewed after two years and an assessment as to its adequacy be made at that time.